

TOUCH TURNS 21 WITH DAZZLING TREAT FOR KEY VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS

Special pre-show art exhibition to showcase artistic talents of beneficiaries

SINGAPORE, 21 September 2013 – TOUCH Community Services will mark its 21st year of serving the community with a magical treat for some 600 supporters comprising key volunteers, donors, corporate partners and staff at the University Cultural Centre this evening.

Together with Gateway Entertainment, TOUCH will present *VISION: Evolution of a Masterpiece* - an illusion-theatre spectacular to honour the contributions of its key supporters and volunteers. Combining the best elements of theatre and magic, *VISION* fuses huge sets with spectacular illusions. This world-class theatre masterpiece garnered more than 90% ticket sales at the Esplanade Theatres in July 2011.

The event will also feature a pre-show art exhibition showcasing the artistic talents of intellectually-disabled clients from the Visual Arts Training (VAT) programme. The VAT programme has helped trainees with intellectual disabilities benefit from personal expression through the creation of art forms. It has also enabled trainees to better manage personal emotions and this has helped those in employment to stay longer in their jobs.

21 years of making a difference

From meeting the needs of latchkey children in the neighbourhoods of Clementi and Jurong in the 1980s, TOUCH has grown to become a multi-service organisation, serving the needs of individuals across all religions and races, including children, youths, families, people with special and healthcare needs and the elderly. In 2012, more than 28,000 clients benefitted from its programmes.

Since its humble beginnings, TOUCH has been at the forefront of several key social service initiatives. As one of Singapore's first VWOs providing integrated and holistic services to meet the needs of home-bound frail elderly and their caregivers, offering both social and healthcare services, TOUCH also provides customised training for caregivers in their homes. Its Careline opens 6 days a week and has the longest operating hours of any hotline for assistance on elderly services to cater to time-strapped caregivers.

Responding to the proliferation of the Internet and its associated risks, TOUCH also pioneered cyber wellness education in schools. Its cyber wellness programmes have reached out to more than one million students, parents, educators and counsellors since 2001. In 2006, TOUCH launched Singapore's first one-stop cyber wellness resource centre located in the Bukit Merah heartland to educate parents and teachers on the latest trends and to bridge the digital gap among adults.

Mr Lawrence Khong, TOUCH Founding Chairman and master illusionist performing at *VISION*, said, "It is indeed an honour for us to celebrate this important milestone in our history together with our volunteers, donors and staff. Their unwavering support, friendship and commitment to giving have allowed us to meet a wide spectrum of needs in the community.

"Looking ahead, the challenges will be even greater as the needs of the community continue to grow but I am confident that together with our committed partners, we can realise our vision of seeing families strengthened and communities transformed."

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About TOUCH Community Services

TOUCH Community Services is a not-for-profit charitable organisation officially registered in 1992. TOUCH was granted the charity status and became a full member of the National Council of Social Service on 12 December 1994. Over the last 21 years, TOUCH has reached out to many individuals from all races and backgrounds. In 2012, TOUCH reached out to some 28,000 clients and 211,000 service users. Our clients include children from low-income or single-parent families, youths at risk, needy families, people with special and healthcare needs, and the frail elderly. To find out more about TOUCH, please visit www.touch.org.sg.