

2 August 2006

NEWS RELEASE

FIRST OF ITS KIND - A ONE-STOP CYBER WELLNESS RESOURCE AND TRAINING CENTRE

TOUCH COMMUNITY SERVICES AIMS TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES

The **PlanetCRuSH Cyber Wellness Centre** by TOUCH Community Services will be officially opened on **Saturday, 5 August 2006**. It is a one-stop resource and training centre for cyber wellness, and is probably the first and only centre of its kind in Singapore.

2 **Associate Professor Ho Peng Kee**, Senior Minister of State for Law and Home Affairs, and Chairman of the Inter-Ministry Committee on Youth Crime (IMYC) will be gracing the event. As part of the opening ceremony, A/P Ho, together with a youth, will compete in an Xbox game tournament, "Winning Eleven", against Mr Eugene Seow, Executive Director of TOUCH Community Services and his teenage child. Other programme highlights include the **Family E-Sports Carnival** to promote healthy gaming and create awareness of cyber wellness among families. More details of the day's programme / carnival are found in Annex A.

3 TOUCH, through the Centre, aims to further enhance the quality and reach of cyber wellness services in Singapore, by serving adults, youths and families all under one roof. Its programmes aim to develop youths in a balanced manner, anchoring them in healthy gaming communities, exposing them to cyber wellness mentors and helping them to stay in control of their Internet usage habits. Parents and families are also educated about the latest Internet trends, equipping them to bridge the digital divide and generation gaps.

4 The Centre is a culmination of collaborations pertaining to cyber wellness with the IMYC and Media Development Authority (MDA) since 2001, when the school-based programme **CRuSH (Cyberspace Risks and where yoU Seek Help)** by TOUCH was first launched. More details on CRuSH is attached at Annex B. Through the CRuSH roadshows and e-mentoring efforts to date, more than 160,000 youths in schools, the community and the public have been educated regarding Internet safety and cyber wellness. Since March 2006, TOUCH has also actively promoted balanced and enriching gaming experiences for youths, as well as counseled and helped Internet game addicts.

5 Microsoft Singapore, through its Unlimited Potential Programme, has donated cash and software towards the programmes and services of the Centre, amounting to some \$32,000.

6 Your reporter and photographer / camera crew are cordially invited to cover the event. The details are:

Date: Saturday, 5 August 2006

Time: 9.30am - 12pm

Venue: Blk 162, Bukit Merah Central, Singapore 150162
(Registration starts at 9.15am on the 4th floor)

7 We will also be pleased to facilitate any interviews with the organisers and selected parent-and-child teams. For media enquiries, interview requests and attendance, please contact:

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About TOUCH Community Services

TOUCH Community Services is a not-for-profit voluntary welfare organisation officially registered in 1992. TOUCH was granted the charity status and became a full member of the National Council of Social Service on 12 December 1994. Over the last 14 years, TOUCH has reached out to more than 80,000 individuals from all religions and races. Our clients include children from low-income or single-parent families, youths at risk, needy families, people with special and healthcare needs, and the frail elderly. To find out more about TOUCH, please visit the corporate website at www.tcs.org.sg.