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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **MARINA BAY DOTTED WITH COMMUNITY CHEST CHARITREES TO BRING MESSAGE OF EMPOWERMENT**

**SINGAPORE, 17 NOVEMBER 2017** – From today until 27 December, 30 special trees, or ChariTrees, will line the Marina Bay Waterfront Promenade, each carrying a story of social service users who have been enabled and empowered to live a life of dignity. Guest-of-Honour, Mr Melvin Yong, Member of Parliament for Tanjong Pagar GRC, launched the lights on 17 November 2017. The event raised \$346,000 through adoption of the trees and donations by corporate partners.

To extend the spirit of caring and sharing to the underprivileged, some of the corporate partners have also chosen to decorate their ChariTrees together with the social service users supported by Community Chest. For example, students from NUS Kent Ridge Hall adopted 6 ChariTrees and decorated the trees together with students with special needs from AWWA School. NUS Kent Ridge Hall has been volunteering at AWWA School since May this year – bringing the students with special needs on outings as well as acting as classroom support for their school activities.

“It was extra special for us to be able to decorate the ChariTrees with the children from AWWA School. It brought extra meaning to the festive season because we were able to spread the Christmas spirit of giving, together with the friends that we care for. We encourage other organisations to join us to give and share, not just through donations but taking the time to learn more about them and show that you truly care”, shared Mr Donovan Chua, the Project Director who oversaw the collaboration with AWWA School.

Certis CISCO Security Pte Ltd was another big-hearted organisation that decorated their adopted ChariTree with handmade ornaments made from recycled materials, together with 8 youths from Students Care Service.

Mr Tan Puay Kern, Chairman of the ChariTrees @ Marina Bay 2017 Organising Committee and Vice Chairman of Community Chest said, “We are very pleased to

organise this meaningful festive project for the 7<sup>th</sup> year running. By sharing stories of our service users with members of the public through the beautiful ChariTrees, we hope to raise awareness of the causes we support. We are grateful for all the unwavering support from our partners, some of whom have taken time to specially decorate the trees and interact with our support service users. This is what festivities are about – beyond celebrating it with close friends and family, we should also extend the spirit of caring and sharing to those in our community.”

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### **About Community Chest**

For over 30 years, we have been engaging the community to support people in need through fund-raising and volunteering. We support about 80 social service organisations in Singapore, allowing them to focus on caring for the disadvantaged. As our fund-raising and operating costs are covered mainly by Tote Board Group, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club, 100% of your donation goes towards:

- Building strong and resilient families
- Caring for vulnerable seniors
- Empowering children with special needs and youth-at-risk
- Integrating adults with disabilities into society
- Supporting persons with mental health issues

Find out more at [comchest.sg](http://comchest.sg)

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