



## Joint news release

### **Wearnes partners South East Community Development Council on community programme**

- **Charity art auction and leave donation scheme raise funds for Society for the Physically Disabled**
- **CDC doubles funds raised with dollar-for-dollar matching grant**
- **South East CDC launches Corporate Outreach Programme**

**SINGAPORE, 30 January 2007** – WBL Corporation (“Wearnes”) is proud to announce its partnership with the South East Community Development Council (“SE CDC”) to help the less fortunate in the community. Wearnes is SE CDC’s first corporate partner in its Corporate Outreach Programme, which aims to enable more Singapore corporate organisations give back to the community.

Under this partnership, SE CDC will support Wearnes’ Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, such as fund-raising and staff volunteer programmes.

“Wearnes is committed to giving back to the community and would like to encourage our staff to do more for the less fortunate apart from raising funds. We hope that by partnering South East CDC, we can promote a stronger sense of corporate social responsibility among staff,” said Tan Choon Seng, Group Chief Executive Officer of Wearnes.

Mayor of South East District, Mr Matthias Yao, is delighted to see the partnership take shape. “Wearnes is a well-known company with 100 years of history in Singapore. The management and staff are doing more for the society and the needy. I am particularly encouraged by the indication from Wearnes that this will not be just a one-off fundraising event, but will be the start of a longer term initiative in corporate giving. I hope more companies will follow this good example.”

One of the first projects under this partnership is the Wearnes Charity Auction on 6 February 2007 at Malayan Motors’ showroom. Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong is the Guest-of-Honour at the event, which will raise funds through an open auction of eight digital artworks created by disabled but talented artists from the Society for the Physically Disabled (SPD), Wearnes’ adopted charity. Ten other pieces of art will also be sold at a silent auction.

Five of the eight art pieces were inspired by SM Goh’s vision of Singapore which he spelt out at the National Day Rally Speech on 18 August 1996:

“My vision of Singapore in the 21st Century is: a cohesive, vibrant and prosperous country, founded on justice and equality, excellence and social mobility, discipline and graciousness.”

Out of these five art pieces, two will be autographed by SM Goh. The amount raised from the auction will be doubled with a dollar-for-dollar grant from the government which will be given through the SE CDC.

“SM Goh Chok Tong has contributed very much to Singapore’s success. His words have inspired me to create ‘Singapore Future’ and I’m happy that my contribution can help to raise more funds for SPD to help others like me,” said Benson Tiew, an artist with a spinal cord injury.

In 2006, as part of its centennial celebrations, Wearnes staff had contributed \$180,000 from its innovative leave donation scheme, where staff pledged their unused leave to charity. In the light of its partnership with SE CDC, Wearnes decided to extend the leave programme to February 2007 and match every dollar donated by staff through the leave encashment with another \$1.50. As a result, Wearnes has raised another \$183,831 for 2007. After SE CDC’s dollar-for-dollar matching, the final amount of \$367,662 will be donated to the SPD.

“Through this partnership, Wearnes and South East CDC have multiplied the contributions of the individual staff at Wearnes and our disabled artists through their artwork, to raise even more funds. This is truly an example of many helping hands coming together and helping others in the community,” said Dr Ow Chee Chung, Executive Director of SPD.

Other projects which both Wearnes and the SE CDC are likely to work on include awareness building programmes for Wearnes staff, such as through community visits and staff volunteer programmes.

#### **About WBL Corporation Ltd (“Wearnes”)**

WBL Corporation Ltd (“Wearnes”) is a dynamic international group with key activities in Technology Manufacturing, Automotive Distribution and Technology Solutions. Management continues to focus on building the Group’s operational and technical expertise to keep Wearnes in the forefront with the leaders in these areas and to build and sustain shareholder value. Today, Wearnes is ranked among the top 100 companies by market capitalisation on the SGX-ST and has revenues of over S\$2 billion with operations in over 10 countries. As part of its centennial celebrations in 2006, Wearnes adopted the Society for the Physically Disabled and raised over \$300,000 for the charity.

#### **About Southeast Community Development Council**

South East Community Development Council (CDC) was set up on 24th November 2001. It oversees the Marine Parade Group Representation Constituency (GRC), East Coast GRC, Joo Chiat Single-Member Constituency (SMC), MacPherson SMC and Potong Pasir SMC and serves a population of around 538,000 residents. At the helm of South East CDC is Mayor Matthias Yao Chih, who steers the CDC to work towards enhancing community relations. Working closely with grassroots organisation (GROs), town councils, voluntary welfare organisations (VWOs) and other non-government organisations (NGOs), the CDC initiates and manages programmes to build a vibrant and self-reliant community.

#### **About Society for the Physically Disabled (“SPD”)**

The Society for the Physically Disabled (SPD) is a voluntary welfare organisation working in partnership with people with physical disabilities. Through programmes and services that

encompass rehabilitation, vocational training, education, employment, assistive technology and social service support, SPD seeks to develop the potential of people with physical disabilities to the fullest, so that they can be self-reliant and independent. For more information, please visit [www.spd.org.sg](http://www.spd.org.sg).

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