

**SPEECH BY MR PHILLIP TAN
CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY CHEST
28 SEPTEMBER 2016, WEDNESDAY, 4.00PM
AT THE COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS 2016**

Mr Hsieh Fu Hua, President, National Council of Social Service (NCSS)

Ms Jennie Chua, Adviser, Community Chest

Community Chest Supporters and Award Recipients

Distinguished Guests

Ladies & Gentlemen

1. Good afternoon and welcome to the Community Chest Awards 2016. We would like to thank our Guest-of-Honour, President Tony Tan Keng Yam, Patron-in-Chief of NCSS and Community Chest, for gracing this occasion. He will be joining us later this afternoon to recognise our partners who have generously given and helped make Singapore a more caring and inclusive society in the past year. Minister Tan Chuan-Jin had originally planned to be with us to present the Awards to our recipients. As he has to attend to official matters overseas, he sends his apologies for not being able to join us today.

2. All of your contributions, be it corporate or individual donations to Community Chest, are making a sustainable and collective impact and enabling some 80 social service organisations to better serve the disadvantaged in our community. With your support, these social service organisations are able to provide a wide range of

critical programmes, such as special education, befriending and integration support to our beneficiaries.

3. The Care & Share Movement for SG50 has been a catalyst for giving last year. A total of 422 awards will be given out today for your contribution in the past Financial Year (FY) 2015. This is the highest number of awards in recent years. I am heartened to share that it is because all of you and many others, whom we apologise we cannot invite all into this room today, that Community Chest has achieved a record of about \$69 million in donations in FY2015. Indeed, it was a jubilee year that celebrated not just our nation's success, but also our giving heart. We are truly appreciative of the heightened support from you and many Singaporeans, who have cared and stepped up to help the less fortunate in donation and volunteerism through the Movement. We certainly hope that such exceptional giving will not be a once-off phenomenon because of SG50, but that the caring and giving spirit ignited is sustained and will continue to grow

GIVING HOPE THROUGH SHARE

4. I would like to thank our SHARE award recipients, which are organisations that have been helping us rally your employees to donate a small sum individually on a monthly basis to make a collective impact. Community Chest deeply appreciates the Singapore Armed Forces including the Army, Air Force, Navy and Joint, the Singapore Police Force, the Singapore Civil Defence Force and the Singapore Prison Service, which have been forerunners and are public service organisations committed to

encouraging their employees to support needy causes through SHARE year after year.

5. We also appreciate long-time supporters from the private sector, including Singapore Technologies Kinetics Ltd (ST Kinetics), our SHARE Pinnacle Award recipient this year, for your unwavering efforts to keep your employees' SHARE donation at a high level for more than 20 years. We are thankful to have with us senior management representatives from all these organisations for us to show our appreciation to today.
6. The SHARE programme works on the power of many. The monthly giving under SHARE is pooled and used prudently by Community Chest, and goes to sustaining some of the most needed but less understood and visible social service programmes. These include services for adults with severe disabilities and rehabilitation for persons with mental health issues so that all can live dignified and independent lives as far as possible.
7. I hope that most of you know by now that Community Chest is rolling out an enhanced SHARE as One programme for the next three years, with the Government giving special support to companies with employees donating through SHARE, with dollar-for-dollar matching to boost your Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR) efforts. For any increase in SHARE donations over and above the amount donated in FY2015, a government matching grant is availed to companies, up to a \$10,000 cap annually, to organise CSR volunteering activities for

your employees so they can better connect with the causes that they donate to.

8. On this note, I would like to make a special mention of a Small Medium Enterprise (SME), Dim Sum Private Limited, which will receive our SHARE Corporate Platinum award today. They initially shared with Community Chest that with only a staff strength of about 190, they were not sure if they could make much difference. Today, Dim Sum Private Limited has managed to rally all 190 employees to achieve a 100% SHARE participation rate to help us. What a wonderful support! Many SMEs told us that they have the will, but lack the resources to do more CSR. We hope to encourage more SMEs to come forward and journey with us through the SHARE as One programme, where your employees' donation can unlock the government matching grant to grow your CSR capabilities.

SHARING JOY THROUGH CORPORATE GIVING

9. Over the SG50 year, many corporates have stepped up with exceptional level of giving in addition to their annual support to Community Chest. This enabled us to co-develop and kick-start several pioneering projects to meet new, emerging, and underserved needs. Some examples of such projects include The Hour Glass Kitchen Programme, the Singtel Enabling Innovation Centre and the UOB Ability Hub at the Enabling Village. Such initiatives would not have been so readily brought to fruition if not for the corporates' increased support in the past year to break new ground with us.

10. I would like to make special mention of nine corporate and foundations which have all crossed the \$1 million donation mark last year, with heartfelt gratitude from all of us at Community Chest. They are **BinjaiTree, Resorts World Sentosa, Singapore Power Limited, Singapore Telecommunications Limited, SMRT Corporation Limited, The Hour Glass Limited, Tote Board Group, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club, Wing Tai Foundation and the United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB)**. UOB will also be recognised with our highest-tier Corporate Pinnacle Award today for their steadfast commitment and giving over the years, which had reached almost \$20 million by FY2015.

APPRECIATION FOR COMMUNITY CHEST COMMITTEE MEMBERS

11. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank fellow volunteers who served with me on the Community Chest Committee in the last 2014 to 2016 term. Though they have stepped down and supported me in succession planning to continually renew the Community Chest Committee, I know the camaraderie of serving together will be remembered and treasured. They are: Mr Andrew Lim, Mr Lim Tien Hock, Mr Manoj Murjani, Mrs Seah-Khoo Ee Boon, Mr Tan Hung Hooi, Ms Toh Su Fen and Mr Wee Sin Tho.

12. Today's ceremony is for the organisations and people who have given freely out of a generous spirit. A group of very special people present are also freely giving of their time and talents to

make today's ceremony a delightful one. We thank you, **Orchestra of the Music Makers**, which is a group of volunteers comprising students and working adults who have come together to delight the community with their love and talent for music. I also want to thank my young friend, 13-year-old **Lauren Yeo** who has volunteered to sing today despite a heavy study and training schedule. Lauren first performed with Community Chest last year at our Care & Share Thank You Show, and has impressed me with her generosity and graciousness in giving of her talent and time. Thank you Orchestra of the Music Makers and Lauren for performing today.

13. Last but not least, on behalf of everyone in Community Chest and our supported social service organisations and beneficiaries, we would like to convey our deepest gratitude to everyone today. We hope that you will continue to partner us to build an impactful social service ecosystem that meets the needs of the community, and to foster a compassionate society where we can enable more to live dignified lives.

14. Thank you.