

News Release for the Editor's Desk

Singapore's participation in International Childhood Cancer Day 2006

- 250,000 children worldwide diagnosed with cancer annually!

Singapore (9 February 2006) – For the new cases that were diagnosed in 2005, in which the Children's Cancer Foundation (CCF) serviced beneficiaries between 0-17 yrs of age, children between 0-6 yrs old constituted the bulk of children with cancer – 55%. In all, a total of 500 cases were served by CCF in 2005 up from 463 in 2004. Leukemia cases diagnosed were the highest at 45%, followed by solid tumours (19%) and brain tumours (16%). The rest of the diagnosed cases include lymphoma, sarcomas and non-malignant diseases.

The Children's Cancer Foundation had 21 children who underwent bone marrow transplants in 2005, a similar figure in 2004. These children and their families benefited from the individualised programmes conducted by their respective social workers and counsellors, as well as receiving financial assistance from the foundation childhood cancer marrow transplant programme fund.

To raise awareness of childhood cancer, CCF is organising the Gold Ribbon Pin campaign. 150,000 Gold Ribbon Pin 3-in-1 bookmarks have been produced and are specially packed by students from 20 primary and secondary schools, which will be in turn distributed island-wide by student volunteers from Chua Chu Kang Secondary and other organisations. Members of the public are encouraged to wear the Gold Ribbon Pin on 15 February 2006, which is designated as International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD). The Gold Ribbon Pin Bookmarks are given away free to the public to educate and allow them to understand children with cancer and their families.

*The Gold Ribbon Pin Bookmarks will be distributed at the National Library Branches (13-15 Feb 06), CapitaLand Shopping Malls and selected areas in the Central Business District (15 Feb 06).
See Appendix A for the full list of locations.

In conjunction with ICCD, the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has also adopted CCF as the fringe project for "Arts from the Heart 2006". Volunteers from NTU's Cultural Activities Club constructed a 1.6m tall Gold Ribbon Sculpture and a large photo collage for this year's fund-raising. Both structures will be presented to Dr Tan Ah Moy (*Head & Senior Consultant, KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Advisor of CCF*) at the KK Women's and Children's Hospital on 13 Feb 06. Photographers and Media partners are invited to attend this ceremony.

In addition, NIE 20 Hearts - a choral group from the National Institute of Education (NIE) has specially composed a song "*Wish you are here*", that is dedicated to ICCD 2006 as part of their childhood cancer project.

"Wish you are Here" is the official ICCD song and is uploaded on www.ccf.org.sg/iccd

Said Mr Simon Lala, Chairman of the International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organisations (ICCCPO), "The Children's Cancer Foundation in Singapore plans to commemorate the International Childhood Cancer Day on 15 February 2006 by giving the Gold Ribbon Pin Bookmarks to the public. It is hoped that Singaporeans will become aware of the plight of children with cancer all over the world. It is estimated that globally, an estimated 250,000 children are diagnosed with cancer annually, yet only 20% receive adequate treatment".

Noted Mr Samuell Ang, Executive Director, Children's Cancer Foundation "I am proud to report that the Children's Cancer Foundation in Singapore is a leader in the Asian region in supporting children with cancer and their families. I believe all children with cancer in Singapore receive first class treatment and care, much of which can be credited to the work of the Children's Cancer Foundation.

Notes to Editor

International Childhood Cancer Day

The International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organisations (ICCCPO) was founded in Spain in 1994, and International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) was declared in Luxemburg in September 2001. There are about 76 ICCCPO members in 56 countries and each country will be organising their own events to commemorate ICCD. This is Singapore's second year participating in the International Childhood Cancer Day Campaign and for ICCD this year, the thrust is on Public Education.

The gold ribbon is the official ribbon of children with cancer worldwide. It is supported, recognised and promoted by hundreds of organisations and treatment centers, families, friends, and caregivers including the National Childhood Cancer Foundation, Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses, Children's Oncology Camp Association, the Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation and its chapters worldwide.

About Children's Cancer Foundation

Children's Cancer Foundation (CCF) has helped more than 1,200 children and their families since its inception in 1992. CCF is an independent Voluntary Welfare Organisation (VWO) that helps children with cancer below 17 years old. Its mission is to improve the quality of life of children with cancer and their families through enhancing their emotional, social and medical well-being.

Among the free services CCF provides are

- Counselling and Casework
- Therapeutic Play
- Parents Support Groups
- Supervised Play
- Financial Assistance
- Wishlink
- Back-to-School Programme
- Tuition and befriending programme
- Childhood Cancer Marrow Transplant Programme and
- Resource Libraries
- Bereavement Programme.

CCF has three Family Support Centres (FSCs) where counselling and other related activities take place. The FSCs are located just outside the childhood cancer ward of both the KK Women's & Children's Hospital (KKH) and the National University Hospital (NUH) for easy accessibility by children and their families. Our third FSC is located at the National Cancer Centre (Singapore General Hospital) next to the Radiation Oncology department

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Appendix A

National Library Branches (13-15 Feb 06)	CapitaLand Shopping Malls (15 Feb 06)
1. Ang Mo Kio Central Library	1. Tampines Mall
2. Bedok Central Library	2. Plaza Singapura
3. Bukit Batok Central Library	3. Liang Court
4. Bukit Merah Central Library	4. Funan DigitaLife Mall
5. Bukit Panjang Central Library	5. Bugis Junction
6. Central Library	6. Sembawang Shopping Centre
7. Choa Chu Kang Central Library	7. Rivervale Mall
8. Cheng San Central Library	8. Junction 8
9. Geylang East Central Library	9. Bukit Panjang Plaza
10. Jurong Regional Library	10. Lot 1 Shoppers' Mall
11. Jurong West Central Library	11. IMM
12. Marine Parade Central Library	12. Jurong Entertainment Centre
13. Library @ Orchard	<p><u>Central Business District Area</u> <u>(15 Feb 06, lunchtime)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outside Raffles Place MRT Station - Outside Tanjong Pagar MRT station - Fuji Xerox Building Anson Road
14. Library @ Esplanade	
15. Pasir Ris Central Library	
16. Queenstown Central Library	
17. Toa Payoh Central Library	
18. Tampines Regional Library	
19. Sembawang Central Library	
20. Seng Kang Community Library	
21. Woodlands Regional Library	
22. Yishun Central Library	