

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR MARKHAM SHAW  
CHAIRMAN OF THE CHRISTMAS ON  
A GREAT STREET COMMUNITY CHEST LIGHT-UP  
CEREMONY 2022 COMMITTEE**

Madam Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore

Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for Health

His Excellency Hiroshi Ishikawa, The Ambassador of Japan

His Excellency Kent Härstedt, The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden

Mr Chew Sutat, Chairman, Community Chest

Mr Toshiaki Higashihara, Director, Executive Chairman, Representative Executive Officer, Hitachi Ltd.

Mr Kojin Nakakita, Vice President and Executive Officer, Regional Strategies (APAC), Hitachi, Ltd., Chairman of Hitachi Asia Ltd.

Distinguished guests, and friends of Community Chest,

1. Good evening! Thank you for joining us at tonight's Christmas on *A Great Street* Community Chest Light-Up Ceremony 2022.
2. It is a joyous occasion today, gathering here with all our friends and families to witness the lighting up of Orchard Road.
3. Over the last two years, celebrations have been muted due to restrictions, so I am glad we are ushering in the year-end festivities under very different circumstances this year.
4. In a short while, our Guest-of-Honour, Madam President, will do us the honour of transforming Orchard Road into a dazzling wonderland. Thank you, Madam President for being here with us today, and for your strong support of our event these past years.

5. The annual light-up ceremony that Community Chest co-organises with Orchard Road Business Association has been a long-cherished tradition. More than a symbolic welcome to the festive season, it has also been an occasion for us to celebrate our community spirit, by recognising donors and partners who have supported the causes of Community Chest.
  
6. On behalf of the organising committee for the Light-Up Ceremony, I would like to express our deepest appreciation to members of the public and partners of Community Chest who have provided their steadfast support to those in need through the years.
  
7. These efforts will go a long way in supporting more than 100 social service agencies and 200 critical programmes funded by Community Chest, to empower children with special needs and youth-at-risk, adults with disabilities, persons with mental health conditions and families and seniors in need of assistance.

8. For example, your support has empowered the students of Eden School to enjoy a quality education with many opportunities for them to explore their passions. Performers from the Eden Ensemble, whose love for music has helped them overcome their initial learning challenges, will showcase this very passion tonight with a rousing performance.
  
9. Even as we turn the corner on the pandemic, we need to stay united in the face of continued challenges. I'm glad to see so many shoppers at the charity bazaar and hope everyone continues to support Community Chest and other causes close to their hearts even after today.
  
10. For example, you can shop for a good cause at the Sharity e-store, which features merchandise of Community Chest's iconic mascot.

11. You may also have heard about donating or volunteering opportunities in support of SG Cares Giving Week. This is jointly organised by the National Council of Social Service, the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre and SG Cares, to encourage giving through various forms like donations, volunteering of time, expertise and resources, or advocacy of causes. I encourage all of you to support this in whatever way you can.
  
12. Before we officially usher in the year-end giving season, I would like to take the opportunity to thank our main sponsor Hitachi Group of Companies, the Singapore Tourism Board and Mastercard, without whom this annual light-up ceremony would not have been possible.
  
13. I would also like to express my appreciation to:
  - a. Our donors Singtel, PropNex Realty, NTUC Fairprice Foundation Ltd, Toppers Education Centre Pte. Ltd., DBS Bank, Starbucks Singapore, Daikin

Airconditioning (Singapore) Pte Ltd, OUE Limited, UOL Group Limited, Marriott Worldwide Business Council Singapore (part of Marriott International) and Royal Plaza on Scotts;

b. Our venue sponsor Ngee Ann City; and

c. Our partners Hilton Singapore Orchard, Mandarin Gallery, Wisma Atria, Neo Group Limited, Coca-Cola Singapore, McDonald's Singapore and all who have contributed in one way or another to make this event possible.

14. Lastly, I would like to thank Community Chest advisor Mr Phillip Tan, my fellow co-chairperson, Mr Chris Chong, and members of the organising committee for your invaluable contributions.

15. Over the last two years, the Christmas on *A Great Street* Community Chest Light-Up Ceremony has been a symbol of our good wishes for the nation as we battled challenges brought upon by the pandemic. I am hopeful this year will mark the start of a better, brighter 2023 for Singapore.
  
16. Let us continue to work together to harness the community's powers to enhance sustained support for individuals and families. Together, we can make giving a part of living and nurture a caring and inclusive home for all. Thank you, and enjoy the evening ahead.