

MEDIA RELEASE

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COMMUNITY CHEST RECEIVED CLOSE TO \$3 MILLION FROM WORLD GOURMET SUMMIT CHARITY GALA OVER THE LAST DECADE

SINGAPORE, APRIL 15, 2010 – The annual World Gourmet Summit Charity Gala Dinner on 15 April 2010 is into its 10th year. This year also marks a decade of having raised more than \$2.9 million for Community Chest, the fund-raising arm of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS). Mr Wong Kan Seng, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs, was the Guest-of-Honour for the event.

Funds were raised through table sales, charity auction as well as outright donations. This was the first time, in its 10th year, that a live auction was organised.

Guests were treated to a gastronomic experience and took part in live and silent auctions to bid for interesting items like an exclusive customised Leica Ala Carte camera, an exquisite Swarovski Crystal studded coffee machine and a Mont Blanc special edition writing instrument. Art pieces created by beneficiaries of programmes supported by Community Chest were also up for auction. Their art pieces range from aluminium tooling and plate painting to tie and dye painting. (Please refer to Annex A for the full list of auction items.)

Beneficiaries of programmes supported by Community Chest also performed during the dinner. Siti Sakinah and Benjamin Tan, who are visually impaired students from Lighthouse School, put up a piano performance, while Ye Hui Qi, who has cerebral palsy and has been with the AWWA TEACH ME programme since she was five years old, recited a poem to express her appreciation to all the guests for their generous donations.

Community Chest supports more than 320,000 beneficiaries annually through social service programmes under its auspices. The fund-raising arm of NCSS needs to raise over \$50 million yearly to support more than 150 programmes in the social service sector.

COMMUNITY CHEST | The NCSS Fund-raising Division

170 Ghim Moh Road #01-02 Singapore 279621 • Tel: 6210 2500 Fax: 6468 4909 • www.comchest.org.sg

For media enquiries, please contact:

Mr Travis Lee
Corporate Communications Manager
Corporate Communications Division
National Council of Social Service
Tel: 62102641, HP: 94574350
Email: travis_lee@ncss.gov.sg

Ms Goh Siew Hian
Assistant Director
Corporate Communications Division
National Council of Social Service
Tel: 6210 2638, HP: 91396543
Email: goh_siew_hian@ncss.gov.sg

Community Chest

Community Chest raises funds on a yearly basis to meet the needs of the social service programmes we help support. Community Chest ensures that the fund-raising costs are kept to a minimum. As these costs are covered mainly by Tote Board and Singapore Pools (Private) Limited, every dollar raised by Community Chest will be made available to social service programmes under its care.

Community Chest has made it easier for individuals to donate from the comfort of their homes via websites such as www.comchest.org.sg and www.vpost.com.sg, through the internet (DBS, UOB or Citibank) or phone banking (DBS or POSB) and even at SAM machines across the island. Individuals can also reap tax benefits on donations through hassle-free modes like the Community Chest's SHARE programme (the sign-up form is available at www.comchest.org.sg) where one can make monthly donations via GIRO, credit card or payroll and have his or her tax deductions automatically included in their tax assessments.

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