

EMBARGOED TILL AFTER DELIVERY

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**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR CHRIS CHONG
CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY CHEST CHRISTMAS ON A *GREAT STREET*
LIGHT-UP CEREMONY 2018
10 NOVEMBER 2018, SATURDAY, 7:05PM
PLAZA SINGAPURA**

Mdm Halimah Yacob
President of the Republic of Singapore

Mr Desmond Lee
Minister for Social and Family Development

Members of Parliament

Ambassadors

Ms Anita Fam, President, NCSS Board

Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman, Community Chest

Ms Jennie Chua, Advisor, Community Chest

Distinguished guests, and friends of Community Chest

1. Good evening! It is wonderful to have everyone here to usher in the season's cheer. In a short while, our Guest-of-Honour, President Halimah Yacob and our host Minister Lee, will be launching the festive lights to transform Orchard Road into a magical wonderland. Thank you Mdm President and Minister Lee for gracing this occasion to mark the start of this season of joy and giving.

2. This year, the Community Chest Christmas on *A Great Street* Light-Up Ceremony is into its 35th year. We are very grateful to our co-organiser, Orchard Road Business Association, for their unwavering support. Every year, we are given this valuable platform to raise funds to benefit about 80 social service organisations supported by Community Chest. Our heartfelt thanks go to the Singapore Tourism Board too for supporting this event. Not forgetting our long-standing partner and main sponsor, Hitachi Group of Companies in Singapore. It is with your continued support that Community Chest is able to empower and transform lives.

3. I would also like to express our appreciation to our other corporate donors - Propnex Realty, United Overseas Bank Limited, Singapore Press Holdings Limited, StarHub Ltd, Evangel Family Church Ltd, Daikin Airconditioning (Singapore) Pte Ltd, Fu Lu Shou Si Mian Fo Pte Ltd, State Street Bank and Trust Company; corporate partners - Plaza Singapura, Hanbaobao Ptd Ltd (Licensee of McDonald's), PappaRich Group Singapore Pte Ltd, Singapore Red Cross and The Boys' Brigade Singapore - who have helped to make the event possible, and all who have contributed in one way or another to this event. Thank you.

4. With all your support, our social service users have been enabled to lead independent and dignified lives. Your kind donations have helped to fund the various programmes supported by Community Chest including those that promote inclusive hiring. Through these programmes, persons with disabilities and persons with mental health conditions are able to be employed and contribute actively to our community.

5. We would like to make special mention of McDonald's Singapore, United Overseas Bank Limited and Hotel Jen Orchardgateway by Shangri-La as employers who have taken the lead to embrace inclusive practices at their workplaces. Thank you for providing employment opportunities and enabling social service users to contribute at the workplace and realise their full potential.
6. Many of the service users who are employed at these workplaces had graduated from special education schools supported by Community Chest. One of them is Mr Lim Han Ming who is currently employed as a service crew with McDonald's Singapore. Han Ming graduated from APSN Delta Senior School and has worked with McDonald's since 2016. According to his supervisors, he is an independent worker who would practice constantly to grill the meat patty to "perfection". When he is not working, this budding animator is taking courses in game design to pursue his passion in animation.
7. With support from the people, private and public sector, Han Ming is leading an independent life and pursuing his dreams. This is testament to our community's efforts in coming together to build an inclusive society. Going forward, we can empower many more social service users like Han Ming to contribute actively to society.
8. We would like to take this opportunity to thank CapitaLand for offering this space at Plaza Singapura to host Community Chest's annual Christmas Light-Up Ceremony for the first time. This year, the company has commissioned Mr Jovan Neo – a special needs artist with The Art Faculty – to design its popular Christmas gift wrappers

which will be made available at CapitaLand malls. You can check out the lovely carnival-themed design by Jovan in your goodie bag.

9. At this point, I would like to introduce our beautiful little dancers from Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore (CPAS) tonight. Despite their disabilities, they have overcome challenges in coordinating their body movements and memorising the dance steps to discover joy and happiness through music, singing and dancing. They have dedicated their time, effort and hard work to put together a performance to celebrate abilities.

10. Lastly, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to my fellow organising committee members, Mr Mark Shaw, Mr Peter Wee, Mr Steven Goh, Mr Michael Tay and Mr Ho Sing for your invaluable contributions towards this event.

11. Thank you and enjoy the evening.