



HANDICAPS WELFARE ASSOCIATION

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Media Release

22 April 2015

Launch of Special Vehicles Fleet at Handicaps Welfare Association's Wheel, Walk or Jog 2015

More people with special needs will have accessible and affordable transport

Singapore, 22 April 2015 – Eleven retrofitted vehicles for people with special needs will be unveiled at the *Wheel, Walk or Jog (WWJ) 2015*, organised by the Handicaps Welfare Association. The WWJ is an annual event to promote awareness and socialization among persons with disabilities and the general public. This underpins HWA's mission to enhance the quality of life of persons with disabilities and integrate them into mainstream society to lead independent lives. The Guest-of-Honour, **Mr Heng Chee How, Senior Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office and Member of Parliament for Whampoa SMC** will flag off WWJ on Saturday, 25 April 2015 at the Event Square, Waterfront Promenade @ Marina Bay from 2pm to 6.30pm. He will join in the walk with about 800 participants expected at the event.

The Special Vehicles Fleet will be presented for the first time at WWJ. These vehicles, comprising 10 Toyota Hiace and a Toyota Coaster, have been specially retrofitted as transportation for people with mobility-related disabilities for the purposes of work, school, vocational training, hospital and rehabilitation visits, and recreational activities. This special fleet is part of Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF)'s initiative to provide dedicated transport service to persons with disabilities. The purchase and retrofitting of this fleet was funded by MSF and the Care & Share Movement, led by Community Chest, with donations from its partners; the Land Transport Authority, Ngee Ann City, Resorts World Sentosa, Shaw Foundation and Takashimaya Shopping Centre.

"The donation of these specially adapted vehicles is very timely to meet the increasing needs of people with disabilities, especially those who are using motorized wheelchairs and scooters, as public transport including some taxis are not equipped to support their needs," said Mr Edmund Wan, President of Handicaps Welfare Association.

"This special fleet is one of the first outcomes from the Care & Share Movement, a national fund-raising and volunteerism movement led by Community Chest for the social service sector, in celebration of SG50. The donations from our partners for HWA's special vehicles



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fleet were matched dollar-for-dollar by the government under the Movement. This is a shining example of what we can achieve when the 3Ps – People, Private and Public - come together to show their care and concern for the less fortunate among us. Their contributions will help us create a sustained and lasting impact on those we seek to serve.” said Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman of Community Chest.

These special vehicles will add to HWA’s current transport fleet of 23 vehicles and expand its special-needs transport service, which HWA has been running since 1980, to meet the increasing demand from passengers with disabilities. HWA has been providing on average 40,000 trips per year to more than 1000 clients.

The donated fleet is fitted with hydraulic lift and wheelchair securement system. The former raises wheel-chaired passengers aboard the bus and disembarks them upon reaching their destination, while the latter puts the brake on the wheelchairs when vehicles are on the move to ensure a secure and comfortable ride for passengers. The modified Toyota Hiace has a seating capacity for four wheelchair passengers and four sitting passengers, while the Toyota Coaster takes in seven wheelchair passengers and seven sitting passengers. In addition, all eleven buses have high roofs to accommodate wheelchairs with high backs. Such modifications have made a difference to the lives of persons with disabilities in enabling hassle free and comfortable travelling.

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About Handicaps Welfare Association

The Handicaps Welfare Association (HWA) is an organization of the disabled, run by the disabled and for the disabled. It is a full member of the National Council of Social Service but is not a beneficiary member of the Community Chest of Singapore.

Founded on 18 December 1969 by 23 persons with disabilities (PWDs), it was first known as the Singapore Handicaps Friendship Club. It later became known as Singapore Association for the Disabled and in 1976, the present name of Handicaps Welfare Association was adopted.

We are committed to enhance the quality of life of PWDs and integrate them into mainstream society

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 you donate 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 graciously in the community

About Care & Share Movement for SG 50

Care & Share Movement is a national fund-raising and volunteerism drive led by Community Chest for the social service sector. In celebration of SG50, the Movement rallies the community to show care and concern for the less fortunate and recognises contributions made by voluntary welfare organisations (VWOs).

Donations to Community Chest and participating VWOs will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Government from now till 31 March 2016, increasing its impact on the underprivileged. The matched amount will go towards building capabilities and capacities of the social service sector to meet rising needs. To contribute to this Movement, please visit www.careandshare.sg or email to csm@ncss.gov.sg.