

# COMMUNITY CHEST TIMES

Our heartfelt thanks to our donors for making a difference!

Community Chest 08/09

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FREE



# LIVES YOU HAVE CHANGED

Your unwavering pledges have ensured that social service programmes continue to help the less fortunate in the community. As fund-raising costs were covered mainly by Tote Board and Singapore Pools (Private) Limited, every dollar donated through Community Chest was made available to fund these programmes.

With your steadfast support through Community Chest, Chia Puay Song, Siti Sakinah and Alex Soh exemplify the positive impact that you have made in the lives of more than 310,000 people\*.

\*service-use count plus public education outreach



## Helping Chia Puay Song To Embrace Life

Chia Puay Song arrived in Singapore in 1930 together with his widowed mother when he was just 3 years old. At 21, he contracted leprosy and was admitted to the former Trafalgar Unit, which continued to provide for his needs after his mother's death in 1951.

In 1993, Mr Chia was transferred to the SILRA Home. Besides accommodation and meals, SILRA Home also provides social and recreational activities like gardening and handicraft for elderly residents who are leprosy survivors. Over the years, Mr Chia has come to regard his friends at SILRA Home as family.

Today, at 82 years old, Mr Chia is one of the happiest residents at SILRA Home. Despite losing dexterity in his clawed hands, Mr Chia has taught himself to play the mouth organ and Yang Qin, a Chinese instrument, delighting other residents with his soulful melodies. Mr Chia is thankful for your support, which enabled SILRA Home to be a haven for him and his fellow residents in their silver years.

## Fulfilling the Hopes of Siti Sakinah

Born with developmental delays and severe Retinopathy of Prematurity, Siti Sakinah Binte Zainal lived with total visual impairment all her life. In addition to enrolling into an Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Young Children at Balestier School in 1998, Siti needed specialised Braille training, an important means of communication for people with visual impairment to receive mainstream education.

With support through Community Chest, Siti persevered and worked towards her goal. She mastered Braille after joining the Singapore School for the Visually Handicapped (now known as Lighthouse School) in 2001 and overcame various challenges to qualify for EM2 stream. Today, 12-year-old Siti has built the confidence and potential to sit for PSLE at the end of this year.



Driven by a passion in music, Siti learned to play the piano, recorder and pianica by hearing. Watch her perform a musical medley of old-time favourites online at [www.comchest.org.sg/comchest/siti](http://www.comchest.org.sg/comchest/siti) - testament of what your beliefs achieved.



## Giving Alex Soh A Bright Future

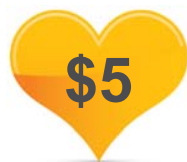
Twelve-year-old Alex Soh struggled to fit in with his classmates at primary school. Words and language did not come easy to him due to developmental delays in learning and expression. Eventually, he was enrolled at Metta School, which helps children with special needs develop intellectual and social skills at their pace.

Through Metta School's holistic curriculum, Alex discovered his passion for wushu, which has given him newfound confidence and self-esteem. His positive attitude in school made him Head Prefect for the afternoon session. Last December, Alex was granted a special privilege - the chance to attend a wushu programme in China - fully sponsored by the school.

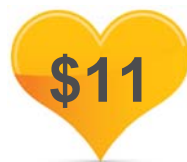
With your sustained support, Metta School can continue to help children like Alex surmount challenges to secure a bright future for themselves.

## SHARE PROGRAMME

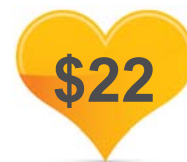
SHARE is a monthly donation programme that continues to draw over 200,000 corporate and individual donors to help fund the programmes supported by Community Chest. Your support helps to nurture children to succeed, dignify the lives of the elderly, enable people with disabilities to lead independent lives and keep families together. No contribution is ever too small, and here is how every dollar adds up:



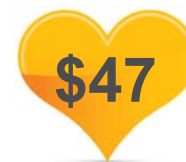
A meal at a hawker centre could provide care and meet the basic needs of an elderly person for a day at a sheltered home.



A movie ticket could provide a day of counselling and consultation for a family coping with responsibilities and challenges.



A pair of shoes could provide a day of vocational training to prepare a person with disabilities for employment.



A meal at a restaurant could provide a day of behavioural therapy in social and communication skills for a child with developmental delays.

Encouraging greater support, Mr Ong Keng Yong, Ambassador-At-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director, Institute of Policy Studies at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, said: "SHARE enables those who care and share to contribute what they can for the needy in a convenient and efficient way."

# HONOURING 25 YEARS OF COMMUNITY GIVING

In FY2008, three special events bore witness to the compassionate human spirit as selfless donors continued to give unreservedly back to society despite the economic gloom. Since the inception of Community Chest in 1984, your generous donations have enabled us to raise over \$660 million, and fuelled the positive impact on the lives of children, families, the elderly and people with disabilities over the last 25 years.

## Money No Enough, but donations remain steadfast

July - Community Chest kicked off the silver jubilee with a charity preview of Jack Neo's 'Money No Enough 2' at GV VivoCity. Graced by Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Minister of State for Community Development, Youth and Sports, the movie highlighted various social issues confronting our beneficiaries while encouraging steadfast contributions in helping the less fortunate to live with hope and dignity.



Money No Enough Charity Movie Gala Preview



Official opening of ComChest Green

## Tugging heartstrings at Esplanade Park

August - The 2.5 km Heartstrings Walk drew over 5,000 people. Despite a heavy downpour, spirits were high as participants arrived in colourful costumes, lending festive cheer to a meaningful day at Esplanade Park. The event, flagged-off by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, enabled the public, corporate sponsors and youth groups to show their support and interact with the beneficiaries personally.



Heartstrings Walk



Epidendrum Spirit of Giving

## Bringing communities together through Mother Nature

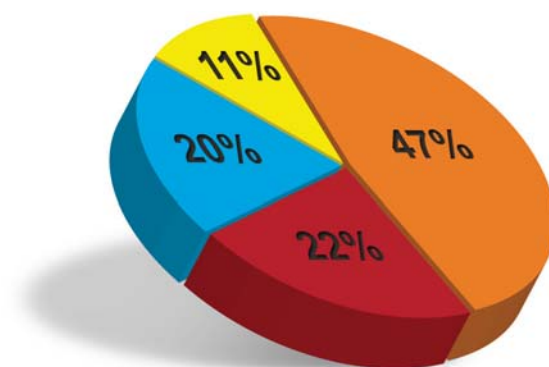
October - Our celebrations culminated in the opening of a seaside enclave next to Labrador Park by Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong. Named ComChest Green by National Parks Board in line with its corporate social responsibility efforts towards community bonding, the park is a tribute to the public for 25 years of continued support. SM Goh also unveiled the Epidendrum Spirit of Giving, an orchid symbolising our vision to bring people and resources together to help the less fortunate.

## LIVING UP TO NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS



The new financial year started on a special note as beneficiaries, donors and management celebrated the 25th anniversary of Community Chest at the fund-raising launch of FY2008. Despite the economic gloom, the spirit of giving never faltered as selfless donors contributed a total of \$50.8 million to fund 149 social service programmes run by 61 charities to help more than 310,000 people (service-use count plus public education outreach) in FY2008.

47% of total funds went towards services that nurture children to succeed. 22% was channelled towards community rehabilitation and support services that help people with disabilities lead independent lives. Funding for services that keep families together accounted for 20%, while 11% was directed towards helping the elderly to lead lives of dignity within the community.



- Nurture children to succeed
- Help people with disabilities lead independent lives
- Dignify the lives of the elderly
- Keep families together

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS TO BE HONoured

Donors who contribute \$30,000 or more to Community Chest each year will be honoured with a Community Chest Individual Award. Launched in October 2008, the award aims to encourage the spirit of giving among individuals and to honour the growing numbers of such donors in the community through a range of award categories:

### Type of Award



#### Platinum

Contribution Amount > \$300 000



#### Gold

Contribution Amount \$100 000 - \$299 999



#### Silver

Contribution Amount \$50 000 - \$99 999



#### Bronze

Contribution Amount \$30 000 - \$49 000

Individuals who maintain their contributions at the Platinum or Gold level for 5, 10, 15 or 20 consecutive years will be honoured with the 5, 10, 15 or 20 year Outstanding Individual Award respectively.