

# HEART of ASSISI

JANUARY 2020

Bringing you the heart of Assisi Hospice



Patients and their loved ones enjoyed a heartwarming and joyous night at the Christmas Light-Up ceremony.

## SHARING THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS WITH PATIENTS

**2019** was a special year for Assisi Hospice as we celebrated 50 years of caring for life. To commemorate this special milestone, Sembcorp Industries generously sponsored and decorated 50 Christmas trees which were placed in different parts of Assisi. To bring Christmas cheer, some of the Christmas trees were also delivered to our patients' homes and other charities. This is in addition to our annual Christmas Light-Up ceremony on held on 29th Nov 2019, which brought the joy of Christmas to Assisi Hospice for our patients, by gathering families and friends for an evening of heartwarming celebration and togetherness.



Our Home Care patient Mr Yeo Boon Kiat (right) received the Christmas tree sponsored and decorated by Sembcorp, delivered to his home by volunteer Daniel Ong. Mr Yeo said that the Christmas tree brought back fond memories from his childhood, when he used to celebrate Christmas with his mother until she passed away in the 1980s.

## CHARITY GOVERNANCE AWARD AND CHARITY TRANSPARENCY AWARD 2019

**A**ssisi Hospice has won the prestigious Charity Governance Award (CGA) for a Large Charity! This is the highest level award; the winner demonstrates the highest standards in areas of corporate governance and management, clarity of strategy, risk management, transparency, operational efficiency and compliance. An initiative of the Charity Council, the CGA aims to promote good governance by acknowledging the excellent work of charities, while inspiring others to emulate their best practices.

Ms Anita Fam, Chairman of Assisi Hospice, said, "Good governance is the foundation for Assisi Hospice to achieve excellent standards in how we deliver palliative care to our community. This can only be done if there is full alignment between board and management in understanding our mission, as well as our strengths and weaknesses. Underscoring this is the deep sense of mutual respect which the board and management has for each other and the recognition of each other's roles."

We also received the Charity Transparency Award (CTA) 2019. This is the fourth year running that we have won the CTA since it was introduced in 2016 by the Charity Council. The CTA recognises charities with good disclosure practices which are recommended under the Charity Transparency Framework (CTF).



(From left to right) Head of Finance Ms Jennifer Lum, Board Chairman Ms Anita Fam, CEO Ms Choo Shiu Ling, Board Director A/Prof Cynthia Goh, Board Committee member Ms Catherine Loh and Board Director Mr Thomas Teo

# Allied Health in Palliative Care: A Paradigm Shift in Care

**A Paradigm Shift** in Care – that was what the Allied Health in Palliative Care Symposium in Assisi was about. The symposium was held on 26 Oct 2019, and our Allied Health colleagues shared how four professional groups covering Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Music Therapy and Art Therapy, work together to bring care and comfort to patients with life-limiting illnesses and their families.

Over 100 participants from over 30 organisations ranging from acute and community hospitals to educational institutions spent the morning with us. Participants included therapy managers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, art and music therapists, as well as lecturers and students in the related disciplines.

Our allied health therapists shared their experiences and had a fruitful exchange with the participants during the panel discussion. They also conducted workshop sessions related to their respective professions which allowed in-depth discussions with the participants.



Assisi Hospice's Senior Physiotherapist Ms Melissa Khoo sharing during the panel discussion.

One of the participants, Ms Margaret Chua, Physiotherapy Manager of Community Therapy Services at St Andrew Community Hospital expressed that as she was not specifically trained in the area of palliative care, she sometimes felt lost when she faced patients who were deteriorating.

She said, "Through the sharing, I've learned that there are things we can do with these patients, and we can still add value to their lives."

For those who have missed the event, watch the video (<https://youtu.be/62Lu0b8GgK0>) to understand how our therapists work hand in hand towards the care of our patients.



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## Discover precious gems at Treasure Cove

**Treasure Cove** @ Assisi was officially opened on 24 Oct 19 amidst the cheers of our Day Care patients! This special cafe opposite our Day Care Centre at Level 1, serves as a space for patients, caregivers, volunteers and staff interaction, nourishing friendly connections in the Assisi community. It allows our patients to give back by tending to the operations of the space, creating items for sale, as well as promoting and selling the items.

Treasure Cove is open every Tuesday to Thursday, 8am-5pm. Feel free to drop by to enjoy delicious treats by the Cooking interest group every Tuesday noon and shop for pretty handcraft and beautiful plants by the Men's Shed and Gardening interest group! All donations for the items go towards providing care and comfort for our patients and their families. Complimentary tea will be provided and there will be live acoustic music by patients and volunteers every Thursday.



Hand-made by Men United, which is a men's shed concept for our male patients from Assisi Hospice's Day Care to build things and to build a community.

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