

MEDIA RELEASE



President's Challenge 2017 To Raise Funds for 52 Beneficiary Organisations

- *52 beneficiary organisations span a wide range of services*
- *Besides conventional social service programmes, President's Challenge 2017 will continue its thrust of supporting more programmes in sports, the arts, heritage, culture and nature which have social impact*

SINGAPORE 26 February 2017 – President's Challenge 2017 will be raising funds for 52 beneficiary organisations. These beneficiary organisations span a wide range of social services including children and family services, healthcare and eldercare services, disability services, and rehabilitation of ex-offenders. Some of the new beneficiary organisations include social service organisations like The New Charis Mission and CampusImpact, and other organisations like the Esplanade and the Wrestling Federation of Singapore. (Refer to Annex A for a full list of beneficiary organisations.) This was announced by President Tony Tan Keng Yam, Guest-of-Honour at the President's Challenge Charity Choral Festival held at the School of the Arts (SOTA) Concert Hall to mark the launch of President's Challenge 2017.

2 Since the launch of President's Challenge in 2000, it has provided support to beneficiaries in many ways – from financial, to social support, provision of skills and confidence – so that they can lead dignified and meaningful lives. President's Challenge has also developed over the years to meet the nation's evolving social needs. In recent years, President's Challenge has expanded its focus to support more programmes in sports, the arts, heritage, culture and nature which have social impact.

3 Beyond financial contribution, President's Challenge has, in recent years, introduced initiatives to rally Singaporeans to volunteer their time to care for those in need. To date, more than 37,000 volunteers have volunteered for President's Challenge since 2012.

4 A movement that is increasingly gaining momentum is the growing number of senior volunteers who are coming forward to contribute actively to society. Announced in September 2015, the Silver Volunteer Fund (SVF) supports initiatives that encourage seniors to volunteer their time and talent in community projects. For the first grant call in 2016, the SVF awarded 12 organisations for programmes which include community befriending, gardening with seniors in day care centres, community cooking for seniors, and volunteering in activities that are organised for residents in nursing homes and hospitals.

5 Share-A-Pot is a community-based senior frailty prevention programme by Alexandra Health System supported by the SVF. It regularly engages seniors who live in the community, to meet regularly to exercise together, and have a nutritious meal prepared by volunteers. Over time, these regular activities across 13 Share-A-Pot sites help promote physical and mental health and facilitate social bonding and interaction among seniors.

6 Rosaline Chia, 63, a retired nurse who volunteers with Share-A-Pot, finds the experience enriching. She shared, “To love what I do and feel that it matters, how could anything else be more fun? The best way to cheer myself is to cheer others! Also, to see the joy in those coming every week, and the improvement to their physical and mental health, that is enough for me.” She added that a healthier diet, coupled with exercising regularly at the Share-A-Pot sessions, has helped to improve her health.

7 The SVF is supported by donations to President’s Challenge. For every S\$10 donated to President’s Challenge this year, S\$2 will be channelled to the SVF. The government will match dollar-for-dollar donations to the SVF, capped at S\$20 million.

8 At today’s President’s Challenge Charity Choral Festival event, over 150 choristers lent their voices in support of President’s Challenge. The Festival is an example of how persons from all walks of life can come together to give what they can — be it their money, time or talent — and do their part for those less fortunate. The concert is organised by the Wild Empire Choral Group, a choral group comprising students and adults which has been supporting the President’s Challenge Charity Art Exhibition annually since 2013. All proceeds from the concert go towards President’s Challenge.

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About President's Challenge

The President's Challenge is an annual community outreach and fund-raising campaign for beneficiaries selected every year by the President's Office. Started in 2000, the Challenge represents a coming together of people from all walks of life, under the President's patronage, to help those who are less fortunate, and is a call to all Singaporeans to do their part to build a more caring and inclusive society. 100% of donations raised under President's Challenge go to charities, causes and social service organisations supported by President's Challenge.

Since 2012, the Challenge was expanded to go beyond fund-raising, by including volunteerism and social entrepreneurship. In 2015, President Tan also announced the setting up of the President's Challenge Silver Volunteer Fund to encourage senior volunteerism. President's Challenge will continue to rally the community to help the less fortunate among us through the giving of time, skills and enterprise. The operating costs of President's Challenge are covered separately by a grant from Singapore Totalisator Board as a community initiative. The overall operating cost to donation ratio for President's Challenge is also kept under 15%, well within 30% fund-raising efficiency ratio recommended by the Charity Council.

ANNEX A

BENEFICIARIES OF PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE 2017

GIVE FREELY.
LIVE FULLY.



Name of Organisation	
Cross Sectors	
1	Community Chest
2	Ain Society
3	Bizlink Centre Singapore Ltd
4	FaithActs
5	Shared Services for Charities Ltd
6	Young Men's Christian Association of Singapore
Children, Youth & Family Services	
7	Association of Muslim Professionals
8	Association of Women for Action and Research
9	Boys' Town Singapore
10	CampusImpact
11	Focus on The Family Singapore Limited
12	HCSA Community Services
13	Lutheran Community Care Services Ltd
14	Morning Star Community Services
15	New Charis Mission, The
16	New Life Community Services
17	NuLife Care & Counselling Services Limited
18	Persatuan Pemuda Islam Singapura
19	Persatuan Persuratan Pemuda Pemudi Melayu (Malay Youth Literary Association)
20	Pertapis Education and Welfare Centre
21	REACH Community Services Society
22	The Esplanade Co Ltd
23	WE CARE Community Services limited
Disability Services	
24	Autism Association (Singapore)
25	Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore
26	Dyslexia Association of Singapore
27	Down Syndrome Association (Singapore)
28	SG Enable Ltd

29	Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped
30	SPD
Eldercare Services	
31	Concern & Care Society
32	Singapore Red Cross Society
33	Society for WINGS
34	Yong-En Care Centre
Mental Health Services	
35	TOUCH Community Services Limited
Rehabilitation - Halfway Houses / Ex-Offenders	
36	Green Haven Halfway House
37	HEB-Ashram Halfway House
38	Pertapis Halfway House
39	Singapore After Care Association
40	Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association
41	Teen Challenge (Singapore)
Healthcare	
42	All Saints Home
43	Alzheimer's Disease Association
44	KKH Health Endowment Fund
45	Salem Welfare Services
46	Singapore Cancer Society
47	St. Andrew's Mission Hospital
Sports	
48	Wrestling Federation of Singapore
Disability Sports	
49	Singapore Disability Sports Council
50	Singapore National Paralympic Council
51	Special Olympics Singapore
Others	
52	Silver Volunteer Fund