

MEDIA RELEASE

To News Editors,

RECORD NUMBER OF NATIONAL SERVICEMEN AND FAMILIES SWAM FOR CHARITY AT SAFRA SWIM FOR HOPE 2018

A record of over 2,300 national servicemen and their families participated in the SAFRA Swim for Hope this year, raising over \$154,000 for charity. Participants swam a total of 111,099 laps.

The funds raised would go towards helping persons with special needs, needy Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) servicemen and underprivileged children through three beneficiaries, including the Association for Persons with Special Needs, SAF Care Fund and Singapore Children's Society.

Into its 8th edition, the event was held over three days at four SAFRA clubs from 12 to 14 October 2018. The Open category was won by Mr Wee Boon Keat, who swam 1,350 laps across 3 days. Last year, he won second place in the same category. He said, "As a Beach Patrol Officer (Lifeguard), I swim and run daily to maintain my fitness. This is my sixth year joining the event. My family and colleagues have all been very encouraging. Sometimes my younger son and I will also swim and train together to motivate each other. It has been a good bonding opportunity for us."

The event also drew strong support from various SAF units such as the Naval Diving Unit, Guards, Navy Squadrons, Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF), Maritime Training and Doctrine Command and NALCOM with over 900 servicemen who participated in the Open category. This is more than double as compared to the 373 participants last year.

More Operationally Ready National Servicemen (NSmen) also swam together with their children this year in the Parent-and-Child category, which drew 142 pairs as compared to 122 pairs last year. The Parent-and-Child category was won by Mr Khoo Wee Lay and his 12-year-old son, Marcus Khoo, who swam a total of 1,384 laps. This is the third consecutive year that the Khoo family has participated in the SAFRA Swim for Hope together. Last year, Mr Khoo won third position in the NS50 Individual Challenge, while his wife, Ms Janice Khoo and son, Marcus Khoo, came in top place in the Parent-and-Child category.

Mr Khoo commented, "Our family swims regularly for health and leisure at SAFRA clubs in Jurong and Toa Payoh. We also encouraged Marcus to join us for this event so that we can do good for charity together."

Marcus added, "I enjoy swimming as it trains my endurance and strengthens my mind too. I am also very glad to contribute to this worthy cause."

For the first time, a new Junior category was also introduced to encourage more NSmen's children aged 6 to 12 years old to do their bid for charity. A total of 98 children participated in the category, which was won by 10-year-old Goh Matthias Zoltin, who swam 168 laps over two days. He said, "I felt very surprised that I won as this is my

first time joining SAFRA Swim for Hope. I started training in competitive swimming last December and my parents encouraged me along the way.”

Colonel (NS) Eugene Lam Toa Yee, Chairman of the SAFRA Tampines Executive Committee, graced the event as the Guest-of-Honour and presented prizes to the winners of each category, as well as the cheque to the beneficiaries.

He commented, “It is very heartening to see a growing number of national servicemen, together with their family members, stepping forward to help the needy and less privileged in our society. Apart from building fitness through training preparation, the event provides an opportunity for parents to impart important values of caring for the wider community to their children and is also a meaningful way for families to spend time together.”

The support of participants from the Special Olympics Singapore, who were represented by 33 swimmers, also inspired many other participants to go the extra lap. The event is supported by SG Cares.

Kindly refer to **Annex A** for more information on the event or visit www.safra.sg/s4h.

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 600,000 members (as of 31 March 2018) and their families.

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SAFRA SWIM FOR HOPE 2018

FACT SHEETBackground

Introduced in 2011 by SAFRA Tampines, the event provides an opportunity for Operationally Ready National Servicemen (NSmen) and their families to contribute to charitable causes, while promoting fitness and bonding through swimming. A summary of the key highlights in the past 3 editions of the event are as follows:

Year	No. of Pax	No. of Laps	Funds Raised	Remarks
2015	1,700	79,038	\$98,228	First time event was held across 3 days and featured a marathon concept. Singapore Record for 'Most number of laps swam in consecutive days'
2016	1,954	132,752	\$106,592	Introduced Families for Life Parent-and-Child category
2017	2,145	210,901	\$153,648	Introduced NS50 Individual and Team Challenge to commemorate NS50

Event Schedule

Date	Venue	Timing (each slot is 2 hrs)
Fri, 12 Oct	SAFRA Jurong	9am - 11pm
Sat, 13 Oct	SAFRA Toa Payoh SAFRA Yishun	9am - 11pm
Sun, 14 Oct	SAFRA Tampines	9am - 5pm

2018 Beneficiaries

Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN)

The Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN) is a social service organisation providing special education for persons with mild intellectual disability (IQ 50-70). Today, APSN operates four Special Education (SPED) Schools (APSN Chaoyang School, APSN Katong School, APSN Tanglin School and APSN Delta Senior School), including a Student Care Centre, for students aged 7 to 21 and an APSN Centre for Adults for persons aged 17 and older, benefiting over 1,200 beneficiaries each year.

The APSN Schools and Centre adopt a holistic approach in its curriculum, comprising academic, vocational and social skills which are important for open employment and lifelong learning. APSN seeks to enable persons with special needs to be active contributors of the society and is committed to inspire and build capabilities of its partners and community to lead and advocate an inclusive society.

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.

The Singapore Children's Society

Singapore Children's Society protects and nurtures children and youth of all races and religions. In 2013, the Society reached out to 72,640 children, youth and families in need. Established in 1952, its services have evolved to meet the changing needs of children. Today, Children's Society operates 10 service centres island wide, offering services in the six categories of: Caregiving, Community, Developmental, Preventive, Public Education and Remedial.