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MEDIA RELEASE

Companies Empower and Support Persons with Disabilities in More Inclusive Workplace

Community Chest celebrates 5-year partnership with Resorts World Singapore and highlights 'Holistic Giving' at Charity in the Park 2018 event

SINGAPORE, 20 January 2018 – Charity in the Park 2018, one of Community Chest's signature events, was held at Universal Studios Singapore in Resorts World Sentosa today. The event, with the theme of *Empowering Lives Through Inclusiveness*, raises awareness of the holistic support given to persons with disabilities in the workplace. Besides the giving of time, money and skills, holistic support includes growing respect for and inclusion of persons with disabilities through social interaction, employment and job re--design.

Resorts World Sentosa is one of a growing number of employers in Singapore who have made adjustments to day--to--day processes and adaptations to workplace facilities for employees with disabilities. Its employees Kenneth Chin, a deaf aquarist at the S.E.A. Aquarium, and Jean Ling, an administrative executive who is paraplegic from a road accident, have overcome their limitations and continue to contribute at work, even volunteering their time for the less fortunate.

Undaunted by his sensory impairment, Kenneth is able to combine his knowledge in marine life and husbandry with his passion for ocean art with the support of his supervisors and colleagues. For Jean, her organisational and logistical strengths from being on the attractions operations team are now transferred to the event services department, a more administrative and physically less demanding environment.

As summed up by **Chief Executive Officer of Resorts World Sentosa, Mr Tan Hee Teck**, "At Resorts World Sentosa, we strongly believe in empowering our employees to bring out their best talents and giving them opportunities to shine. Some of our very talented employees include individuals with disabilities such as Jean and Kenneth. All it takes is support and recognition from management that diversity makes a stronger team, and commitment by the individual to overcome all odds and succeed. For Jean and Kenneth,

they have proven this to be true by making a difference to themselves and Resorts World Sentosa.”

Graced by Guest-of-Honour Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office, invited guests of Charity in the Park 2018 included Community Chest service users ranging from low income families, children with special needs and seniors, in addition to corporate donors and their families. Organisations acknowledged as contributors to the event included HSBC Singapore, Singapore Power, Singapore Press Holdings and Yeo Hiap Seng Limited.

In his welcome address, **Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman of Community Chest**, highlighted the success of the partnership between Resorts World Sentosa and Community Chest and urged other organisations to collaborate in similar ways that would benefit the social service ecosystem.

“Every person can be empowered to live with dignity in a caring and inclusive society. I am heartened that with greater awareness, improvements in technology and innovative ways of working, Community Chest has strengthened our role as a one-stop CSR partner by connecting players in the ecosystem to achieve this shared vision for all in Singapore.”

Over 4,000 donors, volunteers, social service users and their caregivers attended Charity in the Park 2018, where they enjoyed an evening of rides, attractions and sumptuous food in Universal Studios Singapore. The event included games and experiential activities designed to allow more people to have a better understanding of the challenges faced by persons with disabilities, such as Braille Code and Abstract Picture Drawing. Played by mixed teams of six, comprising corporates and service users, these activities encourage deeper interaction among people of various needs and abilities. The activities culminated in the revelation of a mosaic painting depicting ocean conservation and the role of S.E.A. Aquarium in caring for marine animals, a masterpiece of Kenneth who is also a talented artist. The event is in line with the 5-year social service roadmap launched last year, and also held in support of SG Cares, a national movement to promote volunteerism. The event also raised about \$2.3 million for about 80 social service organisations supported by Community Chest.

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About Community Chest

This year marks 35 years since Community Chest first set out to empower lives with care

and unite the community in trust, to serve those in need. With the aim to enable every individual to live with dignity within a caring and inclusive society, Community Chest supports about 80 social service organisations to meet underserved, critical social needs. As Community Chest's fundraising and operating costs are covered mainly by Tote Board Group, 100% of your contributions goes towards empowering the lives of:

- Children with special needs and youth--at--risk
- Adults with disabilities
- Families in need
- Vulnerable seniors
- Persons with mental health issues

Find out more at comchest.sg.

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