

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR ERIC LOW
CHAIRMAN, COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS COMMITTEE
AT THE COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS 2009
PRESENTATION CEREMONY
WEDNESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2009
AT MARINA MANDARIN SINGAPORE**

Mr Teo Ser Luck, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Community
Development, Youth and Sports

Rear Admiral (Ret) Kwek Siew Jin, President, 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,
Mr Teo Ser Luck, for gracing the Community Chest Awards 2009
Presentation Ceremony. I would also like to thank all of you for taking

the time to join us at today's ceremony, where we celebrate successful partnerships and honour the significant contributions by individuals and corporations to the Community Chest to help the less fortunate in our community.

Assurance to Donors and Stakeholders

2 Despite the uncertainties in Singapore's economy last year, many of you continued to lend a helping hand to those in need. Your steadfast support has enabled Community Chest, the fund-raising arm of the National Council of Social Service, to raise \$50.8 million to fund 149 social service programmes to serve the critical needs of more than 310,000 beneficiaries.

3 Your donations last year have helped 21,000 individuals and their families to achieve better self-reliance through the intervention provided by family service centres, enabled more than 5,000 children with special needs to gain independent living skills, supported 2,300 seniors through

the Home Help Service to meet their daily needs, and allowed 1,300 persons with disabilities to gain skills and have access to employment opportunities.

4 Some of the beneficiaries whom you have helped are here with us today. Our young friends from Chaoyang School Choir, and Mr Osland will be performing later. You may have met Mr Osland at some of our Community Chest events, and most recently at TrueHearts in June this year. We will be inviting him to say a few words later.

25 Years of Sharing Through SHARE

5 This year, as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the SHARE programme, we also take the opportunity to review and recalibrate our approach. We are very appreciative of the strong support from our partners who have been giving back to the community through SHARE for more than two decades.

6 I would like to say a big ‘thank you’ to all the individual SHARE donors, organisations, SHARE champions and ambassadors, Human Resource and Finance personnel, who have given us your utmost support to the programme all these years. In particular, there are three partners who have given very strong support to our SHARE programme. On behalf of the Community Chest and the beneficiaries, I salute the Singapore Armed Forces, the Singapore Police Force and the Singapore Civil Defence Force – the pillars of our nation’s defence and security. With a combined 60,000 employees in the SHARE programme, that is 30% of our donor base, their contributions are significant and they have helped make a difference to many lives.

7 However, we expect a decline in SHARE donors due to the economic downturn and we urge those who can afford to support more to top up their SHARE contributions. We also need your help to raise awareness of this programme through your various networks, and to increase the current SHARE contributions of your organisation. My Community Chest colleagues will be happy to talk to you and provide

more information. In addition, we will be spending a few minutes later to re-pledge our support for SHARE. We hope you will join in and give us your support.

Acknowledging Corporate Partners for Innovative Fund-Raising Ways

8 Besides participating in the SHARE programme, our corporate partners have been supporting Community Chest through their fund-raising events. One long-standing partner is Emirates. Last year, Emirates organised their 13th Emirates Singapore Derby 2008, which raised \$181,500 for four programmes funded by Community Chest. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Stephen Chu, who was the Country Head and Area Manager of Singapore and Brunei of Emirates before his retirement, for facilitating this partnership between Community Chest and Emirates since 2004. We are glad that Mr Chu agreed to stay on as a member of the Community Chest Committee even after his retirement. Thank you, Stephen.

9 Organising a fund-raising event is no mean feat, yet many corporate partners have also made it interesting and fun through innovative fund-raising methods. One of them is Kah Motor Co. Sdn. Bhd. During the Chinese New Year period last year, they donated \$88 for every car sold, and for the rest of the year, they increased the amount to \$200 for every Honda Accord sold. In total, they raised more than \$235,000 for Community Chest in 2008.

10 Shell Companies in Singapore is another example. In conjunction with the inaugural F1 Singapore Grand Prix, Shell organised a charity auction of racing memorabilia autographed by F1 Ferrari drivers Kimi Raikkonen and Felipe Massa. One of the auction items included a replica of the 2008 Ferrari steering wheel. This auction and other Shell events raised more than \$75,400 for Community Chest funded Fei Yue Family Service Centre at Choa Chu Kang to support more families in need.

Recipient of First Individual Awards

11 This year, we are giving out the Individual Awards for the first time, in recognition of the significant outright donations by individuals, to three recipients.

12 One of the deserving Individual Awards recipients is Mr S M Kumar. Mr Kumar, who lived in Singapore for 20 years, contributed \$91,000 to support Community Chest's funded programmes last year and Community Chest has also helped Mr Kumar to channel another \$83,500 to charities of his choice. He has since returned to India, his home country. He gave this parting gift before he left as a token of appreciation for the opportunities he has received from his host country, Singapore.

Appreciation

13 Our corporate partners and many individual donors like Mr Kumar have supported and enabled Community Chest to help our beneficiaries live a life of dignity. Once again, we thank you for your generous contributions and hope that you will continue to give your support to our beneficiaries so that they can fulfil their fullest potential.