



## **COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTRE MEDIA RELEASE**

### **OFFICIAL OPENING ON 1 MARCH 2013**

1 We are pleased to announce the official opening of the Community Justice Centre (CJC) today, which is held in conjunction with the Subordinate Courts' Workplan 2013/2014 Seminar.

2 The CJC recognises that Litigants-in-Person (LiPs), besides needing legal assistance, also require practical help during their Court processes. Some LiPs also need additional emotional and/or financial support. As such, the CJC aims to provide a wide range of support services for the LiPs and their families through free practical and emotional support while the LiPs are in Court, as well as referral to the legal clinics and social service agencies. We hope that through the support of the CJC, the LiPs should be able to better present their cases, follow proceedings and understand judicial rulings or pronouncements in their respective cases. Concurrently, their socio-emotional needs at home are also met through social service agencies in Singapore.

3 Although the CJC is an independent charity, its formation borne out of collaboration between the legal (i.e.: Ministry of Law, Subordinate Courts and Law Society) and social (i.e.: Ministry of Social and Family Development) professions and with the support of Tan Chin Tuan Foundation (TCTF) lends itself to unique position whereby LiPs who need a slew of services across different bodies can be ensured that it would be met through timely referral to the appropriate agencies. In addition, with the strong support of the Subordinate Courts, CJC is able to provide the necessary practical support to LiPs, thus ensuring that justice is made accessible to them.

4 Given the recent survey figures that showed a rise of volunteerism from 23.3% in 2010 to 32.3% in 2012<sup>1</sup>, the CJC hopes to provide another avenue for volunteers to contribute their time, knowledge and/or skills. CJC has lined up a slew of services, including befriending and practical support services, which volunteers without prior legal or social work knowledge can sign up for. We would also like to invite members of the public who may wish to volunteer in programme delivery, fundraising or any other areas that they feel may contribute to CJC's growth. Corporate and individual volunteers who can contribute their time, resources or expertise are welcomed.

5 Interested parties may contact CJC at 6557 4100 for information on volunteering at the CJC or sign up to be a volunteer through its website at [www.cjc.org.sg](http://www.cjc.org.sg).

6 We would like to take this opportunity to thank Allen & Gledhill who assisted CJC with the incorporation as a CLG (with IPC status). Finally, we would like to thank our stakeholders for their support and we hope that with the support of volunteers who contribute to CJC in kind or in effort, LiPs who enter through the Court doors will no longer be in the position of feeling burdened, lost and distressed.

ISSUED BY: COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTRE

DATE: 1 MARCH 2013

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<sup>1</sup> Figures taken from National Volunteer and Philanthropic Centre's (NVPC) website [\[http://www.nvpc.org.sg/knowledge/researchpublications.aspx\]](http://www.nvpc.org.sg/knowledge/researchpublications.aspx) based on the NVPC Individual Giving Survey 2012.