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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Giving Family Festival

- ***A platform for Singapore to Play, Bond, and Give Back to the Community***

The Giving Family Festival will take place on **4-5 November 2017** at **Singapore Sports Hub, OCBC Square** to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of TOUCH Community Services, a not-for-profit charitable organisation.

Graced by Guest-Of-Honour, Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, the fundraiser aims to raise \$1 million in support of TOUCH's work among youths-at-risk, disadvantaged seniors, people with special needs and vulnerable families, as well as encourage a spirit of compassion and giving in families to help build Singapore towards a Giving Nation.

Featuring three zones – Bonding Avenue, Giving Boulevard and The Playground – *The Giving Family Festival* will feature more than 30 booths and stalls housing exciting carnival games, rides, merchandise and mouthwatering bites sprawled across 2175sqm of open space.

A community effort, *The Giving Family Festival* will also see corporates and schools banding together to partner TOUCH to support a worthy cause. F&B players such as Ah Gong's Muah Chee, d'Good Café, Dandelion, The Bakery Chef, and Word Bistro will be providing carnival-goers with delicious treats; J'Kids Amusement will be bringing in a curated selection of carnival rides; My Gym will provide a safe environment for children aged 10 months to 5 years to experience gym exercises with its custom-made state-of-the-art equipment; while Believer Music, Cherie Hearts, the National Junior Chef Team, Shop Rohn, Sing See Soon Floral & Landscape, and The Lettering Workbook will run an array of fun and creative workshops for those interested in acquiring new skills, all in the name of charity.

In the spirit of social entrepreneurship, nine student teams from four local secondary schools will put their business plans to action and set up shop alongside seasoned businesses at *The Giving Family Festival*. The students will be offering game experiences, a flea market, as well as merchandise such as potted plants, quirky tote bags, notebooks, and handcrafted bookmarks and keychains. All funds raised by the students will go towards services that benefit the clients of TOUCH.

Says Mr Lawrence Khong, Founding Chairman of TOUCH, "TOUCH believes that the best form of support for the disadvantaged is found in the community. And societal needs can be best met if the community is made up of many Giving Families. That's why we decided to organise *The Giving Family Festival* in celebration of TOUCH's 25th Anniversary. We wanted to create a platform where members of the community can play and bond with their loved ones, and give to

support our work. We hope to spark a movement of families giving together to build Singapore as a Giving Nation.”

Adding to Day 2 of the festivities are two highlight events – Run & Raisin’ 2017 and the 25th Anniversary Celebration of TOUCH Diabetes Support.

About Run & Raisin’ 2017

A charity run, Run & Raisin 2017 benefits over 500 children from low-income and single-parent families under TOUCH Young Arrows. Some 1,800 participants have signed up for the 10km Competitive Run, 5km Fun Run or the 500m Family Run.

About TOUCH Diabetes Support’s 25th Anniversary Celebration

TOUCH Diabetes Support (TDS) celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year and will be marking this milestone with a series of activities at *The Giving Family Festival* which coincides with Diabetes Awareness Month.

As part of the celebration, a team of 27 cyclists comprising members and volunteers of TDS will be covering some 85km across six hospitals in a cycling fundraiser in support of TDS. The cyclists who will end their fundraiser at *The Giving Family Festival* have raised some \$30,000 in support of TDS’ work in fighting the War on Diabetes.

This event will mark the launch of a three-year partnership between TDS and AstraZeneca, a leading Pharmaceutical Company focused on multi-pronged solutions to address the challenge of Diabetes globally, as one of its priorities. This partnership will see AstraZeneca coming in as part of the diabetes community to provide \$100,000 in funding towards new initiatives that will be launched by TDS in the coming years.

Says Mr How Ti-Hwei, Country President of AstraZeneca Singapore, “TDS has been a leader in supporting patients with Diabetes for the past 25 years. Prevention and management of diabetes is an important part of our work in AstraZeneca. We are truly honoured to be the Preferred Partner with TDS, as it expands its scope and services in support of Singapore’s War on Diabetes.”

The highlight of TDS’ 25th Anniversary Celebration is the Blue Circle Moment which will see over 100 TDS members, partners and invited guests coming together to form the Blue Circle – the universal symbol for diabetes – with blue balloons.

Says Chief Executive Officer of TOUCH, Mr James Tan, who is also a member of the Diabetes Prevention & Care Taskforce helmed by the Minister of Health, “The War on Diabetes is real and needs to be addressed urgently. For the past 25 years, TOUCH has been providing support to individuals living with diabetes and has spared no effort in fighting and raising awareness of the condition. However, we cannot do this alone and we are grateful for the various partnerships we have with the community in this War on Diabetes.”

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ABOUT TOUCH COMMUNITY SERVICES

TOUCH Community Services is a not-for-profit charitable organisation, dedicated to meeting the needs of children from low-income or single-parent families, youths-at-risk, needy families, people with special and healthcare needs, and the frail elderly. Through its network of 18 services, TOUCH is committed to serving people of all ages, races, religions and backgrounds. Each year, its programmes and services meet the needs of more than 28,000 clients and 212,000 service users. For more information on TOUCH, please visit www.touch.org.sg.

ABOUT TOUCH DIABETES SUPPORT

TOUCH Diabetes Support (TDS) was formed in 1992 to reach out to people living with diabetes. TDS focuses on building a community of care and support in helping people with diabetes cope with the challenges of living with diabetes. Diabetes self-management education and lifestyle counselling are weaved into its various programmes and activities. TDS has organised many firsts for the diabetes community such as the Mini Triathlon and *Project Discovery* series which promote good diabetes management through sporting challenges and adventure learning, as well as *Walk With Diabetes* and *Y-Diabetes* which are unique public diabetes awareness programmes in Singapore.