MEDIA RELEASE

Five Charities Honoured at the Charity Governance Awards 2014

Five charities were honoured at the annual Charity Governance Awards (CGA) held on the evening of 13 November 2014 at The Joyden Hall, Bugis+. The Handicaps Welfare Association and Methodist Welfare Services were conferred top honours for the medium and large award category respectively. They received a plaque and cash prize of $10,000 each from Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Social and Family Development at the awards ceremony.

Special Commendation Awards were also awarded to three other charities for doing well in specific areas of governance. They are namely Ren Ci Hospital, RSVP Singapore – The Organisation of Senior Volunteers and SATA CommHealth.

At the awards ceremony, Mrs Fang Ai Lian, Chairman of the Charity Council, also provided an update on the proposed Charity Transparency Ratings (CTR), which was announced in February this year at the inaugural Charity Governance Conference. She said “We had since consulted close to 200 representatives from charities, professional agencies, corporate donors and grant makers. The Council would be adopting a multi-pronged approach, which includes the use of the CTR framework, to improve the governance and transparency level in the charity sector.

- In the first few years, the CTR framework will be rolled out in the form of a checklist for charities’ self-assessment purposes. The longer term plan is to use the CTR framework for public rating when the sector is more ready.
- A new category of Awards will be introduced at the next CGA for the purpose of recognising charities with good disclosure practices.
- The Council will also be stepping up outreach efforts to help weaker charities improve their disclosure and governance capabilities.

We will share more when the revised CTR framework and details of the rollout plan are ready.”

Mrs Fang also shared that the Governance Evaluation Checklist (GEC)¹ and annual report of all charities will be available for public access on the Charity Portal, starting from 1 July 2015. This initiative will complement the efforts of the Charity

¹ The new requirement will apply to all registered charities to which the Code of Governance applies. Currently, only the Institutions of a Public Character are required to disclose GECs online.
Council in promoting transparency in the charity sector, which will also help our donors and members of the public in making more informed giving decisions.

5 Mr Chan, who was the Guest-of-Honour for the event, noted the Charity Council's multi-pronged approach in raising transparency and governance standards in the charity sector. Minister Chan said “I am happy with these developments. Indeed, good governance means being accountable. By being clear about your programmes and activities, and providing proper disclosures on how you manage your finances and other areas, you show that you have confidence in sharing how your charity is being governed and managed. This will in turn enhance the confidence and support from your stakeholders.”

6 CGA is organised by the Charity Council in partnership with the Asia Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy (ACSEP) of the National University of Singapore (NUS) Business School. Shared Services for Charities, a charitable organisation, is the sponsoring partner of the event.

7 For media enquiries, please contact the relevant parties listed below:

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THE CHARITY COUNCIL
13 November 2014

Enclosed: Annex A - About the Charity Council, Charity Governance Awards and the Judging Panel of CGA 2014
About the Charity Council

The Council was set up in October 2006 to promote a culture of good governance and self-regulation in the charity sector. It seeks to be a:

i. **Promoter** - Encouraging the adoption of good governance standards and best practices, enhance public confidence in the charity sector;

ii. **Enabler** - Building the governance capabilities of charities to enable them to comply with regulatory requirements and enhance public accountability of charities; and

iii. **Advisor** - Advising the Commissioner of Charities (COC) on key regulatory issues where there may be broad-ranging impact on the charity sector.

About the Charity Governance Awards

The Charity Governance Awards (CGA) recognises charities that have adopted the highest standards of governance. An initiative of the Charity Council, CGA aims to promote good governance in the charity sector by acknowledging the excellent work of charities, while inspiring others to emulate their best practices.

There are three award categories:

- **Small Category**
  (Charities or Institutions of a Public Character (IPCs) with gross annual receipts of less than $1 million in the 2 immediate preceding financial years)

- **Medium Category**
  (Charities / IPCs with gross annual receipts of between $1 million and $10 million in the 2 immediate preceding financial years)

- **Large Category**
  (Charities / IPCs with gross annual receipts of $10 million or more in the 2 immediate preceding financial years)
To be eligible for nominations, the organisation must:

- Be a registered charity and / or IPC which has been in operation in Singapore for at least three years as at 30 April 2014
- Have complied with the Code of Governance for Charities and IPCs (January 2011 edition) based on the latest Governance Evaluation Checklist
- Not be a main category winner in the last 3 years

Self-nomination is allowed. For more information about CGA, please refer to the “Guide To Charity Governance Awards” available at the Charity Council website (http://www.charitycouncil.org.sg).

About the CGA 2014 Judging Panel

The judging process for the Charity Governance Awards were facilitated by the independent partner, ACSEP, and a judging panel of five professionals from the private and people sector, namely:

i. Mr Lim Chu Chong, Managing Director and Head (SME Banking), DBS Bank
ii. A/P Mak Yuen Teen, NUS Business School, National University of Singapore
iii. Mr Sim Guan Seng, Managing Partner, Baker Tilly TFW LLP
iv. Ms Joy Tan, Partner, WongPartnership LLP
v. Ms Yap Su-Yin, CEO, Tan Chin Tuan Foundation