

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MEDIA RELEASE

Caring Hearts 2024: Celebrating the Spirit of Community and the Power of Collective Action

Singapore, 14 November 2024 – This November, the Children's Cancer Foundation (CCF) presents *Caring Hearts 2024*, an event honouring 83 remarkable individuals and corporations who have gone above and beyond to support children and families impacted by childhood cancer. Through personal commitment, resourcefulness, and unwavering compassion, these honourees exemplify the potential within each Singaporean to make a difference.

This year's *Caring Hearts* is more than an event; it showcases real people—our neighbours, friends, and family—who have chosen to stand beside children battling cancer. Their stories reveal that everyone has the power to bring hope and healing simply by stepping forward and giving back in their unique ways. These **83** honourees—**7 sponsors, 28 fundraisers, 20 volunteers, 27 donors**, and our distinguished *Community Champion*—demonstrate that every contribution can be transformative, no matter how small. Their actions empower CCF to expand its support programmes and reach more families in need, inspiring all of us to make a difference.

Honouring CCF's Pinnacle Award Recipient: Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery (KMSPKSM)

At the pinnacle of tonight's recognition is *Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery (KMSPKSM)*, recipient of the *Community Champion* award. As a dedicated *Hair for Hope* satellite partner for 12 consecutive years, KMSPKSM has exemplified an unwavering commitment to supporting children with cancer. Since joining as a satellite partner, they have raised over \$2 million, strengthening CCF's ability to help beneficiaries and expanding the reach of its programmes.

KMSPKSM's well-executed *Hair for Hope* events have set a high benchmark for excellence in community engagement, inspiring hundreds to shave in solidarity with children impacted by cancer. Their leadership in uniting the community has amplified awareness and support, demonstrating the profound impact that collaboration can bring to society's most vital needs. At CCF Caring Hearts 2024, KMSPKSM will be acknowledged with the following:

- *Caring Hearts Award – Fundraiser Platinum*
- *Caring Hearts Award – Volunteer Platinum*
- *Caring Hearts Award – Community Champion 2024*

Celebrating Stories of Volunteer Dedication

Beyond the pinnacle award, Caring Hearts 2024 will spotlight the inspiring stories of individual volunteers. Among these honourees is Richard Wee, who started volunteering with CCF in 2015 and has since become a Fun-Fit instructor at CCF's Place for Academic Learning and Support (PALS). Richard has been instrumental in helping over 100 young survivors regain physical strength and confidence through exercise programmes tailored to support their recovery. His commitment reflects the transformative power of physical activity in enhancing emotional resilience as part of the healing process.

Richard's dedication has not gone unnoticed. He was awarded the Courage Fund Award 2018 - Honourable Mention in the Volunteer Category and the Volunteerism (Outstanding) Award during CCF's 30th Anniversary in 2022. His inspiring story has been featured in various media outlets, including the International Volunteer Day Special by NVPC, The Straits Times, and the SG Cares Photo Stories Book by NCSS.

Another honouree, Vimi Bhandari, started volunteering with CCF in 2021 at PALS and went on to volunteer as Play Personnel at NUH in 2023. Although her 6-month commitment as Play Personnel has ended, she continues to volunteer with PALS twice a week. Vimi's hands-on work with CCF's young beneficiaries earned her the Volunteer Bronze Award and the opportunity to attend a meet-and-greet session with President Tharman in 2023, in recognition of her contributions.

The event is a tribute and an invitation to all Singaporeans to get involved. Through *Caring Hearts 2024*, CCF aims to inspire even more people to join this mission—whether by volunteering, donating, or spreading awareness about childhood cancer.

A Community United for Impact

"Caring Hearts 2024 is a celebration of collective action," said Dr Kevin Tay, Chairman of CCF. "The 83 honourees tonight embody the strength and compassion of our community. They remind us that everyone has a role in creating a brighter future for children battling cancer."

Caring Hearts 2024

We invite the media and the public to join us in celebrating the collective achievements of our volunteers, donors, and partners at Caring Hearts 2024. Together, we are making a real difference in the lives of children and families impacted by childhood cancer, showcasing the strength and compassion of our community.

Event Details

Date: 14 Nov 2024

Time: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Location: Concorde Hotel - Ballroom

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