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*A movement supported by over 200 voluntary welfare organisations*

## MEDIA RELEASE

# COMMUNITY CHEST SG50 CHRISTMAS LIGHT UP BRINGS HOPE TO FAMILIES IN NEED

**Singapore, 13 November 2015** – The Community Chest Care & Share SG50 Christmas On A Great Street Light-Up ceremony will not only kick-start the iconic lighting of Orchard Road for the year-end festivity, it will also bring hope to families in need. An event under the Care & Share Movement for SG50, the Guest of Honour President Tony Tan Keng Yam will officiate the ceremony with Special Guest, Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Minister for Social and Family Development. Started in 1984, the annual event is supported by the Singapore Tourism Board and Orchard Road Business Association.

In line with the theme '*Lighting-Up Lives*' this year, Rainbow Centre – Yishun Park School (RCYPS), one of the 80 over charities supported by Community Chest, will be staging a short musical called '*Light-Up, Light-Up*' as part of the ceremony. The RCYPS provides special education to children with moderate to severe needs aged seven to 18. Community Chest has rallied its partners to raise funds through this event to help empower families in need, especially those with special needs children to access special education.

Among those who will be helped is the family of 13-year-old Bernard Low, a student at RCYPS, who has cerebral palsy. Despite being a loving family, his parents have trouble coping with his disability, as well as their own health issues. Bernard's father is debilitated due to a fall, while his mother has kidney failure and a heart condition. They have been medically assessed to be permanently unfit for employment, and without the income, Bernard's parents are unable to provide for their children.

Through donations raised by Community Chest, Bernard receives special education tailored to his needs and has made significant progress. In addition, with physiotherapy intervention, he is also able to walk steadily which allows him to participate more actively in school. The school has supported Bernard's family, by providing subsidised education and transport to school, and tapping onto its network of community resources for the family to get other financial aid.

"Families of children with special needs face many challenges in raising their children. Community Chest and the Care & Share Movement seek to help them so that they, too, can experience familial joy. With donors and volunteers joining hands with us, we can enable these families to look beyond their challenges and be more resilient in overcoming the odds," said Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman of Community Chest and the Care & Share Movement Steering Committee.

Close to \$1 million has been raised for the light-up ceremony with donors such as Hitachi Group of Companies, Lee Foundation, StarHub Ltd, Evangel Family Church and ION Orchard. With the extension of the \$1-for-\$1 government matching grant for eligible donations under the Movement till the end of March 2016, donations raised this year will double in its impact. The matched amount will go towards building the capabilities and capacities of the social service sector.

During this season of giving, members of the public can donate to support over 80 charities cared for by Community Chest conveniently through their mobile phones using Singtel's mobile payment app, *Dash* - donors can download *Dash Pay* from App Store or Google Play - or online at [comchest.sg](http://comchest.sg).

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### **About Community Chest**

For over 30 years, Community Chest has been engaging the community to support people in need through fund-raising and volunteering. Community Chest supports more than 80 charities in Singapore, allowing them to focus on caring for the less fortunate. As Community Chest's fund-raising and operating costs are covered mainly by Tote Board and Singapore Pools, every dollar donated will help:

- Children with special needs to reach potential
- Adults with disabilities to integrate into society
- Relationships of families in difficulty to stay strong
- Elderly to age gracefully in the community

To make a difference, visit [comchest.sg](http://comchest.sg).

### **About the Care & Share Movement**

Care & Share is a national fund-raising and volunteerism movement led by Community Chest for the social service sector, in celebration of SG50 this year. It aims to bring our nation together to show care and concern for the less fortunate, and recognise the contributions made by voluntary welfare organisations (VWOs). Eligible donations raised by Community Chest and participating VWOs from now till 31 March 2016 will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Government. The matched amount will go towards building the capabilities and capacities of the social service sector and supporting social services to meet rising needs.

To contribute to this Movement, please visit [careandshare.sg](http://careandshare.sg) or email to [csm@ncss.gov.sg](mailto:csm@ncss.gov.sg).

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National Council of Social Service  
Friday, 13 November 2015**

**Community Chest Care & Share SG50**  
**Christmas on a Great Street Light-up Ceremony**

Saturday, 14 November 2015  
 ION Orchard, Level 1, ION

**Programme**

<b>6.30pm</b>	Media registration
<b>7.00pm</b>	Arrival of Guest-of-Honour President Tony Tan Keng Yam
<b>7.05pm</b>	Welcome address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr Ho Sing, Chairman of the Community Chest SG50 Light-Up Organising Committee</li> <li>- Mr Ichiro Iino, Chief Executive for Asia Pacific, Hitachi, Ltd.</li> </ul>
<b>7.15pm</b>	<b>(Photo Opportunity)</b> Token and Cheque Presentation with Partners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Witnessed by President Tony Tan and Minister Tan Chuan-Jin</li> </ul>
<b>7.25 pm</b>	<b>(Photo Opportunity)</b> Musical performance by Rainbow Centre – Yishun Park School called ' <i>Light Up Light Up</i> '
<b>7.45pm</b>	<b>(Photo Opportunity)</b> Light-Up Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At the countdown, President Tony Tan will switch on a Christmas bell launch mechanism to activate Orchard Road decoration lights.</li> </ul>
<b>8.15pm</b>	<b>(Photo Opportunity)</b> Hippo Bus Tour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Camera crew and reporters are invited on the bus tour to capture the street light-up</li> </ul>
<b>9.00pm</b>	End of Programme