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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Spreading festive warmth and cheer to over 6,000 seniors and families in need island-wide this Lunar New Year**

- *Social service users from MINDS will also be empowered to give back to the community at Fú Dài for the first time in the spirit of SG Cares*

**SINGAPORE, 19 January 2019** – In support of SG Cares and in conjunction with Lunar New Year festivities this year, the Community Chest Fú Dài 2019 will see over 2,000 corporate and individual volunteers coming together to pack and deliver more than 6,000 Fú Dài to vulnerable seniors and families in need island-wide over two days (18-19 January 2019).

Fú Dài, which means “bag of blessings and joy” in Mandarin are festive bags containing essential household and food items. Co-organised by volunteer group Heartwarmers and Community Chest, the fund-raising and engagement arm of the National Council of Social Service for the sixth year running, the event provides a platform for people from all walks of life to give what they can in their own way to help those in need, through monetary donations and volunteering of time. More than \$1.2 million has been raised through Community Chest Fú Dài 2019.

Leading the volunteering efforts at this year’s Fú Dài event is **Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for Social and Family Development**, who will kick off the delivery of the festive bags from the packing site at Expo Hall 7.

Joining him in the flag-off ceremony for the delivery of Fú Dài islandwide are several Members of the Parliament (MP), including Dr Amy Khor, Associate Professor Dr Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Mr Baey Yam Keng and Ms Joan Pereira. Minister Lee will personally deliver festive bags to homes of those in need in his Jurong GRC constituency, while some of the other MPs will deliver to their respective constituencies across Singapore.

Holistic giving and support from corporate partners and donors are instrumental to making this annual volunteering event sustainable. Long-term supporters Standard Chartered Bank and Singapore Airlines, in particular, have rallied their staff as volunteers and given significant monetary contributions to make this year's event possible.

All funds raised through this event will be channelled to about 80 social service organisations supported by Community Chest to empower lives of those in need, including families in need and vulnerable seniors. In FY2017, \$9.5m was disbursed by Community Chest to support 79 programmes to build strong and resilient families and \$4.6m was disbursed to support 22 programmes that care for vulnerable seniors.

This year's Fú Dài also marks the **first time that social service users are empowered to give back to the community in their own way** at the event. A group of residents from the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS), a social service organisation supported by Community Chest, joined Standard Chartered Bank to help out as active contributors packing the bags yesterday to share festive joy with those in need.

**CEO of MINDS, Ms Sally May Tan** remarked, "We want to thank Community Chest and Standard Chartered Bank for recognising the abilities of persons with intellectual disabilities, giving our residents a chance to volunteer and spread joy to many households this festive season."

**Said Patrick Lee, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank.** "We have worked with MINDS since 2002, and it is very fulfilling to see how our partnership has helped both organisations and our employee volunteers. At Standard Chartered, we believe that giving is important, and helping someone unlock their giving potential maximises our collective impact. We are delighted to have MINDS here today partnering our colleagues at Fú Dài to amplify our gift of giving."

**Charmaine Leung, Managing Director of Community Chest,** said: "The Fú Dài initiative is a great way for the community-at-large to come together to care and share for those in need. As many of us celebrate the upcoming Lunar New Year with family and friends, we hope that these festive bags will also bring warmth and joy to the homes of the less fortunate and encourage more to give back to the community as we move towards building a more caring and inclusive home for all in Singapore."

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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. With the aim to enable every individual to live with dignity within a caring and inclusive society, Community Chest supports about 80 social service organisations 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:

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

Find out more at [comchest.sg](http://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](http://www.sgcares.sg)