

**SPEECH BY MR PHILLIP TAN, CHAIRMAN, COMMUNITY CHEST, AT  
COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS CEREMONY ON 13 OCTOBER 2017,  
7.40PM, ISTANA**

Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore

Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Senior Parliamentary  
Secretary, Ministry of Social and Family Development

Ms Jennie Chua, Advisor, Community Chest

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. Good evening and a very warm welcome to the Community Chest Awards 2017! We would like to thank our Guest-of-Honour, Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore and Patron-in-Chief of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS), for gracing this occasion. This is her first time presiding over the Community Chest Awards and we are very honoured that she is with us today, to recognise the stellar contributions made by all of you towards the social service sector.
2. First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all the Award recipients with us today for contributing your time,

talent and treasures to build a more caring and inclusive society in the past year. Your contributions have enabled some 80 social service organisations supported by Community Chest to provide a wide range of critical programmes to better serve the disadvantaged in our community, such as:

- special education for children;
- befriending services for lonely seniors; and
- integration support for persons with disabilities.

3. I am also heartened to share that donations to Community Chest make up nearly one-fifth of overall donations to the social service sector in 2016. This is encouraging and goes to show that your sustained support through Community Chest has helped us to make a real difference in the lives of those we care for.

### **Holistic Giving**

4. As the needs of our society evolve, we need to look at how money, time and opportunities can be given more meaningfully and holistically. Allow me to highlight some examples of holistic giving by our partners.

- New to the Community Chest family, **SATS Ltd.** has been a strong supporter in holistic giving. They have not only supported Community Chest through outright donations, but have also put in time and effort to make a difference in the community, by involving their senior management and employees to personally pack festive bags for our social service users at Fu Dai 2017.

- **The Japanese Association, Singapore (JAS)**, on the other hand, has been supporting Community Chest since 1984. Besides making annual donations, their members volunteer regularly to befriend and interact with persons with disabilities at the Singapore Cheshire Home, vulnerable seniors at AWWA Senior Community Home, as well as children with special needs from Rainbow Centre.
- **Ms Susan Ng**, our emcee for today, is a sterling example of an individual who has made a difference with her expertise. She has been offering pro-bono emcee services to Community Chest for the past three decades. Contributions from individuals like Susan have enabled Community Chest to channel its resources to benefit more social service users.
- Please join me in giving them a round of applause for their stellar contributions.

### **SG Cares and Volunteerism**

5. These are excellent ways to contribute and we are most grateful for the strong partnerships and support from individuals and corporates who have stepped up in the past year to give meaningfully to the sector.
6. I am happy to share that according to the latest Individual Giving Survey by the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre, the

volunteerism rate in Singapore has doubled, from 18% in 2014 to 35% in 2016.

7. It is encouraging to know that more people are volunteering for a good cause. Going forward, how do we encourage more to give their time more meaningfully?
8. SG Cares is a nationwide volunteerism movement co-led by NCSS, to bring as many Singaporeans as possible together, to uplift the lives of vulnerable individuals and families.
9. Through SG Cares, Community Chest has successfully matched volunteers from corporates and institutes of higher learning with our social service organisations to engage in service-based volunteerism. This has encouraged volunteers to give their time meaningfully on a regular basis and ensured that the support they provide to the social service organisations are sustained.
10. SG Cares will continue to grow partnerships across corporations, agencies and the non-profit organisations in the giving of time. I hope all of us can join hearts to care and give support to those around us.

### **Transformation of Awards from 2018**

11. Today, I am pleased to share that the Community Chest Awards will be transformed from next year. The Awards will not only be presented to organisations and individuals based on monetary

contributions, but also to recognise exemplary and holistic caring efforts by our partners.

12. To achieve our vision for “every person to be empowered to live with dignity in a caring and inclusive society”, the People, Public and Private sectors need to work together to care and serve our community. In view of growing needs and limited resources, collective efforts are required in many areas, including fund-raising, volunteerism and provision of employment opportunities.
13. It is hence important and timely for the Community Chest Awards to recognise partners who give beyond monetary donations, to contribute their time and skills to benefit the disadvantaged and those who embrace inclusive employment practices. We sincerely hope that this will better honour the achievements and contributions of our partners and friends in caring and sharing.
14. On behalf of everyone in Community Chest and our supported social service organisations, we convey our deepest gratitude to everyone today. We hope that you will continue to do more for those we can empower around us. With that, I thank all of you for joining us tonight and have a pleasant evening ahead.