



More Than 270 shavees make their bald statements at Hair for Hope 2018 kick-off at Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery

SINGAPORE (29 April 2018): More than 270 participants shave their heads to stand in solidarity with children with cancer and their families at the Hair for Hope 2018 satellite event kick-off at Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery (KMSPKS).

Hair for Hope (HfH), now into its 16th consecutive run, is an annual signature outreach event organised by the Children's Cancer Foundation (CCF). It is the only head-shaving event in Singapore that seeks to raise childhood cancer awareness and funds for CCF. Among the shavees who will be shaving bald for a good cause are childhood cancer survivor, Ang Howe Jun and four of the HfH 2018 ambassadors, Toh Yi Qin, Chua Ching Chong, Tong Yen Sng and Jeffrey Lee Chee Keong. 14-year-old CCF beneficiary, Ang Howe Jun, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia in 2008. With his cancer in remission now, Howe Jun is currently receiving CCF's Back-to-School Service to better help him integrate back to his secondary school after being away with his family in Australia for two years.

This is the second time that Howe Jun will be making his bald statement for HfH. "I decided to shave because I want to say 'Thank You' to CCF for helping me during my cancer journey. "

Ang Chee Khim, father of Howe Jun says, "I am very proud of Howe Jun for joining HfH again to show his appreciation to CCF. I will be joining him once again in the shaving to show my support for all CCF beneficiaries".

34-year-old Toh Yi Qin has been shaving his head in memory of his grandfather who succumbed to cancer seven years ago. "It's never easy to go bald due to the nature of my job as a property agent. However, having participated in Hair for Hope for so many years, it has become a routine for me to shave my head every year. I feel that this is really a simple gesture that I can do to support children with cancer," the seventh-time shavee said.



Besides showing his support through the symbolic act of shaving, Yi Qin also roped in his friends and relatives to shave at Hair for Hope over the years. One of them is his 45-year-old cousin, Chua Ching Chong, who first learnt about Yi Qin's shaving in 2012. Ching Chong then began making his bald statement since 2013, and invited his schoolmate, 43-year-old Tong Yen Sng and friend, 47-year-old Jeffrey Lee, to support the good cause in 2014. In 2017, Ching Chong also invited another of his friend, 46-year-old Wilson Ong to join them in the act of shaving.

This year, the five become the ambassadors of HfH 2018 to encourage shavees to help build a bigger community of support for children with cancer.

"Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery (KMSPKS) has been one of the top three Hair for Hope satellite partners for the past six years, raising a total of more than \$1 million for children with cancer and their families," said Neo Lay Tin, Executive Director of CCF. "CCF sincerely appreciates the strong support from the Singapore community such as KMSPKS for believing in our mission to improve the quality of life of children and families impacted by cancer. Their generous giving has enabled CCF to continue providing the much-needed support to our beneficiaries at different stages of their illness and recovery."

This is the seventh year that KMSPKS has come onboard as a HfH satellite partner. The monastery's target this year is to attract 300 shavees and raise at least \$150,000 by 30 July 2018.

"Our hearts and prayers are always with the children and their families. We hope that they will always have faith and hope within, no matter how challenging the situation is. As Buddhists, we pray for the well-being of the children and their families. With a positive outlook, one will be in better position to deal with what lies ahead while keeping all the negative emotions in check," said Venerable Sik Kwang Sheng of KMSPKS.

This year, CCF hopes to encourage at least 6,500 participants to make a bald statement and raise \$3.6 million to help children with cancer and their families. The two-day main event of Hair for Hope 2018 will be held on 28 July 2018 (Saturday) from 11am to 7pm and from 11am to 6pm on 29 July 2018 (Sunday) at VivoCity.



Hair for Hope 2018 is made possible through the kind support of Tote Board – Major Sponsor, VivoCity – Official Venue; QB Net International Pte Ltd – Official Hairstylist; MOTHERS AND SONS – Official Brand Partner; Seamless Communications – Official Digital Partner; CWT Pte. Limited – Official Logistics Partner; Singapore Press Holdings Limited, Mediacorp OOH Media – Official Digital Outdoor Media; White Paper Communications Pte Ltd – Official Print Partner; Power 98FM and 88.3Jia FM – Official Radio Stations; Selfiprint Singapore Pte Ltd – Official Photo Booth Partner; Donna iBoutique Pte Ltd, Pal Pictures – Official Partners; BLD Lifestyle Pte Ltd, Ecorganics, Hair Fitness, Heritage Hair Pte Ltd, KC Group Pte Ltd, Shunji Matsuo Pte Ltd, We Need A Hero Pte Ltd – Supporting Hairstylists.

You and your photographer/camera crew are cordially invited to the event on:

Date: 29 April 2018 (Sunday), 9.30am to 1.30pm (See attached programme)

Venue: Venerable Hong Choon Memorial Hall Hall of No Form @ Level 4

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Programme:

9.30am	Registration
10:00 am	Welcome address by Venerable Dr. Chuan Sheng and CCF Deputy Director of Community Partnerships, Ms Teo Mee Hong
10:15 am	Presentation of Certificate
10:20 am	Ceremonial shave: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCF beneficiary, Ang Howe Jun (2nd time shavee) • Hair for Hope supporter, Toh Yi Qin (7th time shavee) • Hair for Hope supporter, Chua Ching Chong (6th time shavee) • Hair for Hope supporter, Tong Yen Sng (5th time shavee) • Hair for Hope supporter, Jeffrey Lee Chee Keong (5th time shavee)
10.30 am	Group Shaving begins
1:30pm	End of programme



About Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery

Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery (KMSPKS) is a spiritual sanctuary in urban Singapore where one can learn the Buddha's teachings of wisdom and compassion; practise mindfulness; develop gratitude and cultivate happiness.

Founded in 1921, KMSPKS was the first traditional Chinese forest monastery in Singapore. Over the years, we have grown dynamically in our Dharma propagation, community involvement and religious harmony efforts. Today, we are a community of Buddhists who come together to learn, practise and share the teachings of the Buddha.

About Children's Cancer Foundation

Children's Cancer Foundation (CCF) is a non-profit organisation with a mission to improve the quality of life of children with cancer and their families and children impacted by cancer through enhancing their emotional, social and medical well-being.

Founded in 1992, CCF provides children with cancer and their families the much needed support in their battle against the life threatening illness. Over the years, CCF has helped close to 3000 children and their families at different stages of the illness and recovery.

Armed with the vision of providing leading resources and psychosocial services to children and their families impacted by childhood cancer, CCF employs caseworkers and counsellors, and adopts an integrated hospital-community-home service model to offer a spectrum of critical services to our beneficiaries.

Services offered to children with cancer and their families

- Casework and Counselling
- Therapeutic Play
- Art Therapy
- Play Therapy
- Expressive Arts Therapy
- Child Life Service
- Caregivers Support Services
- Hospital Play Services
- Survivorship Programme
- Schooling Programme
- Place for Academic Learning and Support (PALS)
- Tuition and Befriending
- Psychosocial and Recreational Activities
- Financial Assistance
- Palliative and Bereavement Service
- Very Important Brothers and Sisters (VIBS) Programme
- Children Impacted by Cancer Programme



About Hair for Hope (HfH)

HfH is the only head-shaving event in Singapore that serves to raise funds and awareness of childhood cancer. Every shaven head represents an understanding by an individual of the ordeals that a child with cancer is subjected to. By volunteering to shave, the shavees become CCF's ambassadors in spreading childhood cancer messages to their family, friends and colleagues.

Through this symbolic gesture, we aim to:

1. Create awareness of childhood cancer in Singapore
2. Show children with cancer and their families that they are not alone in their fight against cancer
3. Tell children with cancer that it is OK to be bald
4. Raise funds to help children with cancer and their families
5. Build a community of support for children with cancer and their families

The funds raised will enable CCF to continue providing critical programmes and services to assist our children with cancer and their families to cope with the needs at different stages of the illness.