



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

SAVH and Perennial International White Cane Day Celebration 2016

Over S\$268,000 raised for the blind and visually handicapped;

Set Singapore Book of Records with CHIJMES Heritage Trail Walk with White Cane

Singapore, 15 October 2016 –The Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped (“**SAVH**”) and Perennial Real Estate Holdings Limited (“**Perennial**”) today jointly hosted the International White Cane Day Celebration 2016 at CHIJMES, a heritage landmark in Singapore’s downtown civic district. The milestone collaboration marks a number of firsts - the first time the celebration was brought into the city to enhance public awareness, the first time that funds were raised at the event for SAVH, the first time that a White Cane Exercise routine was launched, and the first time that a Singapore Book of Records entry was set through a heritage trail walk comprising blind and sighted participants with the white cane.

Themed ‘*Walk Unafraid, Building an Inclusive Community*’, the carnival-like celebration was graced by Guest-of-Honour, Mr. Tan Chuan-Jin, Minister for Social and Family Development, and Ms. Denise Phua, Mayor for Central Singapore District. The celebration saw a turnout of over 500 people including SAVH’s blind and visually handicapped clients and their family members and friends, Perennial’s staff and their family members and friends, Perennial’s corporate partners, volunteers, government agencies, the media and the general public.

The International White Cane Day, established on the initiative of the World Federation of the Blind, is celebrated worldwide annually on 15 October with the mission to educate the world about blindness and how the visually impaired can live and work independently with the aid of the white cane. It is also an opportunity to demonstrate how the visually handicapped give back to their communities, celebrate the abilities and successes achieved by blind people in a sighted world and honour the many contributions made by the visually impaired.

Mr. Phillip Lee, President of SAVH, said: "This year, SAVH has the utmost pleasure of inviting Perennial to join us in hosting the International White Cane Day for our visually handicapped community, their caregivers, family members and friends. Perennial has been most generous with their support and contribution. The funds raised through this event will enable SAVH to continue its efforts, in particular towards fostering a greater awareness of and support for our life-changing work and make our services more accessible to the visually handicapped community. Throughout the world, the white cane is used by people who are visually handicapped as a tool for safe and reliable navigation and is internationally recognised as a symbol of mobility and independence of the visually handicapped. As SAVH and Perennial join the rest of the world today in celebrating the International White Cane Day, we hope this day would also serve to acknowledge the cause of the blind, and raise them from crippling dependency toward fuller integration in society and ultimately, emancipation and empowerment."

Mr. Pua Seck Guan, Chief Executive Officer of Perennial, said, "The collaboration with SAVH to host the International White Cane 2016 celebration aligns with our internal and external corporate social responsibility goals and furthers our community outreach efforts to build an inclusive society. It is also particularly meaningful to host this celebration at CHIJMES, a heritage development which used to be the premises of a convent where the Infant Jesus Sisters led a charity movement to raise and educate orphans. We are delighted to have raised more than S\$268,000 for SAVH and would like to thank all of our corporate partners for their generous contributions and support. More importantly, the event created an opportunity for Perennial staff and our stakeholders to interact and foster bonds with the visually handicapped and celebrate their achievements. We would also like to thank SAVH for the wonderful partnership and commitment towards this successful event."

SAVH collaborated with Perennial as a corporate partner for the first time to host the International White Cane Day celebration at CHIJMES, a property majority owned and managed by Perennial. Perennial contributed via a cash donation, part of which was used to purchase 200 white canes for the needy clients of SAVH, and also help raised funds from its corporate partners. A total of over S\$268,000 was raised through cash donations and the sale of carnival coupons.

Previously held on a smaller scale within the premises of SAVH, the annual celebration was brought into the city to provide easier access to the general public with the aim to raise greater public awareness. The fun-filled carnival hosted food and game booths, unique experiences such as mobile massage and dining in the dark, children's activities, as well as a variety of entertainment programmes by blind and sighted performers. In addition, a sports zone with two lanes of Goalball which was managed by the Singapore Disability Sports Council, was a highlight at the event to educate the public about a less well-known sport that can be enjoyed by both visually handicapped and sighted participants.

The White Cane Keep Fit Exercise, which is a therapeutic routine designed to incorporate basic deep breathing techniques and light aerobic moves to improve blood circulation and mental wellness, was officially launched at the event. The exercise consists of a series of stretching and bending sequences to de-stress and induce relaxation.

Separately, a CHIJMES Heritage Trail Walk with White Cane was organised to tie in with the celebration. The walk saw over 200 blind and sighted participants jointly undertake a one kilometre journey around CHIJMES to learn about the iconic development's glorious past and appreciate the historical sites within its grounds. It was a special journey for SAVH's blind and visually handicapped clients and Perennial's staff, their family and friends, with specially made tactile images and Braille boards tailored for the blind to experience the unique architecture and rich heritage of CHIJMES. The walk was also successfully placed in the Singapore Book of Records.

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About Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped (www.savh.org.sg)

For more than 64 years, SAVH has been helping the visually handicapped acquire new skills and lead more independent lives. We actively strive to meet the needs of over 3,600 visually impaired clients by providing comprehensive vision rehabilitation, accessibility, after-care and skills development programmes designed to better equip them with basic life skills. Our mission is to enable them to live safely and productively, be employable and integrate with the community in a meaningful way, in keeping with our motto, To Help the Visually Handicapped Help Themselves.

About Perennial Real Estate Holdings Limited (www.perennialrealestate.com.sg)

Perennial Real Estate Holdings Limited (“Perennial”) is an integrated real estate and healthcare company headquartered and listed in Singapore. As a real estate owner, developer and manager, Perennial focuses strategically on large-scale mixed-use developments and has a presence in China, Singapore, Malaysia and Ghana with a combined portfolio spanning over 45 million square feet in gross floor area. Perennial is also a healthcare services owner and operator focused predominantly on China and its healthcare business services include medical, hospital, eldercare and senior housing, and maternal and child health management.

Perennial is a dominant commercial developer with sizeable integrated developments in China, of which two are regional commercial hubs adjacent to the two largest high speed railway stations in the country, being Chengdu East High Speed Railway Integrated Development and Xi'an North High Speed Railway Integrated Development. Other landmark projects in Perennial's portfolio include Beijing Tongzhou Integrated Development, Shenyang Longemont Integrated Development and Zhuhai Hengqin Integrated Development.

In Singapore, Perennial has invested in and manages prime iconic properties located in the Civic District, Central Business District and Orchard Road precinct, such as CHIJMES, Capitol Singapore, AXA Tower, TripleOne Somerset, House of Tan Yeok Nee and Chinatown Point mall.

Issued by Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped (Company Registration: 172/1951 WEL) and Perennial Real Estate Holdings Limited (Company Registration: 200210338M)