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CHARITREES 2018 LIGHT UP MARINA BAY WATERFRONT PROMENADE



SINGAPORE, 9 November 2018 – In celebration of Singapore’s Community Heroes, President Halimah Yacob and some 11 community groups and individuals turned up for the light-up ceremony of ChariTrees 2018, along with seven corporate donors, and more than 130 children and youth as well as their families were invited to the event. These children and youths are beneficiaries of the Business Times Budding Artists’ Fund (BT BAF), the recipients of the year-end annual charity fundraiser.

“ChariTrees’ 20 traditional Christmas trees and 10 “Art” trees are dedicated to the many individuals, groups and organisations which have made a positive impact towards our community”, said Mr Tan Puay Kern, chairman of the ChariTrees 2018 Organising Committee.

The community heroes include individuals, groups and organisations who have played a significant part in nurturing people and strengthening communities. They are:

- Cassia Resettlement Team
- Diamonds on the Street
- Project Goodwill Aid
- Ground-Up Initiative
- Halal Goods do Good
- Readable

as well as three individuals, Mdm Noriza Mansor, Ms Qin Yunquan and Mr Jabez Tan, whose actions have touched and improved the lives of the communities. (For details on community groups and individuals, please refer to Annex 1)

Held for the eighth year, ChariTrees 2018 is organised by not-for-profit arts organisation and charity with IPC status, The RICE Company Limited. This year, Certis is the Presenting Donor of ChariTrees.

Mr Paul Chong, President and Group CEO, Certis, said, “Certis firmly believes in being a responsible corporate citizen and is proud to be the Presenting Donor of ChariTrees this year. Through this initiative, we seek to empower disadvantaged children and youths to discover their talents and provide opportunities for them to pursue their interests in arts.”

Other corporate donors include Arrowcrest Technologies, British Theatre Playhouse, Century Evergreen, Paragon, Perennial Real Estate Holdings and Prudential.

A total of S\$250,000 was raised through ChariTrees 2018 in support of BT BAF. BT BAF seeks to make the arts accessible for children and youths from financially disadvantaged backgrounds and provides beneficiaries with opportunities to discover their talents at arts training centres – The Little Arts Academy and 10 Square Youth, which are supported by the Fund.

Since 2005, more than 17,000 children and youths have benefited from a variety of arts programmes supported by BT BAF such as workshops and structured training in music, dance, theatre, visual arts, and arts technology.

The light up of ChariTrees at the opening ceremony saw music, song and dance performances by Singapore Police Force (SPF) band, students of Yishun Town Secondary School’s NPCC band and beneficiaries of BT BAF.

The 30 trees will line the Marina Bay Waterfront Promenade from now until 26 Dec. To add to the Christmas spirit, BT BAF beneficiaries will also be giving performances 30 Nov and 1 Dec at 7.30pm on both nights.

For Media Enquiries:**The RICE Company Limited**

Sum Wai Ying

Email: waiying_sum@therice.sg

Mobile: 9222 3548

Certis

Woon Yik Huen

Manager, Group Communications

Email: woon_yik_huen@certisgroup.com

Mobile: +65 9798 5588

About ChariTrees

ChariTrees 2018 is organised by not-for-profit arts organisation and charity, The RICE Company Limited. It is also a fundraiser for The Business Times Budding Artists Fund. From 2011 to 2017, ChariTrees was a fundraising initiative by Community Chest with the support of Urban Redevelopment Authority. For the past seven editions, the 10-foot trees, aptly called “ChariTrees” were adopted by corporate donors to fundraise for Community Chest beneficiaries.

About The RICE Company Limited

The RICE Company Limited (TRCL) is a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity with IPC (Institutions of Public Character) status. TRCL seeks to harness the potential of the arts to benefit under-served children and youths in the community. TRCL manages two social funds (The Business Times Budding Artists Fund and Sing50 Fund), arts centres (The Little Academy and 10 Square Youth) in four locations across Singapore, creative spaces (The Pavilion at Far East Square and Temenggong 18/20) and two subsidiaries (Global Cultural Alliance and Millet Holdings). For more information, visit www.therice.sg

About The Business Times Budding Artists Fund

Initiated in 2004 and adopted by The Business Times in 2005, The Business Times Budding Artists Fund (BT BAF) originated from a conviction that no child with the strong interest and potential in the arts should be denied the opportunity to develop his or her talents due to a lack of financial resources. Since 2005, BT BAF has reached out to more than 17,000 financially-disadvantaged children and youth, between the ages of six to 19 years old, through a variety of programmes including a structured arts training programme, arts camps, workshops and signature events. BT BAF supports arts training centres, The Little Arts Academy and 10 Square @ Orchard

Central, and is managed by The RICE Company Limited. For more information, visit www.baf.sg.

About Certis

Certis is a leading advanced integrated security organisation that develops and delivers multi-disciplinary security and integrated services. As a unique specialist operations-technology outsourcing partner, Certis integrates advanced security, technology, facilities management, customer service and talent to build and operate bespoke solutions for complex, critical operations that extend beyond security. Our design-for-purpose solutions are led by an extensive track record of running operations and design thinking to drive operational efficiencies and deliver business-critical outcomes for our customers. Certis is headquartered in Singapore, with an international presence that extends to Australia, Hong Kong, Macau, China, Malaysia and the Middle East. We are a trusted partner committed to our clients' successes, delivered through our 34,000-strong global team which includes 16,000 in Singapore. Discover more at www.certisgroup.com, facebook.com/certisworld and <https://www.linkedin.com/company/certis-group/>

Annex 1 – Community Groups

Cassia Resettlement Team

Cassia Resettlement Team (CRT) organises various activities and initiatives for new residents to rebuild relationships with their neighbours and foster connections within their new communities.

<https://www.facebook.com/crtsingapore>



Diamonds on the Street

Diamonds on the Street is an arts collective which works with vulnerable youths to turn their wounded histories into stories of hope. Through songwriting and storytelling programmes, the youths can find a safe and common space to engage and share their stories with one another.

<https://www.facebook.com/diamondsonthestreet>



Grounds up initiative (GUI)

Ground-Up Initiative (GUI), a non-profit organisation that aims to nurture grounded leaders and model a Singapore society with a sustainable future.

<https://groundupinitiative.org>



Halal Goods Do Good

Halal Goods Do Good (HGDDG) is a ground-up social initiative that brings together small and medium halal food enterprises and organises halal food bazaars where 50% of proceeds goes towards helping local charities.



Project Goodwill Aid

PGA goes door to door of rental houses to reach out to ppl who are suffering behind closed doors.

The group provides volunteers as manpower for various grounds up initiatives.

<https://www.facebook.com/projectgoodwillaid>



Readable

ReadAble is a non-profit organisation that began in 2013, running literacy programmes in one of Singapore's most underserved neighbourhoods, for children from the ages of 3-15.

www.readablesg.com



Jabez Tan

Jabez Tan was a former offender in his younger days. Now 42, he is the founder of Soon Huat (Bak Kut Teh), a social enterprise that believes in second chances and employs ex-inmates to help them start afresh. Knowing how challenging it can be to find a job after imprisonment, Jabez visits prisons to counsel and encourage young inmates as he hopes to motivate them to not give up. He also conducts talks at schools and events about second chances and social entrepreneurship.

**Noriza A. Mansor**

Good Samaritan and the first Straits Times Singaporean of the Year Noriza A. Mansor's act of kindness for a total stranger has stirred the hearts of many.

Noriza came to the aid of an elderly man and his wife who is a wheelchair bound, user, when he soiled himself while shopping for groceries. Without hesitation, Noriza was the only one who stepped forth to clean and dress him up.

Noriza's kind act serves as an inspiration to help others in need: whether they are old, or poor or handicapped.

**Qin Yunquan**

Self defence instructor Qin Yunquan found her calling in life -- to equip people with personal protection skills -- after learning first hand about the traumatic attacks of assault victims she met. She started Kapap Academy, a social enterprise which provides classes for women, needy seniors and former victims of sexual abuse or domestic violence. Yunquan earned international recognition from the Queen of England in 2017 when she was awarded a medal for her life saving work.

The 29-year-old plans to take her academy overseas, which include providing free training to underprivileged and rural girls in India, and other parts of Asia in time.



