

11 October 2015

MEDIA RELEASE

To New Editors

SAFRA SWIM FOR HOPE DRAWS RECORD NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CHARITY

More than 1,700 Operationally Ready National Servicemen (NSmen) and their families swam a combined 79,038 laps at the 5th edition of SAFRA Swim for Hope, raising \$79,038 for charity. For the first time, the event was held over three days at all SAFRA clubs island-wide from 9 to 11 October 2015.

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 10 swim marathoners who swam the most number of laps and also presented the cheque to the four beneficiaries.

This year's event featured a unique swim marathon concept which challenged seasoned swimmers to clock more than 250 laps in the pool. Mr Vincent Koh Chaik Chuan swam a total of 1,317 laps to be the top swim marathoner and also earned himself a spot in the Singapore Book of Records for the most number of laps swam on consecutive days by an individual. He was also the individual category winner in 2013 and 2014, clocking a total of 306 laps and 342 laps in six hours respectively.

The event drew strong support from various units from the Republic of Singapore Navy, with more than 260 participants from the Naval Diving Unit, 185 Squadron and the Navy Force Readiness Squadron joining the event. National athletes such as water polo player Lee Kai Yang and diver Mark Lee also swam alongside NSmen and their families. The support of participants from the Special Olympics Singapore and Metta School also inspired many other participants to go the extra mile.

Each lap swam raised \$1 to help needy NSmen and underprivileged children from four beneficiaries - Aquatics Heart & Hope, Community Chest, SAF Care Fund and Singapore Children's Society.

Last year, 1,500 NSmen and their families swam a total of 72,049 laps. A total of \$76,925 was contributed to charity, boosted by additional donations.

Kindly refer to the fact sheet on this year's event at **Annex A**.

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 and educational programmes to recognise NSmen for their contributions to National Defence.

SAFRA currently has a network of five clubs conveniently located in Jurong, Mount Faber, Tampines, Toa Payoh and Yishun. Complementing the modern facilities at SAFRA clubs is a host of quality membership benefits and activities specially packaged for over 330,000 members and their families.

Issued by SAFRA National Service Association on 11 October 2015.

SAFRA SWIM FOR HOPE 2015
9 – 11 OCTOBER 2015

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.

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

Event Details

Date	Venue	Time
Friday, 9 October 2015	SAFRA Yishun	12pm – 10pm
	SAFRA Mount Faber	4pm – 2am
Saturday, 10 October 2015	SAFRA Jurong	8am – 6pm
	SAFRA Toa Payoh	2pm – 12am
Sunday, 11 October 2015	SAFRA Tampines	7am – 5pm

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.

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.

Aquatics Heart and Hope

The Aquatics Heart and Hope programme includes several thrusts that involve the participation of national athletes from the Singapore Swimming Association (SSA) in giving back to society. Funds raised under the programme will be used to sponsor learn to swim programmes for the underprivileged and participants will also undergo SSA's Singapore Swimming Proficiency Award program. The fund will also enable those who are talented to be given the opportunity to participate in the high performance athlete development pathway programme.

Community Chest

Community Chest is a fund-raising and engagement arm of the National Council of Social Service, and supports 219 programmes run by 82 charities to help more than 300,000 people in need. The charities supported by Community Chest will provide critical social service programmes to help children with special needs, people with disabilities, frail and lonely elderly and families facing difficulties.

Sponsors and Partners

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