

**EMBARGOED UNTIL AFTER DELIVERY  
PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR ERIC LOW  
CHAIRMAN, COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS COMMITTEE  
AT THE COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS 2010  
PRESENTATION CEREMONY  
MONDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2010  
AT MANDARIN ORCHARD SINGAPORE**

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

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

**RADM (RET) Kwek Siew Jin, President of the National Council of  
Social Service**

**Ms Jennie Chua, Chairman of Community Chest**

**Award Recipients**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good afternoon. First, I would like to thank our Guest-of-Honour, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, for gracing the Community Chest Awards 2010 Presentation Ceremony. I would also like to thank all of you for taking the time to join us at today's ceremony, where we honour successful partnerships and the significant contributions by individuals and organisations to Community Chest to help the less fortunate in our community.

## **Reaching Out to More**

2 With the support of many of our committed partners, Community Chest's role in the social service sector has grown steadily throughout the years, from having to raise \$5.2 million in 1984 for 22,000 beneficiaries to \$52.6 million last year for more than 330,000 beneficiaries. We would not have been able to meet the rising needs of the sector without the continual support of our donors.

3 Last year, more than 550,000 meals were delivered to the frail elderly, and 24,000 individuals and families were helped by the Family Service Centres supported by Community Chest; 7,200 students from challenging backgrounds benefited from the School Social Work Programme, while 1,700 persons with disabilities gained work skills and employment opportunities. Some of the beneficiaries you have helped are here today. They are our young friends from Chao Yang School and Grace Orchard School, who will be performing later.

### **Dedication and Commitment**

4 Many of our donors have been supporting Community Chest for many years. This year, we would like to take this occasion to salute the dedication and commitment shown by the Singapore Armed Forces and Singapore Police Force, who have been stalwart supporters of SHARE, our workplace-giving 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 total of 38,000 donors contributing \$1.87 million. The two uniformed groups will be given special recognition at the Istana Awards Ceremony.

### **SHARE – Encouraging Signs**

5 The SHARE programme is one of our key sources of donations, which currently contributes about a quarter of the funds Community Chest raises each year. Thanks to the efforts of individuals, organisations, SHARE champions and ambassadors, there are currently 200,000 donors providing a steady source of donation through the SHARE programme, ensuring that our beneficiaries continue to receive the help they require.

6 Earlier this year, Community Chest partnered hoteliers in its first sector-wide campaign, “Hoteliers with a Heart”, to promote the SHARE programme in their industry. This has enabled us to reach out to

potential new donors. To date, 31 hotels are contributing to the SHARE programme, of which 7 are new hotels that came onboard as a result of the campaign.

### **New Award Recipients**

7 We would also like to acknowledge our 19 first-time award recipients. We are grateful to them for taking a big step forward last year to help the less fortunate, even though the economy was only in its early stages of recovery.

8 Of these first-time recipients, six received the Special Events Award, which is presented to organisations and groups of individuals who have raised substantial funds for Community Chest through fundraising events. The total contribution from this year's Special Events Award recipients was \$10.2 million, which is the highest amount we

have received in this category in the past five years, and marks a 24% increase from last year.

9 Among the first-time award recipients in the Special Events category is Sin Ming Sing Cantonese Opera Centre. Together with a local amateur opera artiste, Ms Doris Guo, they presented the first-ever Cantonese opera charity performance, which raised over \$41,000 for Community Chest and demonstrated admirably how members of the community have rallied together and raised funds to help the needy through their passions and talents.

## **Appreciation**

10 Our corporate partners and individual donors have supported and enabled Community Chest to help our beneficiaries live a life of dignity and fulfil their potential. Once again, we thank you for your generous contributions and look forward to your continued partnership to extend a helping hand to those who need it most.