

**SPEECH BY DR TONY TAN KENG YAM, CHAIRMAN OF  
SINGAPORE PRESS HOLDINGS FOUNDATION, AT THE CHEQUE  
PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO 20 CHARITY PROGRAMMES FOR  
CHILDREN AND YOUTH HELD ON SATURDAY, 30 JUNE 2007, AT  
4.00PM AT THE ESPLANADE THEATRE**

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Ms Jennie Chua  
Chairman of Community Chest

Distinguished Guests

Boys & Girls

Ladies & Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be here to watch this world-acclaimed performance with so many of our special guests on this lovely Saturday afternoon.

I hope you have all enjoyed the performance as much as I did.

It is also my honour to be here to present donation cheques to 20 charity programmes providing services to needy children and youth in our midst.

Today's event is a unique one – it not only showcases the Singapore Press Holdings Foundation's support for the arts, but also our commitment to help the less fortunate in our community.

Through our sponsorship of JUMP, we hope that the Singaporean audience will have access to more world-acclaimed performances. And through this invitation today, we hope to offer an opportunity to inculcate a love for the arts in our guests from the various Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs).

Through such exposure to the arts, our young friends will be able to learn more about other cultures, and be more creative in their outlook to life and expression.

Amongst us today, 14-year-old Razali is one of many children who have benefited from the dedicated attention that he receives from Grace Orchard School, which is a special school for children with mild intellectual disability and autism.

With the help of his teachers, Razali has improved tremendously in his reading ability within the last one year.

In fact, I was told that he even asked for more difficult homework to challenge himself!

Razali is also a member of the school's Reaching Excellence through Circus Arts (RECA) programme, and has performed at numerous public occasions, including one before our President S R Nathan recently!

Once a shy boy around strangers, I believe Razali has found his own way of expressing himself, through his plate spinning, juggling and diabolo routines.

Besides the Grace Orchard School, we are supporting 19 other programmes, which serve the special needs of children who may be limited in their intellectual and physical abilities, and youth who are at risk, or lack adequate family support for their well-being and development.

The children and youth of today will be our leaders of tomorrow. While our contribution to the charity programmes may provide some financial relief, I would urge all of us to play a role in supporting the integration of the marginalised children and youth into the community.

Our care and encouragement will help them see beyond the constraints of their intellectual and physical limitations, and family circumstances.

I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) for the wonderful work they have done.

Over the years, they have helped to correct many misperceptions about the beneficiaries and through their fund-raising arm, Community Chest, they have also helped to relieve the financial burden of the VWOs so that they can concentrate on providing the much needed services for the beneficiaries.

I would also like to thank NCSS for working in close consultation and partnership with the Foundation in identifying the 20 charity programmes that will receive the \$200,000 donation from us today.

We hope there will be more Razalis out there who will persevere in their pursuits.

And we want to remind everyone that we can all play a part in giving them a helping hand along the way.

Thank you and I wish you all the best in your endeavours.

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