

16 October 2016

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **RECORD NUMBER OF NSMEN AND FAMILIES SWAM FOR CHARITY AT SAFRA SWIM FOR HOPE 2016**

A record of close to 2,000 Operationally Ready National Servicemen (NSmen) and their families participated in the SAFRA Swim for Hope this year, raising \$101,400.80 for charity. The event, which is into its sixth edition, was held over three days at five SAFRA clubs from 14 to 16 October 2016.

For the first time, the event saw 156 parent-and-child pairs swimming for charity in the new Families for Life category. The Families for Life category was introduced this year to encourage more families to participate together and bond through the event.

Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Senior Minister of State for Defence and Deputy President of SAFRA, graced the event's finale held at SAFRA Tampines today. He presented prizes to the top three Families for Life category winners and also the top 10 individual swimmers who clocked the most number of laps in the pool.

The top individual swimmer was Mr Tan Teck Loon who clocked a total of 1,639 laps throughout the event, while the Families for Life category was won by parent-and-child pair Mr Khoo Wee Lay and his son Marcus Khoo, who together swam a total of 875 laps.

National athletes Joseph Schooling, Yip Pin Xiu and Theresa Goh also lent their support towards the fundraising effort to help the less fortunate and underprivileged.

While Singapore's first Olympic gold medallist Joseph Schooling was overseas during the event, that did not stop him from signing a limited edition event tee and contributing a copy of his newly launched book, 'Hello, My Name is Joseph Schooling', for the fundraising effort. Two limited edition event tees were also signed and contributed by Paralympic medallists Yip Pin Xiu and Theresa Goh respectively. Ms Zhang Shao Ying donated a total amount of \$6,000 to become the proud owner of the signed items.

All proceeds will be made to the event's three beneficiaries – Community Chest, the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Care Fund and Special Olympics. At the event, Dr Maliki presented the cheque to the three beneficiaries.

In addition, the event drew strong support from various SAF units with over 320 participants from the Naval Diving Unit, 191 Squadron, the Force Readiness Squadron and Personnel Command joining the swim. To show their support, Theresa Goh joined in the swim at SAFRA Mount Faber on the first day of the event on 14 October, while 20 participants from Special Olympics Singapore swam at SAFRA Toa Payoh on 15 October.

Mr Ching Wei Hong, Chairman of Families for Life Council, said, “Families for Life is honoured to be a part of SAFRA Swim for Hope and partnering with SAFRA for a worthy cause. When parents walk the talk and inculcate the value of giving back to society, we raise a next generation with strong values and a strong sense of community. This is not only a good opportunity to encourage family bonding, but also one where parents and children can do something good and meaningful together. Such shared experiences strengthen and deepen family relationships.”

Kindly refer to Annex A for the fact sheet on the event.

### **About SAFRA National Service Association**

SAFRA was formed in 1972 to provide for the social and recreational needs of NSmen and their families through quality sports, social, educational and cultural programmes to recognise NSmen for their contributions to National Defence. SAFRA currently has a network of six clubs conveniently located in Jurong, Mount Faber, Punggol, Tampines, Toa Payoh and Yishun. Complementing the modern facilities at SAFRA clubs are a host of quality membership benefits and activities specially packaged for over 370,000 members and their families.

### **About Families for Life**

Families for Life’s vision is to build strong and resilient families because that makes for stronger communities and better individual well-being.

**We Listen.** We listen to the issues that Singaporean families are facing.

**We Explore and Promote.** We bring people and organisations together to create platforms for family bonding and to engage Singaporeans in conversations about families.

**We Voice.** We voice out concerns that people have on family issues and continue this conversation with our partners and the community.

The Council is chaired by Ching Wei Hong, Chief Operating Officer of OCBC Bank. Visit us at [www.familiesforlife.sg](http://www.familiesforlife.sg).

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**SAFRA SWIM FOR HOPE 2016**  
**14 – 16 OCTOBER 2016**

**FACT SHEET**

**Background**

Introduced in 2011 by SAFRA Tampines, the event provides an opportunity for Operationally Ready National Servicemen and their families to contribute to charitable causes, while promoting fitness and bonding through swimming. The event adopts various charities each year to raise funds to help the needy. Since 2014, the charity swim event has been extended to all five SAFRA clubs to allow more participants to swim for charity and it was further extended to three days since last year.

Year	No. of participants	No. of Laps	Funds Raised	Beneficiaries	Remarks
2011	300	5,000	\$5,000	'Live That Dream' fund managed by SDSC	-
2012	320	21,898	\$20,000	Children's Cancer Foundation	Singapore Record for 'Most number of laps swam in 6 hours'
2013	402	22,637	\$20,000	Community Chest	Singapore Record for 'Most number of laps swam in 6 hours' and 'Most number of laps swam by an individual in 6 hours'
2014	1,500	72,049	\$76,925	Aquatics Heart & Hope, SAF Care Fund and Singapore Children's Society	First time the event was held across five SAFRA clubs
2015	1,700	79,038	\$98,228	Aquatics Heart & Hope, Singapore Children's Society, Community Chest, SAF Care Fund	First time event was held across 3 days and featured a marathon concept.  Singapore Record for 'Most number of laps swam in consecutive days'

## **Event Schedule**

Date	Venue	Time
Fri, 14 Oct	SAFRA Yishun	9am to 7pm
	SAFRA Mount Faber	1pm to 11pm
Sat, 15 Oct	SAFRA Jurong	8am to 6pm
	SAFRA Toa Payoh	12pm to 10pm
Sun, 16 Oct	SAFRA Tampines (Finale)	8am to 7pm

## **Beneficiaries**

### **SAF Care Fund**

The Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Care Fund is set up to provide additional Support to SAF servicemen who are severely disabled due to military service, over and above MINDEF's existing compensation and welfare frameworks. The Fund enables members of the public to make contributions and show their support to injured servicemen.

### **Community Chest**

The Community Chest is established and aligned with NCSS to ensure that every person has the opportunity to live a life of dignity to his or her fullest potential within our society. They assist in raising of funds to support charities so that they can do what they are best at - caring for and serving the less advantaged. Charities supported by the Community Chest are then able to do what they are best at – providing critical social service programmes to help children with special needs, people with disabilities, frail and lonely elderly and families facing difficulties

### **Special Olympics Singapore**

Special Olympics Singapore aims to promote and provide year round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

## Sponsors and Partners

Supported By	Families For Life Council
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