



## **News Release for the Editor's Desk**

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### **15 February 2007 - 3<sup>rd</sup> International Childhood Cancer Day in Singapore**

#### **- Young children remain the largest group of patients at the Children's Cancer Foundation (CCF)**

**Singapore (13 February 2007)** – For new cases that were diagnosed in 2006, in which the Children's Cancer Foundation (CCF) serviced beneficiaries between 0-18 years of age, children aged 0-5 years old constituted the bulk of its patients – 47%. In all, 450 families were served by CCF in 2006. In the same year a total of 4,194 counselling sessions and 2,283 therapeutic plays were conducted as part of CCF's social work interventions. Leukaemia cases diagnosed were the highest at 42%, followed by lymphomas at 11% and brain and central nervous system tumours at 7%. The rest of the diagnosed cases included sarcomas, other solid tumours and non-cancerous diseases.

In 2006, CCF provided support for 26 children who underwent bone marrow transplant procedures. These children and their families benefited from the individualised programmes conducted by their respective social workers and counsellors. In addition, some of them received financial assistance from the Foundation's Childhood Cancer Transplant Programme fund.

In our efforts to raise the level of understanding of childhood cancer among the primary school and kindergarten students, CCF is training students from Secondary Schools and Junior Colleges to be Public Education volunteers. 107 Schools were invited to participate in this "C.A.R.E. Service Learning Journey" and 14 schools have responded. CCF is anticipating that more schools will participate in 2007.

In conjunction with International Childhood Cancer Day, CCF has enlisted support from thirteen secondary schools to create 100,000 gold-cloth ribbon pins for distribution on 15 February 2007 (See Annex 1 for distribution list). Special gold ribbon metal pins are being sold at the CCF Main Office (138 Bukit Timah Road) and its Family Support Centres at the KK Women's and Children's Hospital, and National University Hospital.

The public can also do their bit for charity by making a minimum \$7 donation to obtain the CCF commemorative Combi Cashcard (no stored-value). The design and production of these cash

cards have been sponsored by NETS and all proceeds will be channelled to CCF. Through this, we hope to raise \$20,000 to organise public education outreaches.

Noted Mr Raphael Lim, Executive Director, Children's Cancer Foundation, "International Childhood Cancer Day represents an excellent opportunity to increase public awareness on the issues faced by children with cancer, not just locally but also worldwide. We believe that CCF has made a difference in the lives of our beneficiaries through the provision of a broad range of programmes and services. We will continue to also focus strongly on our public education outreaches, to heighten the awareness level of the impact of children with cancer."

#### **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 ICCCP members in 56 countries and each country will be organising their own events to commemorate ICCD. This is Singapore's third 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 around 1,300 children and their families since its inception in 1992. CCF is an independent Voluntary Welfare Organisation (VWO) that helps children with cancer below 18 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

- Casework and Counselling
- Therapeutic Play
- Parents Support Programme
- Bereavement Programme
- Financial Assistance
- Childhood Cancer Transplant Programme
- Wishlink
- Back-to-School Programme
- Tuition and Befriending Programme
- Social and Recreational Programmes

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. CCF also has a playroom located at the National Cancer Centre (Singapore General Hospital) next to the Radiation Oncology department

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## **ANNEX 1**

### **Gold – Cloth Ribbon Pins distribution venues:**

1	National University of Singapore (NUS)
2	Nanyang Technological University (NTU) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Canteens A&amp; B</li><li>- School of Humanities &amp; Social Science</li><li>- Café by the Quad</li></ul>
3	Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP)
4	Republic Polytechnic (RP)
5	Singapore Polytechnic (SP)
6	Plaza Singapura Atrium

### **Schools who created the Gold-Cloth Ribbon Pins:**

1	Meridian Junior College
2	NUS High School of Mathematics & Science
3	Chung Cheng High School (Yishun)
4	Holy Innocents High School
5	Ngee Ann Secondary School
6	Raffles Institution
7	Chua Chu Kang Secondary School
8	Jurongville Secondary School
9	Commonwealth Secondary School
10	Da Qiao Primary School
11	Concord Primary School
12	Griffiths Primary School
13	Methodist Girls' School (Primary)