



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore's Diamond Jubilee: A Dazzling Celebration and the Launch of Singapore's First Cerebral Palsy Registry**

**Singapore, 8 September 2017** – The **Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore (CPAS)** celebrated her 60th Anniversary at a charity dinner this evening, with Guest of Honour, Minister for Social and Family Development, Mr Tan Chuan-Jin gracing the event. Singapore's first-ever cerebral palsy registry was also launched this evening.

The night rimmed with positive vibes as clients and guests from CPAS came together to celebrate its progress and achievements since its inception in 1957. Held at Marina Bay Sands in conjunction with the Sands for Singapore Charity Festival, the event was attended by over 400 guests, including individual and corporate donors.

Themed "I Believe We Can", the dinner strived to break down perceived limitations associated with individuals with cerebral palsy. It was an evening of celebrating CPAS's illustrious history: started by a group of volunteers with just a classroom of ten children in 1957 — then known as the 'Spastic Children's Association of Singapore' — CPAS has grown into a full-fledged centre with an Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIC), a special education school - CPAS School for young persons aged 7 to 18 years old and Adult services which includes a sheltered workshop and a day activity centre for adults and a comprehensive range of therapy clinics and a home management programme.

The funds raised will go towards the various CPAS programmes and services that will help make a positive impact to the lives of its beneficiaries. In addition, it will also be used to subsidise therapy fees, transportation costs, and provide financial assistance for the children and adults under the service of CPAS. At present, CPAS serves over 700 clients ranging in age from a few months to 55 years old.

CPAS Executive Director, Ms Cynthia Wong said, "At CPAS, our staff serve with utmost commitment and joy to help children, young persons and adults with cerebral palsy and multiple disabilities reach their highest potential. We look forward to the day where all members of the general public will join us in enriching the lives of individuals with cerebral palsy without any hesitation. We are deeply heartened by the show of support, especially from the guests who attended and whole-heartedly contributed to the success of this evening. We thank Marina Bay Sands, and the many donors for their generosity and goodwill towards our clients."

The charity dinner was co-presented with Marina Bay Sands as part of the "Sands for Singapore Charity Festival 2017". The annual event which is now in its fifth year, took place from 8 to 10 September 2017 to raise funds and awareness for over 80 Singapore-based charities.

Mr George Tanasijevich, President and Chief Executive Officer, Marina Bay Sands, said: "Our work with CPAS began in 2014, with hundreds of our team members volunteering for the annual CPAS Sports Day. It was an event that gave our team members the opportunity to interact with beneficiaries of CPAS and helped many of us to understand the unique challenges faced by those with cerebral palsy. Since 2016, CPAS has been one of the six designated charities supported by Marina Bay Sands, under

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our Sands for Singapore programme. Through our ongoing partnership with CPAS, we have had many opportunities to engage our staff in meaningful volunteerism activities and show support for CPAS programmes.”

In conjunction with this significant milestone, CPAS launched Singapore’s first and only cerebral palsy registry of children with CP born 2011 and later. As a collaborative effort with KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital, National University Hospital (NUH) and CPAS, this research registry aims to improve the overall understanding of cerebral palsy in Singapore. It will assist in the future planning of services and resources for persons with CP in Singapore.

Chairman of CPAS, Associate Professor Kevin Lim PBM, said: “Being the first of its kind in Singapore, the cerebral palsy registry offers consolidated data on a common platform that would be instrumental for future medical research and improvement of services for persons with CP. We aim to glean crucial insights into the condition that will help us with different aspects — from prevention, diagnosis and management of the condition. Through this, we aspire to improve the quality of life of persons with cerebral palsy, and minimise the impact of the disability.”

Guests were enthralled by special song performances by students from CPAS’s Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIC) and CPAS School. In line with the night’s theme, the performances conveyed a common message of overcoming challenges, dreaming boldly and accomplishing shared goals with the enduring support of the community.

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#### **About Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore (CPAS)**

The Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore (CPAS) was established in 1957 to provide early intervention and special education for children and youths and rehabilitation services, day activity centre programmes, vocational training and gainful employment for adults with cerebral palsy in Singapore. At present, we look after more than 700 clients ranging in age from a few months to 55 years old.

#### **About Cerebral Palsy**

Cerebral (brain) palsy (lack of muscle control) is an inclusive term used to describe a group of non-progressive disorders occurring in young children in which damage to the brain causes impairment of motor function. The degree of disability ranges from extreme tightness or looseness of the muscles of the body, improper head, shoulder or hip control to slight speech impairment. Cerebral palsy is not curable and is non-progressive. The condition can be caused before or during birth or some illness or injury to the children early in life.

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