



**WELCOME ADDRESS BY DANNY KOH, CHAIRMAN, COMMUNITY CHEST
FOR THE COMMUNITY CHEST HEARTSTRINGS WALK 2026
ON 29 AUGUST 2026, 6.25PM
AT MARINA BAY SANDS**

Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for Social and Family Development,
Friends of Community Chest,

- 1 Good evening and welcome to the ComChest Heartstrings Walk 2026!
- 2 My heartfelt thanks to our Guest of Honour, Minister Masagos, for joining us today. It is wonderful to see 3,700 partners, volunteers, social service users and members of the public walking as one for a more caring and inclusive Singapore.
- 3 This is my first Heartstrings Walk as Chairman of ComChest.
- 4 Over the past 10 years, ComChest has raised and disbursed over S\$500 million in support of social service programmes and capability building projects in Singapore, uplifting the lives of individuals and families in need.
- 5 One area of growing need is mental health. Over the past year, ComChest increased funding for mental health programmes by about 30 per cent, from \$13 million to more than \$17 million. We are also seeing meaningful outcomes. Close to four in five service users in ComChest-supported employment programmes found work and remained employed for at least six months.

- 6 But the real measure of our work is not found in numbers alone. It is found in the lives of the people we touch. Some of them are here walking with us today, like Kartina, a second-year Mechanical Engineering student at ITE College West. Through 4PM's FRENZ Mentoring Programme, she gained the confidence and purpose to move beyond a difficult past.
- 7 Today, Kartina is giving back by mentoring other youths. Her journey reminds us that sustained support can empower someone to move forward and, in turn, help others.
- 8 That is why sustained giving matters. A one-off donation can meet an immediate need, but a long-term partnership allows social service agencies to plan ahead, strengthen their programmes and remain alongside the people they serve.
- 9 This evening, we celebrate our partners who demonstrate what such commitment can look like. Marina Bay Sands has co-organised the Heartstrings Walk with us for 15 years. This partnership has grown into a powerful platform around a shared purpose.
- 10 Another ComChest partner here today is Sun Life Private Wealth. Since 2023, Sun Life has raised more than \$2.3 million through its multi-year commitment.
- 11 I also thank Li Foundation and Lions Clubs Singapore for co-organising Relay Majulah, a year-long movement launched today – promoting active living for seniors and people of all abilities to move safely together.
- 12 These partnerships show that philanthropy goes beyond writing a cheque. By making giving part of their culture, they remain committed for the longer term. Let's give all our partners a round of applause.



- 13 I hope more organisations will join us—not simply as donors, but as partners in creating social impact.
- 14 As we walk together this evening, look out for mental wellness touchpoints along the way featuring Sharity and BRAVE, mascots of ComChest and Beyond the Label, a national movement that tackles stigma towards mental health.
- 15 Thank you for walking with Community Chest. Together, let us build a stronger, more inclusive Singapore. Have a meaningful and enjoyable walk!