

**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, 28 JUNE 2008, AT 4.30PM AT THE ESPLANADE THEATRE**

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Mr Edmund Tie  
Vice-Chairman of Community Chest

Dr Kwa Chong Teck  
Director of SingHealth Foundation

Associate Professor Denise Goh  
Chairperson, Children's Aid Programme

Distinguished Guests

Ladies & Gentlemen

Boys & Girls

I hope you have all enjoyed the B-Boyz & Ballerina show as much as we at SPH Foundation have in presenting it to you. Singapore is the first Asian stop for the B-Boyz & Ballerina, before they embark on their world tour.

We are also here today to present donation cheques to 20 charity programmes providing services to needy children and youth.

Today's event not only showcases the support by Singapore Press Holdings Foundation for the arts, but also our commitment to help the less fortunate in our community.

The Foundation has been organising this annual charity giving for the last four years. This year, we have extended our reach to a few new beneficiaries, among them the Child at Street 11 programme and the Tooth Fairy Fund.

The Child at Street 11 Centre was started to help give children from needy families a head start through a preschool education programme which they may otherwise have missed. Parents are encouraged to work and upgrade their skills while the Centre looks after their children. Parents pay what they can afford and the Centre raises funds to cover the rest.

Seated among the 300 over special guests here is 12-year-old Fanny Ng, who is a beneficiary of Child at Street 11. Seven years ago, Fanny's father was the sole

breadwinner, earning about \$1,000 a month as a hawker assistant while his wife stayed home to look after their three daughters. They were then living in a two-room rented flat.

Since enrolling their three daughters in Child at Street 11, the lives of the Ng family started to change for the better. Fanny's mother could work without any worry, knowing that her children are well-taken care of at the Centre.

Mr and Mrs Ng have a combined monthly income of \$1,900 and they are also proud owners of their own four-room HDB flat in Ang Mo Kio. The three girls are currently attending CHIJ St Nicholas School.

Today, Fanny attends the before and after school programme at the Centre and she is also the President of the Child at Street 11 Alumni, which organises activities such as Sports Day and gatherings for alumni members.

The young beneficiaries of the Tooth Fairy Fund have more reasons to smile too. Some of these young patients have complex medical conditions such as cancers, facial deformities or other inherited conditions, which require costly multi-disciplinary care that stretch over a long period of time. Others are in financial hardship and unable to pay for much needed treatment.

With the donation from the SPH Foundation, we hope that the Tooth Fairy Fund can continue to provide financial aid to these patients who may not be able to afford basic dental treatment.

The children and youth of today will be our leaders of tomorrow. While our contribution to the charity programmes will 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, SingHealth Foundation and NUH Patientcare Charity Fund, for the wonderful work they have done, and continue to do.

Let us all do our part to make this world a better place for our children. And to the children and youths here today, may you gain inspiration from these 19 B-boys and B-girls, to be creative in your own ways. And may you too, be a role model to someone someday, just like Fanny.

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