







# LARGEST TURNOUT OF COMFORTDELGRO CABBIES IN SUPPORT OF HAIR FOR HOPE

**7 June 2017** – A family that shaves together, stays together.

That is the view of ComfortDelGro Cabby Kanapathy Shunmugam and his family as they give up their tresses for charity.

Joined by his wife, daughter, grandson as well and his brother and nephew, this is the eighth time that Cabby Kanapathy is shaving with his grandson, but the first time his wife, daughter and nephew are participating. His brother joined him last year.

Said 60-year-old Mrs Kanapathy, who's giving up a good 30 cm worth of her wavy locks: "I am glad that this year, I finally have the courage to shave after seeing my grandson and husband do so for the past seven years. Furthermore, this is for a good cause so why not?"

Echoing the same view was her 40-year-old daughter, Ms Kavitha, who is parting with at least 60cm of her waist length locks. "I was always reluctant to do so because my hair is about mid-back. But, I just turned 40 last year, which was a milestone for me, so I want to celebrate it by doing something meaningful together with my loved ones."

A very proud Cabby Kanapathy, who is also Chairman of CabbyCare, had this to say: "I am really pleased that my wife, daughter and nephew have agreed to join me for the first time this year. Children with cancer are not the only ones going through the ordeal, but their loved ones as well. As such, we want to demonstrate that a family can overcome any obstacles when they stick together."

To mark CCF's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, over 250 ComfortDelGro cabbies as well as their family and friends are going under the blade today. It marks the largest cabby turnout in the past four years. CabbyCare will also be donating \$25,000 and ComfortDelGro Taxi will match that amount dollar-to-dollar, bringing this year's donation to \$50,000. With this sponsorship, CabbyCare and ComfortDelGro Taxi would have donated \$140,000 to CCF to-date.

Mr Ang Wei Neng, Chief Executive Officer of ComfortDelGro Taxi said: "The large turnout is testament of the strong partnership that CabbyCare and ComfortDelGro Taxi have with CCF. I am very proud of our cabbies for contributing towards the community with their heart, soul and time. I hope that our contributions will bring some cheer to our friends at CCF."

Ms Neo Lay Tin, Executive Director of CCF said: "The Children's Cancer Foundation is thankful to CabbyCare Charity Group and ComfortDelGro Taxi for coming on board as a Hair for Hope satellite partner for the third consecutive year since 2014. We are grateful to the cabbies for taking time off the roads to make a difference in the lives of children with cancer. Their kind gesture of shaving drives home the message that it is OK to be bald."

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## **Background**

## CabbyCare Charity Group

CabbyCare Charity Group was initiated and formed in February 2000 by eight CityCab cabbies who wanted to spend their time more productively by helping the less fortunate. It then grew to its current size of 280 members and is very active in various community projects. CabbyCare was given the Outstanding New Volunteerism Initiative Award by the National Volunteer Centre in November 2002 and the President's Service Social Award in August 2003.

#### **About Children's Cancer Foundation**

Children's Cancer Foundation (CCF) is a non-profit organisation with a mission to improve the quality of life of children with cancer and their families through enhancing their emotional, social and medical well-being. Founded in 1992, CCF provides children with cancer and their families the much needed support intheir battle against the life threatening illness. In a year, CCF helps more than 500 children and their families at different stages of the illness. Armed with the vision of providing world-class resources and psychosocial services to families impacted by childhood cancer, CCF employs professional caseworkers and counsellors, and adopts an integrated hospital-home-community service model to offer a spectrum of critical services to our beneficiaries.

#### **About Hair for Hope (HfH)**

HfH is the only head-shaving event in Singapore that serves to raise funds and awareness of childhood cancer. Every shaven head represents an understanding by an individual of the ordeals that a child with cancer is subjected to. By volunteering to shave, the shavees become CCF's ambassadors in spreading childhood cancer messages to their family, friends and colleagues.

Through this symbolic gesture, we aim to:

- 1. Create awareness of childhood cancer in Singapore
- 2. Show children with cancer and their families that they are not alone in their fight against cancer
- 3. Tell children with cancer that it is OK to be bald
- 4. Raise funds to help children with cancer and their families
- 5. Build a community of support for children with cancer and their families
- 6. The funds raised will enable CCF to continue providing critical programmes and services to assist our children with cancer and their families to cope with the needs at different stages of the illness.