



EMBARGO TILL 7.30PM, 15 MARCH 2019

March 13, 2019

HCA Hospice Care Commemorates 30th Anniversary

HCA Hospice Care (HCA) celebrates 30 years of providing hospice care to support people who are terminally ill, regardless of age, religion, ethnicity, nationality and financial status, to spend the last moments of their lives with dignity and comfort, among their loved ones.

HCA is the first organisation in Singapore dedicated to improving the care given to the dying, according to the principles of the international hospice movement. Over the three decades, HCA has grown into a full-fledged organisation providing home hospice, day hospice and paediatric palliative care through a multi-disciplinary team. The organisation is the largest home hospice care provider in Singapore and supports 3,500 patients annually through five home hospice satellite centres and two day hospice centres. Its services are provided to patients at no charge.

“Our core work has progressed in tandem with the society over the years in that the focus has been clinical excellence in symptomatic control of the life-limiting diseases,” Dr Tan Poh Kiang, President of HCA Hospice Care, says. “But dying has always been a social and spiritual matter. We must embrace the original spirit of our pioneers that once we control the medical symptoms, the priority must be to help our patients live fully and joyfully to the last breath.”

“In the next decade, our work ought to be plugged into the community with grassroots, civic organisations as well as socially conscious corporations.

“Let no one with a terminal illness feel that he has to be transferred from one medical team to another team without a comprehensive care plan. We have to be sited right at the front line where a terminally ill person begins her end-of-life journey to guide her all the way to the finish line.”

The 30th anniversary of HCA Hospice Care also marks the third decade of Singapore’s palliative care movement, started by Dr Ee Peng Liang, Dr Anne Merriman, Dr Cynthia Goh and the sisters at St Joseph’s Home. Dr Anne Merriman, Dr Cynthia Goh and the sisters subsequently formed the Hospice Care Group (HCG) – the first predecessor to the present HCA Hospice Care – to provide care for terminally ill patients and their families.

HCA 30th Anniversary Fundraising Gala Dinner

In celebration of its 30th anniversary, HCA is hosting a fundraising gala dinner on 15 March 2019. The dinner will be graced by Guest-of-Honour President Halimah Yacob and will bring together a community of supporters who have been journeying with HCA. This includes the pioneers of the Singapore’s palliative care movement, current HCA patron Mr Lim Boon Heng, corporate partners, donors, volunteers, patients and staff.

A highlight of the HCA 30th Anniversary Fundraising Gala Dinner is the inaugural photo exhibition, titled “A Good Day”, which is a collection of stories about HCA patients living while dying. The photos capture intimate glimpses of patients enjoying good days that are full of purpose and meaning.



From a retired hawker's desire to make *ang ku kueh* again to a teenaged girl's final wish to hold a book signing for her last novel, each snapshot is evocative and poignant in exploring what it means to live while dying.

Some of the featured patients and their caregivers will also be attending the event. Media interviews with selected patients can be arranged with notice.

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ABOUT HCA HOSPICE CARE

HCA Hospice Care (HCA) is Singapore's largest home hospice provider and has been a registered charity since 1989. The organisation provides comfort and support to patients with life-limiting illnesses regardless of age, religion, ethnicity, nationality and financial status.

HCA's core service, home hospice care, is provided at no charge to about 3,500 patients annually. Besides medical care for patients, this service also entails psychosocial support for patients and caregivers. A 24/7 hotline ensures help is available round-the-clock.

HCA is a NCSS Centre of Specialisation for palliative care, and conducts palliative care training for its patients' caregivers. Its other services and programmes include day hospice care, paediatric palliative care (Star PALS), bereavement support, and outreach programmes such as the Young Caregivers Programme.

Find out more at www.hca.org.sg.