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## **New Community Fund donates \$1.08 million to Community Chest *Funds will help 36 Family Service Centres***

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**SINGAPORE, JANUARY 14, 2011** – Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple’s first-ever Community Fund has given an initial donation of \$1.08 million to Community Chest, the fund-raising arm of the National Council of Social Service.

“The Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple is pleased to set up a Community Fund. The Temple hopes to extend its outreach to the needy by setting up this Community Fund with an initial donation of \$1.08 million in support of 36 Family Service Centres under the care of Community Chest,” says Dr Tan Choon Kim, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple.

The donation from Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple will be disbursed to Community Chest over three years.

“We are deeply grateful to Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple for naming Community Chest as the first beneficiary of the Community Fund. The funds will ensure that Family Service Centres under our care can continue to provide critical services to help families in need to be more resilient,” said Ms Tan Bee Heong, Director of Community Chest.

The donation also helps kickstart the launch of this year’s Festive Care & Share – Chinese New Year Appeal campaign. The annual Chinese New Year Appeal taps on the festive mood during this major holiday period to encourage the public to give generously to the less fortunate.

One of those who will benefit from the public’s donations is 69-year-old retired cleaner Mr Choy Chin Lat, who is featured on this year’s Chinese New Year appeal mailers. Mr Choy, who suffers from rheumatoid arthritis and chronic heart problems, needs his wife to take care of him. His wife, however, is also plagued by poor health and is unable to work to earn a living. Through the

befriending programme run by Lions Befrienders and supported by Community Chest, the couple receives essential social support such as weekly visits and food rations from the Befrienders.

To raise awareness of the campaign and the causes that Community Chest supports, roadshows will be held over two weekends this month, from 11am to 7.30pm daily. The details are as follows:

<b>Venue</b>	<b>Date</b>
Jurong Point	Jan 15 – 16
Hougang Mall	Jan 22 – 23

The public can make donations at the roadshows, where they will receive a Chinese New Year Festive Pack for each \$6 donation, while stocks last. Alternatively, they can call 1900-112-2910 (subject to an administration fee of \$0.20) to make a \$10 donation or 1800-210-2600 for other donation amounts. Those who wish to donate online can visit [www.comchest.sg](http://www.comchest.sg)

This year, Community Chest aims to raise \$55.2 million for 161 critical social service programmes run by 72 charities supported by Community Chest. The funds raised will benefit more than 320,000 beneficiaries including children with special needs, persons with disabilities, lonely and frail elderly and families in need.

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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 fund-raising and other operating costs are kept to a minimum. As these costs are covered mainly by Tote Board and Singapore Pools, 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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