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**WELCOME ADDRESS BY RADM (RET) KWEK SIEW JIN  
PRESIDENT, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE  
AT THE COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS 2010  
PRESENTATION CEREMONY  
THURSDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2010, 3.20 PM  
STATE ROOM, THE ISTANA**

**Your Excellency, Mr S R Nathan, President of the Republic of  
Singapore and Patron-in-Chief of the National Council of Social  
Service, and Mrs Nathan**

**Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development,  
Youth and Sports**

**Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Minister of State for Community  
Development, Youth and Sports**

**Mr Niam Chiang Meng, Permanent Secretary for Community  
Development, Youth and Sports**

**Mr Eric Low, Chairman, Community Chest Awards Committee**

**Awards Recipients**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to Community Chest Awards Presentation Ceremony 2010. We are privileged once again, to have His Excellency, President S R Nathan and Mrs Nathan, as Guests-of-Honour for today's ceremony. Thank you, President and Mrs Nathan, for honouring us with your presence. I would also like to thank Dr Vivian Balakrishnan and Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon for gracing the occasion, and to all our friends and partners for taking the time to be with us today.

2. This awards ceremony is an important occasion for us to acknowledge and express our gratitude to our key partners who have helped Community Chest raise the needed funds to support 157 social service programmes provided by 70 charities.

### **Thank You**

3. I would like to specially thank the Tote Board and Singapore Pools for their steadfast support in helping to cover the fund-raising and other operating costs of Community Chest so that every dollar donated

by our donors can be used to support social service programmes under our care.

4. Despite the economic downturn in 2009, Community Chest was able to meet our fund-raising target of \$52.6 million. My deep appreciation goes out to all corporate and individual donors, and foundations who have stood by our beneficiaries and contributed generously in good and bad times.

5. One excellent example is the NTUC FairPrice Foundation. The Foundation donated \$1 million to support 10 Family Service Centres, which enabled them to focus on helping the low-income families during the financial downturn. Another fine example of a socially responsible organisation is SingTel. Last year, they raised \$2 million for Community Chest through the SingTel Touching Lives Fund. SingTel, our long-standing partner, has been awarded the Special Events Platinum Award and Corporate Platinum Award for the past eight consecutive years. Finally, in celebration of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the

Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore rallied the aviation community to raise more than \$220,000 in the first CAAS Aviation Run 2009. These three organisations epitomised the sterling group of corporate donors, among many others, who have supported our beneficiaries for many years with ingenuity and heart.

6. I would also like to give special mention to our three Pinnacle Award winners today who exemplified the strong support for charity and magnanimity of spirit. They are Housing & Development Board, Keppel Singmarine Pte Ltd and NTUC Income Insurance Co-operative Limited. These Pinnacle Award winners have been long-standing partners of Community Chest and are key supporters of the SHARE programme for more than 20 years. Thank you, for your strong commitment and dedication in helping the less fortunate in our community.

## **Special Recognition for SHARE**

7. SHARE, a monthly workplace-giving programme was started in 1984. It is one of the key sources of donations which currently contributes about a quarter of the funds Community Chest raises each year. With the support of organisations and individuals, we have now about 200,000 SHARE donors providing a steady source of funds, ensuring that our beneficiaries continue to receive the help they need. I am pleased to note that collectively, the employees and employers of all our SHARE awards recipients this year contributed \$6.9 million, 13% more than the previous year.

8. Today, we would also like to give special recognition to the Singapore Armed Forces and the Singapore Police Force, who have been stalwart supporters of the SHARE programme for the past 25 years. They are currently the top two SHARE contributors from the uniformed groups, with the highest donation amount and number of donors. They have a combined number of 38,000 SHARE donors contributing a total of \$1.87 million.

## **Congratulations**

9. Congratulations to all awards recipients and on behalf of all our beneficiaries, a big `thank you' for your significant effort in making a difference to their lives, bringing them joy and hope.

10. One of these beneficiaries is nine-year-old Cheyenne Phua, a student who joined the Lighthouse School in January 2007. Your generous contributions have enabled Cheyenne, who was born with bilateral opaque corneas, to learn to read and write. Cheyenne is here with us today. I believe there is no better way to express our heartfelt gratitude to you than to have one of our beneficiaries share how you have helped changed their lives for the better. It is my pleasure now to hand over the time to Cheyenne to share her story.

11. Once again, thank you, and we hope to see you again in our next Community Chest Awards Presentation Ceremony.