WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR MARK SHAW, CO-CHAIRMAN, CLU 2026 COMMITTEE, AND CHAIRMAN, ORCHARD ROAD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, & MR LAM YI YOUNG, CO-CHAIRMAN, CLU 2026 COMMITTEE, AND VICE CHAIRMAN, COMMUNITY CHEST
AT THE CHRISTMAS ON A GREAT STREET COMMUNITY CHEST LIGHT-UP CEREMONY ON 17 NOVEMBER 2026, TUESDAY, 7.20PM

MR MARK SHAW:
A very good evening to our Guest of Honour, President Tharman Shanmugaratnam,
Our host, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Social and Family Development and Law, Mr Eric Chua,
Mr Toru Hotta, Deputy Chief of Mission, Minister, Embassy of Japan to Singapore,
Partners and friends of Community Chest,

Thank you for joining us at this year's Christmas on *A Great Street* Community Chest Light-Up Ceremony! I am delighted to be here with Yi Young as we usher in the festive season.

Every year, the Christmas Light-Up brings joy and togetherness to Orchard Road. But perhaps the brightest light is the one we create for others. Because when we give someone a little more hope, a little more support, or simply the knowledge that they are not alone, we illuminate a path forward. And when many of us do this together, that light reaches even further.

None of this would be possible without our generous sponsors and partners. A big thank you to our main sponsor, the Hitachi Group of Companies, and our special partners, Singtel, PropNex Realty, UOB, Do Good International Foundation, Singapore Geok Shee Association, and Dr Lee Kwok Cheong and family.

MR LAM YI YOUNG:
Indeed, Mark! It is heartening to see how our community continues to make a meaningful difference.

In Financial Year 2025, Community Chest disbursed over $80 million to 340 social service programmes and projects, supporting more than 130,000 service users. This impact is made possible through the generosity of our donors and partners, who contribute not only funds, but also their time, expertise and networks. I would like to take this opportunity to say a BIG thank you to all of our donors and partners. Thank you for making a difference!

Behind every number is a personal story of resilience, progress and hope.

Take 12-year-old Zheng Jie – with the guidance of Suncare, a social service agency serving children from lower-income families, he has grown in confidence and learnt to express himself better. He now takes the lead in encouraging and helping his peers, a wonderful example of how the right support can bring out the best in us.

Similarly, 15-year-old Zaid, who grew up participating in Filos Community Services' programmes, has turned his passion for football into an opportunity to give back. With support from Filos, he now coaches younger children and promotes healthy lifestyle habits through football.

Their journeys remind us that sustained support can help individuals overcome challenges, build their strengths and make a positive difference to others.

These are some of the inspiring stories featured in the *Stories of Hope* exhibition round the corner, which I encourage everyone to visit.

MR MARK SHAW:
These stories remind us about the importance of caring for one another, and we're excited to share the festivities with more members of our community.

This year, over 200 service users will enjoy a week of special experiences, including open-top bus tours along Orchard Road, and carnival games and children's rides at the Christmas Village.

We hope that families will enjoy quality time together and create cherished memories.

MR LAM YI YOUNG:

And while Christmas is a wonderful time to give, we hope this spirit of generosity continues all year round, in whatever ways we can.

No one should face life's challenges alone, and long-term giving enables social service agencies to continue walking alongside individuals and families, empowering lives. Tonight, we light up Orchard Road. And together, we can light up lives!

MR MARK SHAW:

On that note, thank you once again for being with us today. We wish everyone a wonderful evening and a joyous festive season ahead!