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In The Spirit Of



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **36 Years of Empowering Lives through Christmas On A Great Street Light-Up Ceremony**

**SINGAPORE, 16 NOVEMBER 2019** – This season of giving and joy is made even more meaningful with this year’s theme **Community Chest Christmas On A Great Street Light-Up Ceremony**, “The Greatest Gift” – the gift to empower lives so that every person can have the opportunity to nurture their talent and fulfil their potential, and to lead more independent and meaningful lives. The light-up was launched by **Guest-of-Honour President Halimah Yacob**, and raised more than \$2 million, which will go towards funding various social service programmes supported by Community Chest, including those that promote inclusive hiring.

Among the many programmes that Community Chest funded in FY2018, 33 of them promoted inclusive hiring, equipping and enabling about 1,000 persons with disabilities and persons living with mental health conditions to be gainfully employed. These included support to the special education schools, and sheltered workshops that provide pre-vocational training and work opportunities for persons with disabilities who are not yet ready for open employment. There are also employment support services that provide job matching and placement services, training and support to enable persons living with mental health conditions to gain and sustain employment.

Employers who have taken the lead to embrace inclusive practices at their workplaces include Maybank Singapore. 58-year old Mr Tony Zhu, a wheelchair user with muscular dystrophy, has worked with Maybank for more than 20 years in IT Security Operations. Through the years, his employer has provided him with opportunities to learn and upgrade. Just as much as he has received, Tony has given much too, by sharing knowledge and experiences to benefit everyone in the team.

Mr Wong Keng Fye, Head of Human Capital, Maybank Singapore, said, “We always see our staff beyond their disabilities, and focus on their talents. We considered Tony’s needs and added wheelchair-friendly facilities within the office building so that he and other colleagues with special needs may have convenient access. When we made changes to the workplace to make it more accessible and inclusive, our team members felt more welcomed and hence increased their employee engagement level. This also reinforces the spirit of care within the organisation.”

Besides Maybank Singapore, other inclusive employers like Edible Garden City and Han's were also featured at the Ceremony. Invited guests and members of the public were treated to a rhythmic and upbeat Cajon musical performance by Singapore Association for Mental Health (SAMH) YouthReach, as well as a collaborative dance performance by students from APSN Chaoyang School and Presbyterian High School. Both performances were a celebration of abilities through music and movement.

The 36<sup>th</sup> Community Chest Christmas on *A Great Street* Light-Up Ceremony is co-organised by Community Chest and Orchard Road Business Association, along with main sponsor, Hitachi Group of Companies in Singapore.

**- END -**

### **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

*\*Donations include all private cash donations. Grants from government agencies, including Tote Board, which are not donations, will not qualify for the matching. Community Chest, as a fundraising arm of the National Council of Social Service, supporting about 80 social service agencies, will not be subject to the \$400,000 per IPC cap. Instead, 20% of the total donation (net of the donation that is already matched by*

*existing grants) received by Community Chest in the qualifying period will be matched by the Bicentennial Community Fund.*

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

### **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)

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**Community Chest Christmas On A Great Street Light-Up Ceremony 2019**  
**Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza**

**PROGRAMME**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Details</b>
6.30pm	Media registration
6:45pm	Arrival of Host, SPS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim
7.00pm	<b>Arrival of Guest-of-Honour, President Halimah Yacob</b> Patron-in-Chief, National Council of Social Service
	<b>Opening performance</b> by Singapore Association for Mental Health YouthReach programme
7.10 pm	<b>Welcome speech by Mr Chris Chong</b> Chairman of the Community Chest Christmas On A Great Street Light-Up Organising Committee
	<b>Address by Mr Kojin Nakakita</b> Chairman, Hitachi Asia Ltd
7.20 pm	<b>Video screening</b>
7.25 pm	<b>Presentation of cheques and tokens of presentation</b>
7.30 pm	<b>Video screening</b>
7.35 pm	<b>Dance performance</b> by APSN Chaoyang School & Presbyterian High School
7.40 pm	<b>Presentation of cheques and tokens of presentation</b>
7.45 pm	<b>Light-Up Ceremony</b>
7.50 pm	<b>Photo-taking</b>
8.00 pm	President takes her leave
8.10 pm	SPS takes his leave
8.30 pm	<b>HIPPO Bus</b> service commences
9.30 pm	End of programme