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**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR CHEW SUTAT
CHAIRMAN, COMMUNITY CHEST
AT COMMUNITY CHEST HEARTSTRINGS WALK 2024
ON 24 AUGUST 2024, SATURDAY, 6.30PM
AT MARINA BAY SANDS**

Mr Gan Kim Yong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry,

Mr Paul Town, Chief Operating Officer, Marina Bay Sands

Friends of Community Chest

Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls,

1. Good evening and welcome to our Community Chest Heartstrings Walk 2024!
2. I'm encouraged to see over 4,800 of you, from all walks of life, coming together in support of families and children in need. On behalf of Community Chest and our co-organiser Marina Bay Sands, thank you.
3. My heartfelt thanks to Guest of Honour Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong for joining us today. And to Mr Eric Chua, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Social and Family Development and Culture, Community and Youth, for hosting this morning's vertical marathon.
4. In 2022, Community Chest contributed \$8 million to 79 family programmes. These included family service centres, counselling centres and protection specialist centres for those affected by family violence. Programmes such as ComLink+ help families work towards stable employment and financial stability. There is also KidSTART supporting pregnant mothers' wellbeing and their children's development.

5. Today, we celebrate a very special birthday. In 1984, Community Chest introduced Sharity, a pink elephant to inculcate the values of caring and sharing in children. Now he has grown into one of Singapore's national icons. Let's all wish Sharity a very happy 40th birthday!
6. I would also like to acknowledge our co-organiser Marina Bay Sands for joining hands with us to make this event a success.
7. My appreciation also goes to our sponsors, Do Good International Foundation, Toptrans Logistics and Singapore Exchange Limited.
8. Finally, I am happy to share that a new initiative, Women for Good, is joining the growing number of SMEs partnering Community Chest. 10 local women entrepreneurs have come together to participate in the Change for Charity programme. These companies are giving their customers more options to easily donate to Community Chest.
9. Businesses can play a part in making philanthropy sustainable. Your long-term giving will provide continued support to the social service sector. Any business can do this regardless of their size. I hope that more will join us to uplift lives together.
10. With that, thank you for rallying your friends, family and colleagues to support our cause. Have a lovely evening ahead!