

MEDIA RELEASE

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ART GALLERY FEATURED AT COMMUNITY CHEST'S "GIVE A HAND!"

Beneficiaries displayed artistic talents

SINGAPORE, MARCH 20, 2010 – 20 Community Chest beneficiaries proved that while they may be needy, they are certainly not unable. At the 'Give A Hand!' Art Gallery cum roadshow held at the Tiong Bahru Plaza, 12 impressive art pieces were displayed in a gallery opened to the public. Thanks to the enthusiastic support of corporations and the members of the public, more than \$540,000 was raised for Community Chest.

Meeting the needs of beneficiaries

Mr Liak Teng Lit, a Community Chest committee member, presented the art pieces to NTUC FairPrice Foundation, Singapore Airlines, Hewlett-Packard Singapore (Private) Limited, Xilinx Asia Pacific Pte Ltd and Rudi's Fine Food in appreciation for their support. NTUC FairPrice Foundation was the major donor with a donation of \$300,000.

Art is therapeutic and encourages beneficiaries to work together



Children with autism and elderly with dementia were among those who showcased their artworks, which featured a diverse range from mosaic work and copper tooling, to finger painting and batik printing. For them, creating art pieces enables them to express their feelings, gain greater confidence and even learn more about working in a group.

Fathu Robian Shah Bin Harun, Chan Wang Shan, Gabriel Loh Xin Mei, Tan Hong Li and Tan Jie Rui created an art piece of a beautiful park with flowers and butterflies. The five Lighthouse School students, who have Autism Spectrum Disorder and/or visual impairment, had worked patiently together for the art piece. Using leaves, sponges, their palms and fingers, these little artists aimed to express their appreciation for the beautiful things around them.

Their art teacher, Miss Punitha Kovindarajoo, said, "Initially, they did not like art and also did not like to work in groups. But after taking art lessons for more than a year, they are able to express how they feel through drawing. For example, some of the students would draw someone with an angry face when they are upset, and we would be able to guide them to share their feelings with us. They also talk and interact more among themselves when they work together on such projects."

The 'Give A Hand!' Roadshow

'Give A Hand!' is an annual event of Community Chest since 2003 to raise funds and increase public awareness of existing social needs. This year, besides the Art Gallery, Voluntary Welfare Organisations were also invited to put up booths to demonstrate and sell their handicraft and art pieces. Highlights included stage performances, games, special appearances by Capital 95.8FM DJs, Di Cong and Qing Yun. An added attraction was the chance to win a Honda Civic Hybrid sponsored by Kah Motors at the Charity Donation Draw. The public also had opportunities to try their hand in creating unique art pieces with beneficiaries. The public had a chance to find out more about the role and work Community Chest during the four-day roadshows held at the Parkway Parade and Tiong Bahru Plaza.

The number of beneficiaries Community Chest supports through social service programmes has grown from 22,000 in 1983 to more than 340,000 beneficiaries today. This year, the fund-raising arm of the National Council of Social Service needs to raise \$52.6 million to support 157 social service programmes.

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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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