

PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 14 JULY, 12.00PM

## TOUCH LAUNCHES "DOING GOOD TOGETHER" CARE KITS TO CELEBRATE WELLNESS, ART AND INCLUSIVITY

## - A first-of-its-kind collaborative fundraiser involving seniors and Special Artists to uplift disadvantaged communities

**SINGAPORE, 10 JULY 2025** – To commemorate SG60, eight Special Artists with intellectual disabilities joined hands with eight seniors from TOUCH Community Services (TOUCH), combining their talents to create a curated piece of art to be used in an exclusive limited-edition care kit. Please refer to Annex 1.

Themed "Doing Good Together", this initiative is a collaborative project that brings together Special Artists from JOURNEY, a brand under TOUCH that celebrates the artistic abilities of people with intellectual disabilities, and seniors from TOUCH's Active Ageing Centre at Yishun 436. This meaningful partnership empowers both groups to connect and inspire one another to do good in society.

The artwork conveys their shared experience and unique expressions of what Singapore means to them as they celebrate the nation's birthday.

TOUCH hopes to raise \$300,000 from the sale proceeds, which will go towards supporting the needs of seniors and persons with special needs, and the work of JOURNEY.

A total of 25 artworks comprising both individual and co-created pieces were also produced by the seniors and Special Artists as part of this fundraiser.

"This collaboration brings together people with intellectual disabilities and seniors to create something meaningful for our nation's birthday. This marks an important milestone in our inclusive efforts as we take a step further to uplift communities," said Mr James Tan, TOUCH's Chief Executive Officer.

"Our seniors and Special Artists are the driving force behind the beautiful artworks created for the care kits as they are reminded to stay healthy while making a difference in society. It has been an eye-opening experience for many of our seniors, as they can better appreciate our Special Artists' unique talents and challenge misconceptions. The success of this project will show that everyone can inspire hope and impact lives."

For three months in March to May this year, joint bonding sessions were held at TOUCH Centre for Independent Living and TOUCHpoint@Yishun 436, where both seniors and the Special Artists played games, cooked and painted together. Centre tours were also organised to create opportunities for them to gain deeper insights into each other's lives, allowing both groups to bond and form meaningful connections.

"I can see that these Special Artists are very intelligent and talented from the way they draw and paint. They have so much to offer! I am amazed that we can come together to produce such lovely artwork to help others," said Mr Paul Tan, 77, a senior from TOUCHpoint@Yishun 436, who took part in the project together with his wife Mdm Karen Lim, 70.

"I like to make new friends. I am happy to spend time with the uncles and aunties from TOUCH. I had fun painting and playing games together with them," said Ms Emily Chua, 37, who was diagnosed with Down Syndrome and Intellectual Disability and one of eight Special Artists selected to be part of "Doing Good Together".

Through JOURNEY, Special Artists like Emily are empowered to harness her strengths to inspire confidence and independence.

From 14 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, members of the public can purchase these care kits via the JOURNEY website at journeyspecial.com. (Please refer to Annex 2). Please email <u>enquiry@journeyspecial.com</u> for more information.

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The media may wish to interview the following profiles (Please refer to Annex 3):

- Senior couple Mr Paul Tan, 77 and Mdm Karen Lim, 70
- Mdm Jothi, 69
- Special Artist Ms Emily Chua, 37
- Special Artist Mr Say Kim Han, 50

For media enquiries and interviews, please contact: Priscilla Toh, Lead Specialist II (Media and Engagement) Strategic Communications 9694 2364 (HP) priscilla.toh@touch.org.sg

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## **About TOUCH Community Services**

Since 1992, TOUCH Community Services has served people of all ages, races and religions to see sustainable change and transformation in their lives. It believes in the worth and potential of every child, youth at-risk, family in need, caregiver, senior and person with special or wellness needs to grow, participate and contribute in the community. The heartbeat of TOUCH is to activate potential, build independence, connect people, and deliver impact by developing sustainable solutions in society. For more information on TOUCH, please visit www.touch.org.sg

## About JOURNEY

JOURNEY is an award-winning brand under TOUCH Community Services that represents the creative talents of people from vulnerable communities. Born out of TOUCH's longstanding commitment to provide a sustainable future to better support special needs individuals, JOURNEY has developed programmes that fosters dignity, independence, and professional opportunities. Through our two Day Activity Centres and a stay-in residential programme for adults with mild intellectual disabilities, we equip individuals with skills to gain independence and lead fulfilling lives. We also provide various platforms for our special artists to their artworks to the wider public and corporate partners, enabling them to earn an income and gain exposure through meaningful collaborations. For more information on JOURNEY, please visit <u>www.journeyspecial.com</u>.

## "DOING GOOD TOGETHER" FACT SHEET

Participants	<ul> <li>Eight seniors from TOUCHpoint@Yishun 436 (an Active Ageing Centre)</li> <li>Eight Special Artists with intellectual disability from TOUCH Centre for Independent Living</li> <li>From 30 to 77 years old</li> </ul>
Project Duration	From March to May 2025
Objectives	<ul> <li>To commemorate Singapore's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday</li> <li>Provide new platforms for TOUCH's clients to showcase their strengths, forge meaningful connections and build confidence, as part of TOUCH's efforts to build a more inclusive and caring society.</li> <li>Encourage healthy lifestyles</li> </ul>
Fundraising Target and Duration	To raise \$300,000 from 14 July 2025 to 31 March 2026 to support the work of TOUCH
Key Highlights	<ul> <li>A total of seven joint sessions were held over three months for seniors and the Special Artists to bond with one another. They included:</li> <li>a) Guided centre tours such as a visit by seniors to TCIL and joint activities like cooking, playing interactive mototiles and art sessions. The Special Artists also visited TOUCHpoint@Yishun 436 and bonded with seniors over lunch as they made sandwich snacks together and enjoyed a game of Bingo.</li> <li>b) Joint art sessions where seniors visited TCIL and worked on an artwork together with the Special Artists.</li> <li>c) Individual art sessions were also conducted for seniors and Special Artists to create their own individual artworks, which were then woven into a unified design, symbolising the spirit of collaboration behind the care kit.</li> </ul>
Care Kit Items	In line with the wellness theme, the items comprise a water bottle, an exercise towel, an exercise band, and a sling bag.
Cost of Care Kit / Artworks	<ul> <li>Each care kit costs \$35.00</li> <li>Individual and co-created artworks are priced at \$6,000 each</li> </ul>
Where to purchase	Please visit <u>https://www.journeyspecial.com/pages/doing-good-together</u> (from 14 July 2025)

Annex 2

# Doing Good Together Care Kit





*Caption: "Doing Good Together" Project participants helping to raise funds for TOUCH* 

## Annex 3

## Media Interview Profiles



Karen Lim, 70, and Paul Tan, 77, are a couple from TOUCHpoint@Yishun 436. During the "Doing Good Together" project, Karen quickly warmed up to the special artists despite being hesitant to talk to people with special needs in the past. She has come to appreciate that "they are just like us." Likewise, Paul hopes to be an advocate and clear misconceptions as he finds people with special needs intelligent and talented. He hopes that more people would stand up for them.



Murtha Jothi, 69, is an active volunteer at TOUCHpoint@Yishun 436. Her interactions with the Special Artists left her deeply moved and inspired beyond her expectations. Awed by the humbling experience of their spontaneity and tenacity, she enjoyed every moment of her time learning and laughing with the Special Artists. Mdm Jothi feels blessed to be part of the "Doing Good Together" Project and is grateful for this enriching experience.

Emily Chua, 37, is a special artist with JOURNEY. Diagnosed with Down Syndrome and intellectual disability, she has been a part of the Art Programme under TOUCH Centre for Independent Living (TCIL) since 2017. An imaginative person who paints freely, Emily's passion for art has strengthened through JOURNEY, which has also increased her confidence and independence. Emily hopes her paintings will brighten someone's day. A cheerful and bubbly person, Emily enjoyed the interactions with the seniors and looks forward to spending time with them again.



Say Kim Han, 50, is a Special Artist with JOURNEY. Diagnosed with intellectual disability, he has been a part of the Art Programme under TCIL since 2012. Art has helped Kim Han to express himself better. Talented at drawing buildings and landscapes, Kim Han excels at sketching intricate details, with Singapore landmarks such as Marina Bay Sands often featuring in his artworks. Through the project, Kim Han worked on paintings that represented his love for Singapore and created designs that will be included in the SG60 gift packs.

