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**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR CHEW SUTAT
CO-CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY CHEST HEARTSTRINGS WALK 2022
COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN, COMMUNITY CHEST
10 SEPTEMBER 2022**

- Mr Heng Swee Keat, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies,
 - Ms Sun Xueling, Minister of State for Social and Family Development and Home Affairs,
 - Ms Anita Fam, President of the National Council of Social Service
 - Mr Paul Town, Chief Operating Officer of Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd,
 - Partners and friends from our strong community of corporate representatives, sponsors, social service agencies and donors,
 - Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls,
1. A very good evening to all of you! I am very pleased to welcome all of you back to the Community Chest Heartstrings Walk. It's been two years since we last held this event in person, and it's wonderful to see everyone face to face again.
 2. On behalf of the Community Chest and Marina Bay Sands, I would like to thank our Guest of Honour, Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat and Host, Minister of State Sun Xueling for joining us today to launch the Community Chest Heartstrings Walk 2022.

3. Today's Heartstrings Walk is a special one as it is our first large-scale community event since the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also the first time that we are holding the Walk in the evening and in support of the Year of Celebrating SG Families. I'm glad to see so many of you with your friends and families today, spending quality time together while doing good. I know you are all looking forward to the Walk, but do allow me to make mention of a few important partners.

4. First, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our deepest appreciation to Marina Bay Sands. Since 2011, Marina Bay Sands has been the co-organiser of this event. Even when physical events were restricted due to safe distancing measures, it continued to support us, and helped transform the Heartstrings Walk and Vertical Marathon to virtual formats that featured interactive digital elements.

5. To fellow co-chairperson Mr Nicholas Ionides, as well as members of the Heartstrings Walk 2022 organising committee – please accept my sincere appreciation for your volunteering efforts. Your tireless support has enabled us to organise the Heartstrings Walk successfully each year.

6. More importantly, Heartstrings Walk would not have been possible without our wider community – partners and donors like yourselves. Your participation here today will enable us to support over 100 social service agencies and more than 200 critical programmes, which in turn, empower children with special needs and youth-at-risk, adults with disabilities, persons with mental health conditions, and seniors and families in need of assistance. I am glad to announce that in the lead up to today's event, we have raised about \$2 million for our causes.

7. On behalf of Community Chest, I would like to thank all of you for taking time this lovely Saturday evening, to join us here at the iconic Marina Bay Waterfront Promenade to walk for a good cause.

8. I won't hold back the rest of this evening's programme. Please enjoy your walk, the spectacular waterfront view and the company of your loved ones. Have a lovely evening ahead!