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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **President's Challenge 2023: Impacting 23,000 lives with record volunteer support**

*This year saw 14,000 volunteers rallied around PC, a 35% increase, and is on track to raise \$14 million by year-end.*

**SINGAPORE, 23 NOVEMBER 2023** – President's Challenge (PC) 2023 is on track to raise \$14 million, supporting 86 benefitting agencies. Over 23,000 beneficiaries including children with special needs, youth-at-risk, adults with disabilities, persons with mental health conditions, caregivers, seniors and families in need, will benefit from the fundraising and volunteering efforts.

2. In recognition of their efforts, 70 key donors and volunteers received tokens of appreciation for their contributions at the President's Challenge Appreciation Night 2023, which was attended by Guest-of-Honour President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Ms Jane Ittogi.

#### **Caring for Caregivers**

3. The theme for PC2023 has been 'Caring for Caregivers'. Illustrating this, one of the benefitting agencies, Abilities Beyond Limitations and Expectations (ABLE), provides rehabilitation therapy, training, and job support to empower persons with physical disabilities to find suitable and sustainable employment. It also supports caregivers and their care recipients with centre and home-based respite services. With PC funding for its programmes and the renovation of its respite facility, ABLE is able to double the number of caregivers it serves to 40, expand its self-enrichment workshops and interest groups, and add more counselling rooms.

4. Corporates play a key role in rallying their networks around PC. A long-time supporter of PC, events management company A-Smart Media recently treated 150 caregivers and their care recipients from eight PC benefitting agencies to the premiere of Swan Lake: Acrobatic Ballet Drama. A regular volunteer with A-Smart Media, 43-year-old Ms Lau Ee Ling who helped out at the show, looked after the care recipients and befriended them, providing respite to the caregivers, so that they could enjoy the performance.

5. "Through simple gestures like offering a smile and holding their hands, I could see the affection that the caregivers have for their loved ones. Very often caregivers believe that only they can provide the best care for their loved ones, and in doing so, they forsake their own well-being," said Ms Lau, who shared how the volunteering experience left a lasting impression on her and inspired her to volunteer more regularly.

### **Diverse nature of support for PC 2023**

6. A new PC partner, Hyundai Motor Group Innovation Center in Singapore (HMGICS), creatively rallied its customers to contribute to a good cause. HMGICS organised a charity auction of specially numbered vehicle registration numbers to commemorate the launch of its first 100 'Made in Singapore' IONIQ 5 electric vehicles, with the winning bidders donating matching amounts to PC.

7. Demonstrating that anyone, regardless of skills, education, background or age, can contribute positively, 16-year-old Gisele Yew founded a non-profit art organisation called Passionate heARTS. It consists of young, skilled artists who are passionate about the arts and motivated to help those in need. Gisele mobilised 50 youths to organise an exhibition titled "Experiences from the heART" and raised over \$45,000 for PC2023 through a silent auction of artworks by Passionate heARTS artists. Through the exhibition, Gisele hopes to inspire others to leverage their skills to support a good cause.

### **Building mutual respect through volunteerism**

8. PC's efforts in driving volunteerism have achieved a record number of 14,000 volunteers supporting communities in need. This is a 35% increase as compared to last year.

9. Besides support from corporate partners, more than 5,500 students from 24 clubs affiliated with Singapore Polytechnic (SP) Co-curricular Activities (CCA) actively volunteered to support diverse social service agencies through various philanthropic initiatives. Members of the SP Welfare Services Club dedicated their efforts to engaging with seniors at Fei Yue Community Services, Lakeside Family Services, and New Hope Community Services. Meanwhile, volunteers from the SP Mentoring Club served as mentors for primary and secondary students associated with FaithActs and New Life Community Services. Additionally, they provided care and interaction for children and youth with disabilities at the Rainbow Centre. This collective commitment reflects SP's dedication to community service and its positive impact on various sectors.

10. President Tharman Shanmugaratnam shared, "Volunteering allows us to not only uplift the disadvantaged, but also connect with people from diverse backgrounds, making us better-rounded ourselves. It's about empathy and more than that - it's about fostering mutual dignity and respect, and lifting ourselves as we lift others."

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## **About President's Challenge**

Started in 2000, President's Challenge (PC) is a national movement led by the President to rally Singaporeans to build a caring and cohesive society by raising funds as well as looking at how to better support our disadvantaged through volunteering and inclusive employment. Since 2018, PC has been focusing on the empowerment of groups in need with skills and employment. Focus areas of PC in recent years include mental health (PC2019), empowering persons with disabilities (PC2020), building a digitally inclusive society (PC2021) and supporting lower-income families (PC2022) and caring for caregivers (PC2023). 100% of the donations raised goes to benefitting agencies supported by PC.

## **ANNEX - PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE 2023 LIST OF BENEFITTING AGENCIES**

<b>Cross-Sector Services</b>	
1	Community Chest
2	Fei Yue Community Services
3	Filos Community Services
4	Girl Guides Singapore
5	Mind Science Centre
6	Sathya Sai Social Service
7	Singapore Red Cross Society
8	Society of Sheng Hong Welfare Services
9	The Red Pencil (Singapore)
<b>Children, Youth &amp; Family Services</b>	
10	Bethel Community Services
11	Boys' Town
12	CampusImpact
13	Canossaville Children and Community Services
14	Caregivers Alliance Limited
15	Chen Su Lan Methodist Children's Home
16	Child at Street 11 Ltd
17	Community Justice Centre
18	FaithActs
19	Focus on the Family Singapore Limited
20	Kampung Senang Charity and Education Foundation
21	Law Society Pro Bono Services
22	Morning Star Community Services Limited
23	New Life Community Services
24	One Hope Centre
25	Persatuan Persuratan Pemuda Pemudi Melayu
26	Prison Fellowship Singapore Ltd
27	REACH Community Services Society
28	RiverLife Community Services Limited
29	Tasek Jurong Ltd
30	United Women Singapore
31	WE CARE Community Services Ltd

- 32 Xin Yuan Community Care
- 33 Yong-en Care Centre
- 34 Young Women's Christian Association of Singapore

**Disability Services**

- 35 Abilities Beyond Limitations and Expectations Limited (ABLE)
- 36 ARTDIS (Singapore) Ltd
- 37 AWWA Ltd
- 38 Caring Fleet Services Ltd
- 39 Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore
- 40 Down Syndrome Association (Singapore)
- 41 Dyslexia Association of Singapore
- 42 Handicaps Welfare Association
- 43 Metta Welfare Association
- 44 Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS)
- 45 Muscular Dystrophy Association (Singapore)
- 46 Playeum Ltd.
- 47 Rainbow Centre, Singapore
- 48 Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped (SAVH)
- 49 St Andrew's Mission Hospital (SAMH)
- 50 The Singapore Association for the Deaf (SADeaf)

**Eldercare Services**

- 51 St John's Home for Elderly Persons

**Mental Health Services**

- 52 Limitless (Ltd.)

**Rehabilitation - Halfway Houses / Ex-Offenders**

- 53 Breakthrough Missions
- 54 Green Haven Halfway House
- 55 HCSA Community Services
- 56 HEB - Ashram Halfway House
- 57 iC@re Hub Ltd.
- 58 Rise Above Halfway House
- 59 The Salvation Army
- 60 Teen Challenge Halfway House
- 61 The Helping Hand Halfway House
- 62 Yellow Ribbon Fund

**Healthcare**

- 63 Ain Society
- 64 Blossom Seeds Limited (BS)
- 65 Caregiving Welfare Association
- 66 Dover Park Hospice (DPH)
- 67 Epilepsy Care Group (Singapore) (ECG)
- 68 HCA Hospice Limited (HCA)
- 69 Home Nursing Foundation (HNF)
- 70 NUHS Fund Limited (NUHS FL)
- 71 Salem Welfare Services Limited (SWSL)
- 72 SATA CommHealth (SATA)

**73** SingHealth Fund (SHF)

**74** TTSH Community Fund (TTSH CF)

**Disability Sports**

**75** Bowling Association for the Disabled (Singapore)

**76** Deaf Sports Association (Singapore)

**77** Lawn Bowls Association for the Disabled (Singapore)

**78** Singapore Disability Sports Council

**79** Singapore National Paralympic Council

**80** Special Olympics Singapore

**81** Equestrian Federation of Singapore

**Empowering for Life Fund**

**(in 40)** Down Syndrome Association (Singapore)

**82** Montfort Care

**PC – Institute of Mental Health Programme**

**83** Club HEAL

**84** Singapore Association for Mental Health (SAMH)

**85** Singapore Children's Society (SCS)

**86** TOUCH Community Services