



MEDIA RELEASE

COMMUNITY CHEST RALLIES THE COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

SINGAPORE, 9 MAY 2020 – Community Chest, the fundraising and engagement arm of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS), has rallied the community to give back to the community amid the COVID-19 situation.

2. More than 70 corporates have generously donated to The Courage Fund and The Invictus Fund, while 10 others have contributed essential supplies, including masks, hand sanitisers and thermal scanners. Many individuals have also contributed both in cash and in-kind to help the community during these uncertain times. These collective efforts strengthen our social service sector so that we can better serve the vulnerable in this global pandemic.

Generous in-kind donations to support the vulnerable and the community

3. A recent partnership between local real estate developer Perennial Real Estate Holdings Limited (“Perennial”) and Hong Kong-listed Shun Tak Holdings Limited (“Shun Tak”) resulted in the largest donation of essential supplies to date. Together, the two companies donated 5 million masks, with Perennial and Shun Tak contributing 3 million masks and 2 million masks respectively. These will be distributed to homes including our Senior Group Homes, Welfare Homes, Disability Homes, Children and Young Persons Homes and Safe, Sound Sleeping Places for rough sleepers run by our social service agencies (SSAs), via NCSS.

4. Led by Mr Pua Seck Guan, Chief Executive Officer of Perennial and Ms Pansy Ho, Group Executive Chairman and Managing Director of Shun Tak, Perennial and Shun Tak leveraged their networks in China to enable a cross-country collaboration to secure and import five million masks for vulnerable persons in Singapore.

5. “As the world bands together to fight the COVID-19 outbreak, Perennial and Shun Tak hope to do our part to support those who need help within the community. At the same time, we hope our donation of masks would complement the efforts of other companies who have similarly stepped up to give back. The partnership is testament to the power of international collaboration, especially critical during this global pandemic,” said Mr Pua and Ms Ho.

Strong community support for The Invictus Fund and The Courage Fund

6. Besides donations-in-kind, Community Chest also rallied organisations and individuals to show their support through donations.

7. Since the launch of The Invictus Fund on 7 April, organisations have donated over \$2 million. The Fund helps SSAs to better cope with the COVID-19 situation, such as through investing in technology to ensure that they can continue to deliver critical social services to the vulnerable. The Courage Fund, which is administered by NCSS to provide relief to vulnerable individuals and families affected by the COVID-19 situation, has received more than \$8 million.

8. Individual donors have also contributed generously, with their contributions to both The Invictus Fund and The Courage Fund amounting to almost \$7 million. Two individual philanthropists alone contributed \$2 million.

9. Members of the public used their networks to rally the community through ground-up fund-raising initiatives. Media personality, Ms Diana Ser, and her friend launched the #ShowWeCareSG campaign and reached out to more than 80 local celebrities and personalities to raise awareness for The Invictus Fund. They include Ms Stefanie Sun, Mr JJ Lin, Ms Kit Chan, Ms Tanya Chua and Ms Fann Wong, who promoted the campaign on their social media pages to rally the community to donate generously, raising \$320,000 in three weeks.

10. Inspired by how others around the world continued to stay connected through music even in the midst of a lockdown, Mr James Chua, founder and managing director of creative agency GERMS rallied his partners, Senoko Energy and Mediacorp, to put together a live online music festival, in support of The Invictus Fund. The "Power Gig", which featured local singers like Mr Benjamin Kheng, Mr Derrick Hoh, Ms Inch Chua and many others, took place over the Labour Day weekend, and was streamed live on Mediacorp's YES 933's radio station and the artistes' Instagram channels, raising some \$36,000 over three days.

11. "We have been very touched by the generosity shown by the community, and also heartened to see a local corporate join hands with its international counterpart to render help where needed. These donations, both in-kind and in cash, will go a long way towards helping those who have been affected by the COVID-19 situation. We do not know how long this situation will last, but our SG United giving spirit will definitely help us emerge stronger through these challenges," said Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman of Community Chest.

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For media enquiries, please contact:

Ms Deanne Galicia

Associate

Ogilvy Singapore

Tel: 8292 6895

Email: deanne.galicia@ogilvy.com

Ms Chew Kia Huey

Senior Manager, Communications Division

Ministry of Social and Family Development

Tel: 9021 0673

Email: chew_kia_huey@msf.gov.sg

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.

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 December 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 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:

- 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 (ComChest) as a fundraising arm of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS), supporting about 80 social service organisations, 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 ComChest in the qualifying period will be matched by the BCF.*

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.