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MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11 JANUARY 2020, 12PM

1,500 volunteers spread festive joy to 6,000 seniors and families in need with Fú Dài packages

- *Secondary school and senior volunteers join corporates in giving back to the community at Community Chest Fú Dài 2020*
1. **SINGAPORE, 11 January 2020** – In support of SG Cares and in conjunction with the Lunar New Year celebrations, Community Chest Fú Dài 2020 will rally about 1,500 corporate, individual and secondary school student volunteers over two days (10 – 11 January) to pack and deliver over 6,000 festive bags to vulnerable seniors and families
 2. Named Fú Dài (which means “bags of blessings” in Chinese), these festive bags contain food and household items to help defray costs during this festive season. Community Chest Fú Dài is co-organised by volunteer group Heartwarmers and Community Chest, the fundraising and engagement arm of the National Council of Social Service; it aims to bring together people from all walks of life to give back to the community in their own ways – whether through monetary donations or volunteering. More than \$2 million has been raised through Community Chest Fú Dài 2020, the seventh edition of the event.
 3. This year’s Community Chest Fú Dài is themed “Home: For The Community, By The Community”, and gathers the volunteering efforts of the public, private and people sectors as well as across generations. In addition to corporate and individual volunteers, 40 students from Hougang Secondary School will join the packing of festive bags on Day 1, while 9 seniors from Montfort Care Goodlife! centres will lead a workout for volunteers on Day 2. **This is the first time secondary school students are involved in Fu Dai, where students have responded to Community Chest’s call out for more youths to participate as volunteers in Community Chest events,**

following our launch of the Sharity Volunteer Programme for secondary school students at Sharity Day in August 2019.

4. On Day 1 of Community Chest Fú Dài, **Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth** will kick-start the event by packing the festive bags together with the volunteers.
5. On Day 2, **Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Trade and Industry** will attend the event as Guest-of-Honour while **Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for Social and Family Development** will lead the delivery of the festive bags from the packing site at Singapore Expo Hall 8. Joining Minister Lee in the flag-off ceremony for the delivery of Fú Dài islandwide will be several Members of the Parliament (MP), including Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Social and Family Development Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Mr Baey Yam Keng and Ms Joan Pereira, and corporate volunteers from Raffles Hotel, Standard Chartered Bank, Singapore Exchange Limited and Sheng Siong. Minister Lee will also personally deliver festive bags to two families in his Jurong GRC constituency.
6. Holistic giving and support from corporate partners and donors are instrumental to making this annual volunteering event sustainable. Long-term supporter Standard Chartered Bank in particular, has rallied its staff as volunteers in addition to donating to this event. Raffles Singapore a first-time donor to Fu Dai, also contributed generously through funds raised at its Reopening Festival in 2019. **The two organisations will be recognised under Community Chest's Step Up 200 initiative, which was launched last year to honour 20 organisations and individual donors who have gone beyond their usual fundraising activities and engagement efforts to rally the community in giving during the Singapore Bicentennial.**
7. All funds raised through this event will be channelled to about 80 social service agencies supported by Community Chest to empower lives of the less fortunate, including families in need and vulnerable seniors.
8. **Mr Che Ah Kau, 73, one of the senior volunteers from Montfort Care** said: "Leading the workout at Community Chest Fú Dài 2020 gives us a sense of purpose, and also helps us stay physically and mentally active. I hope to give back to the community for as long as my health allows me to."

9. **Ms Kanya Pandya Cittasthira, 36, a Communications, Training and Adoption Analyst from Standard Chartered Bank** remarked: “I have been an avid volunteer with Standard Chartered Bank since I transferred to the Singapore office four years ago, as I believe that volunteering is the best way to experience and see the country through the local lens. The fond memories and interactions with the service users have motivated me to volunteer with Fu Dai and other events with the Bank year after year.”
10. **Mr Foo Say Thye, Chairman of Community Chest Fú Dài 2020 Organising Committee**, added: “The Fú Dài initiative has always been a great opportunity for the community-at-large to come together to care and share for those in need. I am especially heartened to have the student and senior volunteers join us this year, as they represent Community Chest’s ongoing efforts in engaging the wider community to build an inclusive society for all. I hope more will join us in the future as we continue to give back to the community, as a community.”

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About Community Chest

As the hallmark of care and share, Community Chest has been uniting the community to fundraise and serve those in need since 1983. In 2019, as Singapore reflects on its progress and milestones since its founding 200 years ago, Community Chest aims to highlight the importance of community giving and how it has been integral to the success of Singapore since its early days.

Under the **Bicentennial Community Fund**, the Government will provide dollar-for-dollar matching for donations to Community Chest, up to 20% of the total funds raised from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. Through this, Community Chest hopes to encourage the community to give and maximise the impact to enhance the sector’s capabilities, create impactful partnerships and make caring a part of our everyday lives.

Community Chest supports about 80 social service agencies to meet underserved, critical social needs. As our fundraising and operating costs are covered mainly by Tote Board Group, 100% of your contributions goes towards empowering the lives of:

- Adults with disabilities
- Children with special needs and youth-at-risk
- Families in need
- Persons with mental health conditions
- Vulnerable seniors

Find out more at comchest.sg

National Council of Social Service (NCSS)

NCSS is the umbrella body for over 450-member social service organisations in Singapore. Its mission is to provide leadership and direction in enhancing the capabilities and capacity of our members, advocating for social service needs and strengthening strategic partnerships, for an effective social service ecosystem. Community Chest is the fundraising and engagement arm of NCSS and Social Service Institute (SSI) is the human capital development arm of NCSS.

About SG Cares

SG Cares is a national movement dedicated to building a more caring and inclusive home for all. The movement invites all who live in Singapore to put values into action through active volunteerism, ground-up efforts and everyday acts of care. It also aims to build capability across various sectors and organisations to grow opportunities for volunteering. By inspiring and supporting one another, we can show the world that we are a nation with a big heart.
www.sgcares.sg