



**Children's  
Cancer  
Foundation**



**For Immediate Release**

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**Children's Cancer Foundation 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium features  
Voices Through The Lens of Childhood Cancer Survivors**

**Singapore, 18 February 2017**

25 photographs encapsulating the reflections, perceptions and insights of the cancer experiences of 25 youth survivors were unveiled today at the Children's Cancer Foundation (CCF) 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium, themed "Together We Are Stronger". The Photovoice exhibition, was launched by Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Environment and Water Resources and Health.

After the Symposium, the exhibition will be travelling to other venues including Square 2 shopping mall, National Library @ AMK and VivoCity to spread the awareness of childhood cancer. Viewers will be taken on an insightful journey into the thoughts and feelings triggered by illness and the treatment process through the photovoices of 25 childhood cancer survivors. The exhibition will also feature artworks done by 25 CCF stakeholders (partners, donors, beneficiaries, volunteers and staff). These artworks express the qualities of strength, will and hope embraced by not just the children with cancer and their families, but also those who have journeyed with them.

In her speech, Dr Amy Khor said, "The theme: 'Together We Are Stronger', brings out the importance of voluntary welfare organisations like CCF, working closely with healthcare institutions, to strengthen the support networks for childhood cancer patients and their families."



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Dr Khor announced the launch of two new collaborations between CCF and KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH), which aim to further enhance the quality of life of childhood cancer survivors.

The first collaboration is the **CCF Paediatric Oncology Survivorship Programme**, which aims to equip childhood cancer patients with the resources and knowledge to enhance health and independence beyond their cancer treatment.

The second collaboration is the **CCF Psychosocial and Supportive Care Programme for Paediatric Oncology**, to provide neuro-psychosocial support such as screening for cognitive difficulties, dietetics and nutritional care to help the children achieve normal growth and weight gain, as well as therapy for rehabilitation.

CCF Chairman, Mr Ho Cheng Huat said, "When a child is diagnosed with cancer, the whole family is affected as everyone has to adjust their routine and activities accordingly." These families do not have to face these disruptions alone as CCF's integrated service model provides a continuum of support to the child and his or her family. Mr Ho added, "CCF's services and interventions are tailored to meet the unique and individualised needs of each child and his or her family at every stage of the illness and recovery."

As a member of Childhood Cancer International, CCF also joins 187 like-minded organisations in 90 countries around the world to celebrate International Childhood Cancer Day and in advocating the best possible treatment and care for children with cancer.



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## **Notes to Editor:**

### **About CCF 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Logo**

In 2017, CCF commemorates its 25 years of serving children with cancer and their families. The 25th anniversary logo comprises three human figures representing the CCF beneficiaries, partners and the community, held and knitted together by the CCF flower - tulip. Tulips are among the first flowers to blossom after a long winter. As a herald of spring and given its association with new life and growth, the tulip is a symbol of resilience and hope for our young patients. The logo depicts the concerted efforts in supporting children with cancer and providing them with opportunities to grow in strength and realise their potential. Unity is strength and together we are stronger in helping the children win their battle against cancer.





## **About Children's Cancer Foundation (CCF)**

Children's Cancer Foundation (CCF) is a non-profit organisation with a mission to improve the quality of life of children with cancer and their families and children impacted by cancer through enhancing their emotional, social and medical well-being.

Founded in 1992, CCF provides children with cancer and their families the much needed support in their battle against the life threatening illness. Over the years, CCF has helped more than 2,800 children and their families at different stages of the illness.

Armed with the vision of providing leading resources and psychosocial services to families impacted by childhood cancer, CCF employs professional caseworkers and therapists, and adopts an integrated hospital-community-home service model to offer a spectrum of critical services to our beneficiaries.

- **In the Hospitals** - CCF helps children who are newly diagnosed with cancer and undergoing active treatment with their hospital experience. We offer emotional, financial and social support, with a focus on therapeutic play and psychotherapy for the children and support activities for their caregivers. Our caseworkers and counsellors are sited in KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH) and the National University Hospital (NUH) to work alongside our medical partners in the paediatric oncology wards.
- **In the Community** - With more children surviving childhood cancer, CCF Community Social Work Team provides continual care to help enhance the quality of life for survivors. We help children return to school and support siblings of children with cancer. In collaboration with corporate partners, we offer social and recreational activities for the children and their families. We continue to monitor and support survivors who may have to cope with long term side effects due to the treatment of cancer. The support of community partners are actively sought to provide continuing care to our beneficiaries.



• **In the Homes of the Children** - When a child is at the end stage of his/her life, it is a tremendously challenging time for the dying child and the family members. Palliative and bereavement support are critical services provided by CCF professionals to improve the quality of life of the affected families.

**Services offered to children with cancer and their families include:**

- Casework and Counselling
- Therapeutic Play
- Art Therapy
- Play Therapy
- Child Life Service
- Caregivers Support Services
- Hospital Play Services
- Survivorship Programme
- Back-to-School Service
- Place for Academic Learning and Support (PALS)
- Tuition and Befriending
- Psychosocial and Recreational Activities
- Financial Assistance
- Palliative and Bereavement Service
- Very Important Brothers and Sisters (VIBS) Programme
- Children Impacted by Cancer Programme



## **About Photovoice**

Photovoice is a therapeutic project initiated by the Community Social Work Team of Children's Cancer Foundation in 2009, to help children with cancer reflect and express their perceptions, values or insights about cancer experiences and life.

It integrates elements of photo interventions and art therapy, and utilises pictorial projection and photographing objects as a way to reconstruct narratives, and to deal with different aspects of personal symbolism.

Photovoice serves childhood cancer survivors from 13 to 25 years old who have completed treatment, and is a platform for these beneficiaries' voices to be expressed and heard through the use of active photography.

## **About Childhood Cancer**

In Singapore, about 140 new cases of childhood cancer are reported every year. Among the type of cancers affecting children, the most common are leukaemia, lymphomas, brain tumours and solid tumours.

These children have to go through a rigorous treatment regime. Besides the physical pain caused by cancer and its treatment, young patients often feel isolated because of the withdrawal from school and prolonged stay in the hospital. Cancer is a debilitating illness that takes its toll, physically, emotionally and mentally, not only on the child but also on his or her family. We invite everyone to join us in helping children with cancer and their families in their fight against cancer, because there is strength in unity, and Together We Are Stronger.