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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Over \$1 million raised for vulnerable families and persons in need
at TOUCH Community Services' 30th Anniversary Charity Gala**

Singapore, 23 September 2022 – Over \$1 million was raised in support of some 229,000 beneficiaries of TOUCH Community Services ("TOUCH" or "触爱社会服务") at the social service agency's *Dare to Dream Charity Gala*.

The proceeds raised will go towards programmes such as mental wellness education and support for youths and vulnerable families; mentoring, counselling and intervention therapy for at-risk youths; character-building and education programmes for children from lower-income families; lifeskills coaching for persons with special needs; and initiatives to support disadvantaged seniors to live dignified lives and age-in-place within the community.

The *Dare to Dream Charity Gala* was held at The Ritz Carlton, Millenia Singapore in celebration of TOUCH's 30th anniversary and was graced by Guest-of-Honour, Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for National Development & Minister-in-charge of Social Services Integration. Guests included sponsors, corporate and community partners, and beneficiaries of TOUCH.

Founding Chairman of TOUCH, Mr Lawrence Khong (邝健雄), said, "TOUCH started from a simple beginning with a big dream. What set that dream in motion 30 years ago was a simple step taken by seven young volunteers to help children from vulnerable families. This small attempt has today become a multi-service organisation with an integrated network of services located across various touchpoints in Singapore. I am grateful for the partners, sponsors and volunteers who believed in TOUCH and who have journeyed with us to make this dream of transforming lives a reality."

Illustrating lives transformed was a unique two-dimensional dance performance inspired by true stories of the beneficiaries of TOUCH who have displayed grit and courage in rising above their circumstances – one of them being 24-year-old Ms Belinda Koh. As a teenager, Belinda suffered from low self-esteem. Defeated by years of being bullied in school, she was demoralised and withdrawn. That all changed when she was introduced to TOUCH's youth development centre, Aptitude at ITE College East. Through guidance and encouragement from the youth workers, Belinda was challenged to step out of her comfort zone. She grew steadily in confidence, joined a centre-based Interest Group in wedding planning, and even took on emceeing roles. Today, Belinda has blossomed with confidence and is open to making new friends and trying new things in life. She has also chosen to pay it forward as a youth worker in TOUCH to impact the lives of other youths in the community.

While the charity gala was a celebration of the lives that TOUCH had impacted over the past 30 years, it also represented the commitment of TOUCH's vision in this continuing journey of transforming lives.

TOUCH CEO, Mr James Tan (陈锦耀), said, "Looking ahead, there is still much work to be done in the community as the needs of society continue to evolve. Be it vulnerable families coping with evolving family structures, greater caregiving needs of an ageing population and those with special needs, the holistic wellness of the community, and mentoring for the younger generation; ultimately, it is the

people who matter. And they are the ones whom we will continue to serve and reach out to as society progresses. As we step into a new decade, TOUCH remains committed to the mission of inspiring hope and impacting lives.”

Apart from the unique two-dimensional dance performance, guests were treated to a four-course dinner designed around the elements of dreams, a newly launched short film by TOUCH titled ‘The Human Touch’, and a performance by world-renowned composer, concert pianist and Steinway Artist, Julian Gargiulo. TOUCH also named and unveiled an orchid hybrid, the Papilionanda TOUCH Triginta, at the gala to commemorate 30 years of serving the community.

Members of the public who would like to support the work of TOUCH by making a donation may do so at <https://tinyurl.com/TOUCHAnniFund>.

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ABOUT TOUCH COMMUNITY SERVICES

Since 1992, TOUCH Community Services has served people of all ages, races and religions to see sustainable change and transformation in their lives. It believes in the worth and potential of every child, youth at-risk, family in need, senior and person with special or healthcare needs to grow, participate and contribute in the community. The heartbeat of TOUCH is to **activate potential, build independence, connect people, and deliver impact** by developing sustainable solutions in society. For more information on TOUCH, please visit www.touch.org.sg