



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF  
SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
**TOGETHER**



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **TOUCH 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – A Charity Gala** *Celebrating 25 years of serving with the community*

**Singapore, 21 April 2017** – In celebration of its Silver Jubilee, TOUCH Community Services (TOUCH), a not-for-profit charitable organisation, will organise the ***TOUCH 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – A Charity Gala on Friday, 21 April 2017 at The Ritz Carlton, Millenia Singapore***. The fundraiser aims to raise \$1,200,000 in support of its work among youths-at-risk, disadvantaged seniors, people with special needs and vulnerable families. Guests include sponsors, volunteers, corporate and government partners, clients, and long-serving staff of TOUCH.

Graced by Guest-of-Honour, Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Minister for Social and Family Development, the Charity Gala will showcase mesmerising theatrical performances such as contemporary dance and drama segments intertwined with moving life stories related firsthand by beneficiaries of TOUCH.

Art aficionados will enjoy a display of the finest art pieces created by clients with special needs, and have the opportunity to purchase pieces that they love.

A community effort, the Charity Gala will also see corporates and organisations banding together to partner TOUCH, contributing to the success of the event.

The Charity Gala was conceptualised and produced by special events planner Heaven's Gift, with Kartoe, Moomedia, MovingStills Photography, Sing See Soon Floral & Landscape, Sonic Audio Visual, The Association of Bartenders and Sommeliers Singapore, The Ritz-Carlton Millenia Singapore, as well as The Singapore Chefs Association, lending their expertise in crafting the entire dinner experience for the celebratory gala.

Adding to the epicurean flair of the event are four local highly-acclaimed chefs, Chef Eric Ong, Executive Committee of Singapore Chefs Association; Chef Heman Tan, Chief Culinary Officer at Samsui Supplies & Services Pte Ltd; Chef Tony Khoo, Executive Chef at Marina Mandarin Singapore; and Chef William Tan, Executive Sous Chef at Mandarin Orchard Hotel, who will display their exceptional culinary skills for a good cause, serving up delectable canapés at the pre-dinner reception to whet guests' appetites.

Says Mr Lawrence Khong, Founding Chairman of TOUCH, "Our efforts to serve the community over the last 25 years would not have been possible without the community. Building a community where everyone can be a giver is integral to the central task of meeting societal needs because the best form of support for the disadvantaged is found in the community."

Illustrating that point is a programme segment which will showcase various individuals who make up the community – one of them being Mdm Wee Ah Bee, a client of TOUCH Senior Activity Centre (TSAC). 74-year-old Mdm Wee used to live with her elder brother and husband as their main caregiver. When her brother passed away a few years ago, and her husband passed away last year, she was devastated and battled depression and suicidal thoughts. She eventually picked herself up with the support of TSAC and the community. Today, she volunteers at the centre to help other frail and vulnerable seniors, showing how an individual can rise above her circumstances and even serve others.

The Charity Gala may be a celebration of the lives that TOUCH has affected over the past 25 years, but it has started gearing up to meet the future needs of an evolving society.

TOUCH Young Arrows (TYA), a service that reaches out to children from single-parent and low-income families, currently serves 580 children in 24 locations in Singapore but aims to extend its reach by setting up a children's club in every neighbourhood. To meet the needs of an increasing elderly population, TOUCH has also been expanding its eldercare services with two new senior activity centres opened last year in Yishun, reaching out to 224 more vulnerable and isolated seniors, bringing the total of elderly clients served to 1,030. It is also investing in technology to help eldercare workers become more efficient in their work.

To support families with members living with special needs, TOUCH will set up a new day activity centre for adults with intellectual disabilities in the West by 2018, to serve those living in the Western part of Singapore.

On the cyber wellness front, TOUCH has reached out to more than 1 million students, educators and parents since 2001 and also gained international recognition. It will continue to innovate all its programs to effectively address and meet the needs of the community as the digital landscape evolves.

Driving the future plans of TOUCH is its new vision to see Strong Families, Caring Generations and Enabled Communities established by 2030. However, TOUCH acknowledges that this vision can only be realised when the community comes together.

Says Mr Khong, "The theme for the Charity Gala is 'We are One Community' because we celebrate the Community that has journeyed with us over the last 25 years. At the same time, we also want to champion the important role of Community in building the Singapore of tomorrow. This heartbeat reflects the *Gotong Royong* spirit of mutual help and sharing of each others' burdens. This spirit forms the fabric of our nation and it represents who we are as Singaporeans."

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**For media enquiries, please contact:**

Samantha Wong

Senior Executive, Communications

Tel: 8128 7511 | Email: [samantha.wong@touch.org.sg](mailto:samantha.wong@touch.org.sg)



**ABOUT TOUCH COMMUNITY SERVICES**

TOUCH Community Services is a not-for-profit charitable organisation, dedicated to meeting the needs of children from low-income or single-parent families, youths-at-risk, needy families, people with special and healthcare needs, and the frail elderly. Through its network of 17 services, as well as an international arm, TOUCH is committed to serving people of all ages, races, religions and backgrounds. Each year, its programmes and services meet the needs of more than 30,000 clients and 212,000 service users. For more information on TOUCH, please visit [www.touch.org.sg](http://www.touch.org.sg).