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**OPENING ADDRESS BY
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PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION &
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
CARE DEEPLY, SHARE FREELY WITH SHARITY & FRIENDS 2017
TUESDAY, 21 MARCH AT 8.10AM**

Ms Grace Ng, Principal, Methodist Girls' School

Mr Chew Kwee San, Vice-Chairman of Community Chest Committee
and Chairman of Sharity Programme Sub-committee

Ms Ng Ling Ling, Assistant CEO, National Council of Social Service and
Managing Director, Community Chest

Ladies and gentlemen, and girls,

1. It gives me great pleasure to be here with all of you this morning. Thank you to **Methodist Girls' School** for hosting us today. I am glad that our friends from **Rainbow Centre, a Community Chest supported social service organisation**, are able to join us too.
2. Most of you would be familiar with Sharity, Community Chest's iconic care and share mascot or more affectionately known as the pink cuddly elephant. Primary Two MGS girls, you might remember how Sharity has encouraged you to show kindness and empathy, starting with your family members last year, while girls in Primary Five were challenged to write down good deeds you have done 2 years ago.

3. I am happy to share that, with the support of the Ministry of Education and schools like MGS, Sharity Club has actively reached out to more than 110,000 Primary students in the last two years.
4. This year, Sharity will kick-off his school outreach programme by launching his very own website, a first one-stop portal for parents and students to access information on caring and sharing. Teachers and parents can access the resources available on the website, such as materials for role playing, as well as contests and games, to bring out values of compassion and empathy. Students can also find Sharity songs and lyrics to sing along, as well as watch Sharity animation episodes to know what he and his friends are up to.
5. Two of these animation episodes are already available on the website. We will be screening one of the episodes later, so keep your eyes peeled! The animation episodes will address issues relevant to girls like you, such as cyber bullying, working as a team, and respecting and accepting friends with disabilities. Through these shared adventures, Sharity & Friends hope to encourage and motivate all of you to step up and make a difference in the way you interact with those around you.
6. Today's launch is also held in conjunction with MGS's 130th anniversary celebrations. MGS seeks to empower their students to express gratitude and acts of service and kindness in their everyday lives. I see that the MGS girls have also stepped up to help out with emceeing, facilitating of experiential activities and hosting of your friends with different abilities today.
7. I am heartened to know that MGS has encouraged its students to help the less fortunate through various initiatives, such as providing

its school facilities for children with disabilities from AWWA to conduct physiotherapy sessions, and donating proceeds from their yearly musical showcase ticket sales to Rainbow Centre. I hope that you can forge lasting friendships with your peers from AWWA and Rainbow Centre, care for and learn alongside one another, much like Sharity and his friends.

8. If we care deeply for those around us and share what we have freely, we will be able to make a positive impact on the lives of the less fortunate and help shape a more caring and inclusive society.
9. Thank you and please enjoy the rest of the exciting activities lined up for you today.