

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR MARK SHAW, CO-CHAIRPERSON,
CLU 2025 COMMITTEE, AND CHAIRMAN, ORCHARD ROAD
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION,
& MS HAZLINA ABDUL HALIM, CO-CHAIRPERSON, CLU 2025
COMMITTEE, AND MEMBER, COMMUNITY CHEST,
AT THE CHRISTMAS ON A GREAT STREET COMMUNITY CHEST
LIGHT-UP CEREMONY ON
8 NOVEMBER 2025, SATURDAY, 7.20 PM**

MR MARK SHAW:

A very good evening to our Guest of Honour, President Tharman Shanmugaratnam,
Our host, Minister of State for Social and Family Development and for Home Affairs, Mr Goh Pei Ming.
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 today, with my co-chair Hazlina.

MS HAZLINA ABDUL HALIM:

Thank you, Mark! I'm heartened to see how the community has strongly come together to uplift individuals and families in need.

MR MARK SHAW:

Yes, this would not have been possible without the people working tirelessly behind the scenes. A huge thank you to our main sponsor the

Hitachi Group of Companies, and our special partners Dr Lee Kwok Cheong, Propnex Realty, Do Good International Foundation, UOB and Singtel.

In President Tharman's Address at the first session of Singapore's 15th Parliament on September 5th, he reminded us Singapore can only stand tall if we act as one people. We are inspired by how businesses and individuals have stepped up this year to nurture a 'We First' culture through their deeds and actions. Our SGSHARE programme has seen a 16% increase in donations from January to September compared to last year. What is even more encouraging is the growing number of businesses working hand in hand with Community Chest by making multi-year commitments towards building a more caring and inclusive Singapore. The impact of their contributions is further amplified through the SG60 SG Gives Matching Grant.

MS HAZLINA ABDUL HALIM:

These partnerships are impacting lives where it matters most, as in the case of persons with disabilities. We have approximately 45,000 adults with disabilities registered in government schemes and services. Through Community Chest, we fund over 300 programmes and projects, with a significant focus on this community.

An NCSS study found that employment opportunities, physical activity or sports participation, and stronger social connections were the key drivers to improving quality of life for persons with disabilities.

Given these insights, it is encouraging to know that the programmes Community Chest funds, such as special education schools for over 8,200

children with special needs, and social service agencies providing for adults employment assistance, job coaching, and social integration support addressing these key factors to a better life.

MR MARK SHAW:

That's good progress, Hazlina. And it also reflects the impact of our community and corporate partners' sustained giving. Through initiatives like the SGSHARE, businesses are not just providing resources – they play an important role in building a shared future by creating opportunities for those in need.

MS HAZLINA ABDUL HALIM:

Exactly, Mark. These show the importance of us each playing our part, but when we do it together as a community, we can make an even bigger difference. Strong support from the community has enabled Community Chest to channel about \$12 million towards programmes for children and adults with disabilities.

MR MARK SHAW:

This is why sustainable philanthropy matters so much. When businesses commit to multi-year giving, volunteering, and adopting inclusive practices, they are not just supporting programmes – they are empowering lives. Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

MS HAZLINA ABDUL HALIM:

On that note, we thank you for being part of this journey towards a more caring and inclusive Singapore. We wish you all a good evening ahead!