

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## 1<sup>ST</sup> JOINT CHARITY EFFORT BY ARMED FORCES AND POLICE RAISED OVER \$170,000 FOR COMMUNITY CHEST'S NEEDY

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**SINGAPORE, DECEMBER 28, 2009** – A concert organised by Community Chest featuring The Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) and the Singapore Police Force (SPF) bands has raised more than \$170,000. The concert was held at the Esplanade Concert Hall.

250 musicians and choristers from the SAF and SPF Bands, including seven school choirs, performed to an audience of about 1,500 a repertoire of enchanting music ranging from 'Shostakovich Festive Overture', 'Sousa!', 'When the Pipers Play' to various Christmas selections. Professor Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-Large was the Guest-of-Honour for the event.

Mr Tan Puay Kern, Chairman of the event's organising committee, said, "The SAF and the SPF Bands are both unique and leading performance bands in Singapore. This is the first time that both bands are joining hands to raise funds for charity, and for that, we are deeply honoured and grateful. Their effort, together with the generous donation of our corporate donors, such as Lee Foundation, Aurigin Technology Pte Ltd, Fu Lu Shou Si Mian Fo and the Singapore Turf Club, makes a wonderful gift to our beneficiaries this Christmas."

Mr Lim Ee Teoh, Managing Director of Aurigin Technology, said, "Our company and employees have always been committed to help the less fortunate in society, supporting Community Chest for the past five years. Wherever possible, we would give of our time and money to lend a helping hand to those in need. Apart from our donation of \$50,000 this evening, we hope that the 60 beneficiaries from AWWA Community Home, AWWA READYCARE Centre and MINDSville@Napiri Hostel/Group Home, whom we sponsored, have enjoyed the concert."

**Funds raised will help Community Chest support social service programmes**

**COMMUNITY CHEST | The NCSS Fund-raising Division**

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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.

### **SAF and SPF**

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Amri Bin Amin, Director of Music of the Singapore Police Force Band, said, "The SAF and the SPF Band have performed together on various occasions, including the National Day Parade, and have established a good rapport over the years. Our concert this evening provides our servicemen the opportunity to give back to society, at the same time, presenting yet another dimension in our efforts for charity by both our organisations."

The SAF and SPF are no strangers to the charity scene. The SAF, besides supporting Community Chest's SHARE programme since 1984, has also designated funds raised from its annual Army Half Marathon to Community Chest since 1993. Similarly, the SPF has also supported the SHARE programme since 1984 and organises charity fund-raising drives in support of Community Chest every year. In the past 5 years, both organisations have contributed more than \$12 million to support social service programmes under Community Chest.

### **'Unity in Diversity' concert**

The concert is helmed by CPT Johnson Lee and DSP Amri Bin Amin. Both have a wealth of experience, having won many local and international awards. Their bands have also won many accolades.

The SPF Band has enthralled audiences both locally and overseas, including Indonesia, Australia, Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom. The SAF Band has represented Singapore at many international music festivals, such as the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers street parade in Australia, the Festival International de Musiques Militaires in Saumur, France, and the Kuala Lumpur Military Tattoo in Malaysia.

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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](http://www.comchest.org.sg) and [www.vpost.com.sg](http://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](http://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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