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HEALTH MINISTER KHAW BOON WAN FLAGS OFF CHARITY WALK AND PAINTS A LANDSCAPE COW IN SUPPORT OF HOME NURSING FOUNDATION

- Over 650 to walk 3 km for the elderly
- Pre-school children, healthcare organizations, and corporations help raise nearly s\$150,000
- Money raised will go towards subsidizing the nursing costs of our frail elderly patients, and to enable us to provide additional assistance to our needy patients.

Singapore, 14 November 2009 - The nursing and healthcare community together with pre-school children, corporations and individuals turned up in force to help raise nearly S\$150,000 for Home Nursing Foundation's ("HNF") fun and fit Charity Walk at the East Coast Park this Saturday morning. The money raised will be used to subsidize the nursing costs of its frail elderly patients and enable them to provide additional assistance to their needy patients.

Health Minister Khaw Boon Wan, who flagged off the event at 7.30am at East Coast Park, Dalbergia Green, joined the 650 people who turned up for the three-kilometre walk.

As part of the fund-raising efforts, Mr. Khaw together with HNF president, Mrs. Fang Ailian, Dr T. Chandroo, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Modern Montessori International Group and Mr. Ng Chee Soon, President and Managing Director of Sennheiser Electronic Asia Pte Ltd, also painted the final touches to some landscape cows after the walk.

The five landscape cows sported different looks – ranging from a cow with hearts, a "flying cow" to the world's first "audiophile cow" wearing the world's best headphones. The innovative themes are the creations of pre-school children and Chief Executive Officers of local and global companies.

The five cows, donated by Moove Media Pte Ltd, the advertising arm of Comfort Delgro, have been adopted by Modern Montessori International, The Sennheiser Group, Little Village on the Grange, Singapore Health Services (Singhealth) and Goh Foundation. Each of the sponsors contributed \$5,000 to HNF, while Goh Foundation contributed \$10,000.

Mrs. Fang Ai Lian, HNF President who led the walk said: "We are grateful to have the support and participation of the various hospitals and organizations. This Walk aims to inform the public of our commitment to work closely with the major healthcare providers to make the transition from hospital to home care smoother for our elderly patients and their caregivers. We are also glad to see the spontaneity and enthusiasm of the children, corporations and individuals to help the elderly and less fortunate. We need \$3.6 million a year, of which \$1.5 million will come from fundraising and donations, to provide nursing care to our 4600 patients.

We also want to thank Health Minister Khaw Boon Wan for gracing our event as Guest of Honor. His presence shows the close relationship between the Ministry of Health and Voluntary Welfare Organisations like HNF as we work on ways to better deal with the ageing population.

In our daily pursuit to make ends meet, we mustn't forget that Singapore has a large group of frail elderly who need our continuous support and care as well. It is only with the support of the community that HNF can continue to provide nursing care to allow the elderly sick to remain in their homes. We also need more volunteers to come forward to provide emotional and social support to the elderly and their caregivers."

The population of Singapore is aging and the number of residents over the age of 65 will triple from the current 300,000 to 900,000 by 2030.

Dr T. Chandroo, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Modern Montessori International Group, said: "As Singapore's population continues to increase in age, the role of HNF will become even more significant and we should therefore all give solid support for this worthy cause. Through this activity, we would like to cultivate the right values among our students. At MMI, we do not just focus on academic development, but also social responsibility and care for the community we live in".

Mr. Ng Chee Soon of Sennheiser Asia took three hours to craft the unique touches to the landscape cow with the Sennheiser's wireless RS 180 headphone, and dressed it up in musical tunes. Commenting on his strokes of creativity, Mr. Ng said, "Sennheiser believes in contributing back to society to make the world a better place for all. With this audiophile cow, we hope to bring some cheer to the elderly sick and to raise awareness for a good cause. The audiophile cow we have designed is intended to highlight the wonders of music.

Ms Vicki Teo, Director of Little Village said: "The "Flying Cow" theme is a reminder that 'Nothing is Impossible'. Part of our mission at Little Village is developing the children's character so that they will become confident and caring individuals. As such, when we heard about this project, it was natural for our 5 to 6 year old class to consider taking it up as one of their community projects. It was easy to explain the work of the Home Nursing Foundation, and to encourage the children to be a part of this noble cause."

The Charity Walk 2009 highlights the close collaboration between HNF and the various hospitals and healthcare partners.

The majority of HNF patients are elderly aged 60 and above. They are frail, semi-ambulant or bed-bound and suffer from chronic ailments such as stroke, heart diseases, high blood pressure and diabetes.

HNF services include wound dressing, changing of feeding tubes and urinary catheters, stoma care, administration of injections, health education and care givers training. Since its establishment in 1976, its nurses have made over 1.1 million home visits. In 2008/09, HNF carried some 30,000 home visits.

Apart from the charity walk, HNF will also provide the first 200 participants aged above 30 a free health screening service at the event.

As part of HNF's public education programme, HNF is teaming up with the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases Association (Singapore) ("COPDAS") to educate the public about HNF services and one of the chronic conditions affecting the elderly. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, or COPD, is a long term and potentially fatal lung disease where the airways are blocked, causing permanent breathing difficulties. COPD is currently the eighth largest single cause of death in Singapore. COPDAS will also be having a booth, with exhibits and games on the day of the event, as well as screening for early detection of the condition.

About Home Nursing Foundation (HNF)

Home Nursing Foundation (HNF) is a registered charity organisation that provides home nursing services to the home-bound with a focus on the elderly in the community. The Foundation was set up in October 1976 by Dr Toh Chin Chye, the former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health, to provide affordable and quality home nursing services for the elderly sick. The current President of Home Nursing Foundation is Mrs Fang Ai Lian.

Home Nursing Foundation is the discipline of nursing in which a trained nurse will administer nursing care in the patient's own home. With a team of highly professional and empathetic nurses, they can each visit an average of 7 patients per day.

Home Nursing Foundation's services include wound dressing, changing of feeding tubes and urinary catheters, stoma care, administration of injections, medication packing, health monitoring, health education and care giver training. Since its establishment in 1976, the nurses have made over 1.1 million home visits.

About Modern Montessori International Group (“MMI”):

The Modern Montessori International Group (MMI) is set up in 1989, and it is one of Asia's leading pre-school education with a truly global brand and presence. MMI currently has over 70 pre-schools and teacher-training centers in the world.

The MMI brand name is equated with a stamp of quality and assurance. MMI achieved many prestigious accreditations like ISO 9001:2000, Singapore Quality Class (SQC), Singapore Quality Class for Private Education Organizations (SQC-PEO), Singapore Franchise Mark, Open and Distance Learning Quality Council Accreditation (UK), British Accreditation Council, (BAC), etc.

Today, MMI has made inroads into more than 10 countries across Asia such as Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, China and Australia. The vast experience accumulated in the last 20 years has ensured smooth replication of business and operation models in those countries.

Website: www.modern-montessori.com

About Sennheiser Electronic Asia Pte Ltd

Fully owned by Sennheiser electronic GmbH & Co. in Germany, Sennheiser Asia was formed in 1992 to oversee the entire Asian market and coordinate activities with distributors in Korea, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia and the islands of Maldives and Mauritius. Sennheiser Asia has acquired a strong foothold in the region for all its business segments, which include music/theatre, broadcast, film/studio, consumer, conference, audiology, aviation and call centre. Its product range also encompasses other globally recognized brands such as L'Acoustic, Klein + Hummel and Neumann, enabling the company to compete as a total solutions provider.

Website: www.sennheiserasia.com

About Little Village on the Grange:

Little Village was established in 2007 to provide an oasis in the city for children (18 months to 6 years old) to grow and learn among nature and wide open spaces, in an atmosphere of mutual respect, with both physical and psychological safety. Little Village's teaching philosophy is founded on the uncompromising belief that a child's early childhood experiences will form the foundation of their future success as healthy, confident, productive, and caring individuals.

Nestled in greenery at the edge of the city, the children create their own hustle and bustle with hands-on experiments, discussions, constructions, discoveries and challenges, both indoors and out. Little Village creates a unique environment for dedicated professionals in Early Childhood Education to be advocates for children and their families, and a shared ambition to provide an emotionally intelligent culture, that allows our children to play, learn and grow in a sustainable environment.

Website: www.littlevillage.com.sg

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