



For Immediate Release

Act of shaving brings hope to children with cancer
Record breaking number of shavees at Hair for Hope

Singapore, 23 July 2011- Into its 9th consecutive year, Children's Cancer Foundation (CCF)'s annual signature event, Hair for Hope (HfH), has attracted more than 1,400 individuals who have registered to be shaved over the weekend at VivoCity. This is the highest recorded over the years, a testimony to the strong community support for children with cancer and their families.

Prior to the two-day head-shaving event, more than 1,000 individuals have already shaved at 12 satellite events held at corporations or institutions of learning in the months of June and July. Another 15 satellite events will be held in August where at least 800 are expected to shave.

Among the courageous shavees is 15-year-old childhood cancer survivor, Jatin A Khemlani, a fourth time shavee who is shaving to show children with cancer that it is OK to be bald.

Jatin was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia in 1998 when he was two-and-a-half years old. His act of shaving is an expression of his gratitude for the love and care that he received during his diagnosis and treatment. It is also to bring hope to children who are battling cancer. Jatin first participated in a Hair for Hope satellite event held in his school, St Patrick's Secondary, in 2008. Since then, he has been participating in Hair for Hope every year to show his support for children with cancer.

Jatin will be shaved by the **Minister for Health, Mr Gan Kim Yong**, who will grace the Hair for Hope Main Event on 23rd July 2011. CCF Patron, Associate Professor Ho Peng Kee and Chairperson of CCF, Dr Tay Miah Hiang, will also join in the ceremony by shaving the head of two female shavees - CCF Senior Programme Coordinator, Goh Ai Ling and Carolyn Teo, a member of the public.

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"As a childhood cancer survivor, I would like to do as much as possible for children with cancer to show them that they are not alone in the battle," says Jatin.

Working at the CCF Family Resource Centre located at KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Ai Ling conducts social and recreational activities and play sessions for children with cancer. The fourth time shavee says, "I work with children very closely, and I hope to be an example to show them that there is nothing wrong to be bald. It warms my heart when the children are thrilled and happy to see me bald."

Carolyn, a first time shavee has raised more than \$21,000 through pledges of support for her shaving, making her the top female shavee with the highest amount raised. After a close shave with death from major complications after the birth of her second child, Carolyn resolved to reach out to help the less fortunate. "Life is really fragile, and I have made a promise to myself to make life meaningful by giving to those who are in need," says Carolyn.

Chairperson of CCF, Dr Tay Miah Hiang remarks, "We are glad that Hair for Hope has grown to become a rallying point for the community to show their support for children who are battling courageously against cancer. It is encouraging to see more volunteers coming forward to support this good cause and we applaud their dedication to be there for children with cancer. "

Hair for Hope 2011 is made possible through the kind support of VivoCity - Official Venue Partner, Jean Yip Group - Official Stylists, SMRT Media - Official Outdoor Media Partner, Radio 100.3 - Supporting Radio Station, Hotfusion - Official Design Partner; supporting partners - Jollibean Foods Pte Ltd and Toteboard and Singapore Turf Club; and corporate volunteers - Credit Suisse AG and UniCredit Bank AG.

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About Children's Cancer Foundation (CCF)

Children's Cancer Foundation (CCF) is a non-profit organization impassioned with the mission of improving the quality of lives of children with cancer and their families through enhancing their emotional, social and medical well-being. Since 1996, CCF has helped more than 1,980 children and their families at its Resource Centre located at KK Women's & Children's Hospital (KKH) and the National University Hospital (NUH) providing them the much needed support in their battle against the life-threatening illness.

CCF has adopted an integrated hospital-home-community service model for children and youths with cancer and their families to efficiently assist them through the different stages of the illness and recovery and provide opportunities to develop new areas of services.

For a full list of our services and programmes, visit us at www.ccf.org.sg.

About Childhood Cancer

In Singapore, about 100 new cases of childhood cancer are reported every year. Among the type of cancers affecting children, the most common are leukaemia, lymphomas, brain tumours and solid tumours.

These children under the age of 19 have to go through a rigorous treatment regime. Besides the physical pain caused by cancer and its treatment, young patients often feel isolated because of the withdrawal from school and prolonged stay in the hospital. Cancer is a debilitating illness that takes its toll, physically, emotionally and mentally, not only on the child but also on his or her family. We appeal for community support to help them cope with their needs at different stages of the illness. We can all play our part to facilitate reintegration of children with cancer back to our community.