

**WELCOME REMARKS BY SINGAPORE RED CROSS CHAIRMAN,
MR TAN KAI HOE AT THE SINGAPORE RED CROSS AWARDS
AT YWCA FORT CANNING ON 6 NOVEMBER 2021**

President Halimah Yacob, Patron of the Singapore Red Cross

Our supporters, donors, volunteers, members, council members, staff, family and friends of the Singapore Red Cross,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning. It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to the Singapore Red Cross Awards 2021. Today's ceremony is the first of three, which will recognise more than 100 volunteers, members, supporters, staff and partner organisations, whose support over the past two years gave help and hope to communities in need.

On behalf of the Singapore Red Cross, I would like to thank our Patron, President Halimah Yacob, for honouring us with her presence today. When the President learnt we've had to split the ceremony into three sessions due to the safe management measures, she offered to deliver a speech and to sign off each certificate. We are very touched by this gesture - thank you, Madam President.

The last two years have been very challenging for everyone. Globally, the COVID-19 outbreak has cost lives, strained healthcare systems and disrupted businesses across several sectors, fuelling unemployment and economic hardships. Locally, the pandemic has widened social gaps and exposed vulnerabilities.

In response, the SRC not only scaled up our operations to support seniors and disabled persons, families-in-need and at-risk youth and migrant workers but also launched new initiatives to build resilience. These programmes, which include psychosocial support, training in psychological first aid, employability training and pandemic preparedness, are aimed at reaching out to more people, both in Singapore and abroad. To deliver these humanitarian services in 2020, we disbursed over \$23 million, and mobilised more than 3,300 SRC volunteers and invested close to 20,000 man-hours. We estimate that our aid impacted about 34,000 people at home and 1.5 million people abroad. These efforts have been generously funded by our donors and are coordinated and rolled out with the support of our dedicated staff, members and volunteers. I thank all of you for your unwavering support and trust in the Singapore Red Cross.

We are especially grateful for all who stepped forward to make a special contribution with their time, talent and financial resources to support our COVID-19 response efforts. This year, we have introduced a special award category - the United for Humanity Awards - to pay tribute to the numerous stakeholders who have made invaluable contributions to our COVID-19 response.

I would like to take this opportunity to make a special mention of our partners and supporters present today:

- The **Singapore Totalisator Board** and **Rolex Singapore** will be conferred the **Humanitarian Award**, the highest honour of this year's ceremony. Both organisations have made impactful grants and gifts to the Singapore Red Cross over the years.
- **Distinguished Service Award** winner Mr Xavier Castellanos of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, for his partnership, support and advice, especially in advancing our international response.
- Recipients of the **Outstanding Service Awards** - Ms Emily Tan, Mr Laurence Goh, Dr Patrick Tan and Ms Terene Seow - for their immense contributions to the SRC through their exemplary work in the Council and Oversight Committees over the years.
- **Distinguished Friends of Singapore Red Cross** - Barclays, Fairprice Foundation, Portcullis and SMRT, and the 12 **Friends of Singapore Red Cross** for their invaluable gifts of time, talent, financial resources and their voice.
- The six youth leaders who will be receiving the prestigious **President's Youth Award**: Amos, Chow Yin, Yu Ping, Umairah, Tricia and Hena. They were nominated among hundreds of passionate Red Cross Youth, all of whom we are very proud of.

Thank you all, for your dedication to the Red Cross mission and your invaluable support and contributions.

As an independent, self-funded, charitable organisation, we depend on volunteers, partners, fundraisers, donors and supporters to advance our humanitarian cause. The impact of your actions is far greater and more lasting than you can imagine. Each one of you is a true hero.

As we forge ahead, let us be reminded of why we serve, and why we continue to do what we do - to serve the most vulnerable amongst us. I thank you for your support and call upon your continued partnership for humanity.

Thank you.