NEWS RELEASE

YOUTHS SHOW THEY HAVE SINGAPORE HEARTWARE
– LAUNCH OF CANCER WARRIORS PROJECT IN CONJUNCTION
WITH THE FOURTH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF YOUTHOP!A

At the fourth birthday celebration of Youthop!a, the youth outreach arm of the National Youth Council (NYC), young people will get together to do something for the community on their own initiative, demonstrating a strong heartware among Singaporean youths.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, in his National Day Rally speech, emphasized the importance of building a strong Singapore heartware, where Singaporeans “feel passionately about something in our country, get together to do something about it and work something out for the community.”

The anchor event for Youthop!a’s fourth birthday celebration, the launch of Cancer Warriors Project, exemplifies this spirit of going beyond oneself among young Singaporeans. A youth-initiated project driven entirely by 29-year-old Stella Thng, the Cancer Warriors Project was started to help Singaporeans and their families combating cancer, through producing a book and CD that bring comfort and hope. The project also involves many other local youth talents, including Fiona Xie, Sun Ho, Ronin, Electrico and West Grand Boulevard, who have stepped forward to help by contributing their musical talents for free towards the CD compilation of songs. Many of these youth talents will be making special appearances and performing at the event. Proceeds from the sale of the book and CD will be donated to the Terry Fox Run Organisation, Methodist Hospice Fellowship, Breast Cancer Foundation and the Joan Chan Trust Fund. (Please see Annex 2 for details on the project).

The meaningful project received two grants for the book and CD from the Young ChangeMakers scheme, which provides seed funding for youth projects benefiting the local community. *scape, the new youth community space in Orchard, provided venue sponsorship for the project launch, while Youthop!a helped to co-organise the event, in celebration of its four years of fostering youth creativity and talent at Orchard Youth Park.
Guest-of-Honour, Dr Maliki Bin Osman, Parliamentary Secretary for National Development and Deputy Chairman of NYC, will be present to launch the Cancer Warriors book and CD with Stella Thng. Dr Maliki helped the family of a five-year-old cancer warrior Filmer Tan’s with their appeal to HDB and solved their housing woes. The five-year-old cancer warrior will be presenting a token of appreciation to Dr Maliki on the day.

We warmly invite your reporter and photographer/camera crew to cover the event. Details are:

Date: Saturday, 9 September 2006
Venue: *scape Orchard Youth Park
Time: 3.00 pm - 5.30 pm
Guest-of-Honour: Dr Maliki Bin Osman
(See Annex 1 for event programme)

We would appreciate it if you could contact Ms Christina Ching at Tel: 6839 9122 or Email: Christina_CHING@pa.gov.sg, by 8 September 2006 (5.00 pm) to confirm your attendance at the event.

This news release is transmitted via telebox by the Corporate Communications Section of the National Youth Council. The National Youth Council is a Division of the People’s Association. For further information, please contact:

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PROGRAMME

2.50 pm  Kids Singing "Diana" (14 kids from Sally's Angel"

3.00 pm  Jamie Michael (overseas acoustic & singing - launching debut album)

2.55 pm  Stella & Joan Chan’s Friends sing “Joan”

3.10 pm  Elsa (New local English singer)

3.20 pm  Arrival of Guest-of-Honour

3.25 pm  GOH address

3.30 pm  Launch of Cancer Warriors Project

3.35 pm  West Grand Boulevard

4.00 pm  Electrico (appearance to say a few words about the project)

4.05 pm  Ronin

4.40 pm  Emcee, Music & give-aways

4.45 pm  Arrival of S’pore Idols (Top 3 Finalists) – Autograph Signing

5.30 pm  End
About Cancer Warriors Project

In a first-of-its-kind charity drive, LIME magazine editor Stella Thng launched The Cancer Warriors Project, consisting of a book, CD and a charity flea market, to raise awareness, support and funds for cancer patients in Singapore.

Stella recently lost a sister, Sally Thng, to colorectal cancer. “When my sister was ill, I couldn’t find any books on cancer patients that had an Asian context; most were from America or Europe,” says Stella.

She was also inspired by her sister’s spunky spirit. “After Sally passed away last December, I wanted to help other patients by compiling a book about cancer warriors’ experiences, how they overcome their fears, useful tips on food, emotional support, websites and books… I wanted a book that would have comforted Sally and my family during that painful, petrifying period.”

The Cancer Warriors book features 23 stories of ordinary people with extraordinary tales of their cancer combat. It includes heart-baring interviews with patients including:

- veteran comedy actress, Koh Chieng Mun, 47 (breast and kidney cancer)
- the late Joan Chan Shu Fang, 20 (tongue cancer)
- Filmer Tan, 5 (brain tumour)
- Chan York Leng, 90 (colorectal cancer)
- Derek Lauchengco, 39 (bone cancer)

Stella also interviewed celebrities who have lost close family and friends to cancer, including:

- Singapore Idol Top 12 finalists
- Taiwanese singer and Superband host Milk
- Gotcha host Howard Lo

Sponsored by Dyna-M Industrial Supplies and KHL Printing, Cancer Warriors is published with the support from National Cancer Centre and National University of Singapore. NCC and NUH’s oncologists and counsellors contributed to an FAQ section and a chapter on "cancer etiquette", which gives tips on how to comfort cancer patients and their bereaved family, especially children.

The Cancer Warriors CD will be launched in conjunction with the book, featuring performances by some of the biggest names in local music like Sun Ho, Ronin, Electrico and West Grand Boulevard. MediaCorp artiste Fiona Xie made her singing debut on ‘Love Will Shine On Through’, a duet with Ronin’s Levan Wee, who specially wrote two songs for this charity CD. It is produced by renowned local producer Leonard Soosay and co-produced by Wayne Thunder from Melbourne-based band, The Suns. The nine-track album also features two songs by the family and friends of the late Sally Thng and Joan Chan.