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WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR DESMOND LEE, MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT, AT COMMUNITY CHEST FÚ DÀI 2019, ON 19 JANUARY 2019, SATURDAY, 1:05PM, AT THE SINGAPORE EXPO CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE

Colleagues

Dr S. Vasoo, Grassroots Adviser, Teck Ghee

Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman, Community Chest,

Mr Foo Say Thye, Chairman of the Subcommittee of Fú Dài 2019,

Friends of Community Chest,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. Good afternoon. As we usher in the Lunar New Year soon, this year is also our sixth run of the Community Chest Fú Dài.
2. Thank you Heartwarmers and Community Chest for organising this event year after year, and fellow colleagues and grassroots Advisors who have joined us today.
 - This weekend, 2,000 of you - corporate volunteers and individuals - are packing and delivering more than 6,000 goodie bags, for families and seniors in need.
 - A big thank you to our corporate partners, Standard Chartered Bank and Singapore Airlines, who've not only provided significant monetary contributions, your staff have also rallied around the cause and pitched in to volunteer.

- I am also grateful to our volunteers from the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS), who joined in packing Fú Dài with us for the first time yesterday.
3. Indeed, all of you - our volunteers and our donors - embody the spirit of Fu Dai, and of the SG Cares movement. We come from various backgrounds – the public, private and people sectors – but we are working together to help those in need.
 4. In the years ahead, such collective efforts will become even more important.
 - The number of people living alone, especially seniors, will grow.
 - Families have already become smaller, and the trend is likely to continue.
 - In times of need, our first instinct is to turn to our families, but sometimes there are fewer or no family members to rely on.
 - Other communities that we are part of, such as where we live, work, and play, can play a more important role – to look out and care for one another.
 5. As a Government, we continue to find ways to better support strong communities. We have also been working to transform the way we deliver social services to the vulnerable.
 - We have mobilized a network of partners to befriend seniors who live alone. Seniors are invited to join activities such as Zumba workouts and medical check-ups. They make friends and keep fit, and age gracefully in their communities.
 - There is also opportunity for us to coordinate more effectively on the ground. Hence we're building better ways of working together,

sharing information, linking support schemes. Through this, we can strengthen every social service organisation, and help individuals and families who have more complex needs.

- Another thing that we're doing to uplift families is to set up social service hubs in rental housing precincts. These hubs will include white spaces for non-profit or corporate volunteers, to step forward and run programmes.

6. I encourage us to consider the next step in our volunteering journey.

- For corporate firms, perhaps you can start with one day of paid volunteer leave, so that staff can volunteer during working hours.
- For individuals, you can download the SG Cares mobile app, to find the right opportunity to volunteer your time and skills.
- This year, when we start our pilot social service hubs in our rental housing precincts, you can also come forward to run a programme, or to contribute.

7. 送一个福袋，献一份爱心。(sòng yī gè fú dài, xiàn yī fèn ài xīn) In other words, we want to Give Hope, and Fill Hearts with Love. That's what Community Chest Fú Dài sets out to achieve. I wish you a happy Lunar New Year, and may we bring joy to those we meet. 祝大家新年快乐，万事如意(zhù dà jiā xīn nián kuài lè , wàn shì rú yì)!

(604 words; 5 minutes at 120 words/minute)