Media Release

To News Editors

RECORD NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS SWAM FOR CHARITY AT SAFRA SWIM FOR HOPE 2024

More than 5,800 participants took part in the SAFRA Swim for Hope this year, including many national servicemen and their families. Participants took part in Individual, Family and Team swim categories, with teams as large as 78 swimmers taking part in the 250km Team category. The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) supported the event with over 3,900 participants.

Into its 14th edition, SAFRA Swim for Hope is a charity swim event that provides an opportunity for national servicemen and their families to contribute to charitable causes, while promoting fitness and bonding through swimming. This year's event was held over two months from 1 September to 27 October 2024.

A total of $250,000 was raised, which will go towards helping those in need from five beneficiaries – NCSS Special Assistance Fund, SPD, President's Challenge, SAF Care Fund and the Singapore Aquatics Development Fund. Funds were raised through registration fees, corporate and individual donations, with many participants crowdfunding for donations among their supporters to raise funds for charity.

Chief of Defence Force Vice Admiral Aaron Beng graced the event's finale held at SAFRA Tampines this afternoon as the Guest-of-Honour, and presented the cheque of the funds raised to the five beneficiaries. He also joined the swim.

The top individual fundraiser was Dr Patrick Goh who raised $6,000 for charity. He participated in the Open Individual 55km category. The top team fundraiser, RI82, raised a total of $10,633.00.

Also lending their support this year were national swimmers Ardi Azman, Quah Jing Wen and Artyom Lukasevits, along with national diver Ashlee Tan and representatives from the Women's Water Polo team including Abielle Yeo, Rochelle Ong and Mounisha Devi Manivannan.

This year's SAFRA Swim for Hope adopted a hybrid format. Participants continued to be able to swim at their own convenience at any swimming facility islandwide during the two-month swim period, while they could also choose to complete their swim in part or in full at selected SAFRA clubs.

In conjunction with SAFRA Swim for Hope, there were also vibrant family carnivals held at four SAFRA clubs featuring a variety of games and pool activities. Proceeds from carnival tickets also went towards the fundraising effort.

Kindly refer to the following for more information:

- Annex A – Fact sheet on SAFRA Swim for Hope 2024

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About SAFRA National Service Association

SAFRA was formed in 1972 to provide for the social and recreational needs of National Servicemen and their families through quality sports, social, educational and cultural programmes to recognise National Servicemen for their contributions to National Defence. SAFRA currently has a network of seven clubs conveniently located at Choa Chu Kang, Jurong, Mount Faber, Punggol, Tampines, Toa Payoh and Yishun, along with another facility at 29 Carpenter Street. Complementing the modern facilities at SAFRA clubs are a host of quality membership benefits and activities specially packaged for over 460,000 (as of 31 March 2024) NSmen and their families.

Issued by SAFRA National Service Association on 27 October 2024

Annex A

SAFRA SWIM FOR HOPE 2024

Fact Sheet

Organised by SAFRA, the charity swim event was first introduced in 2011 to provide an opportunity for SAF national servicemen and their families to contribute to charitable causes, while promoting fitness and bonding through swimming. Each year, the event adopts various beneficiaries to help those in need.

Swim Categories

Category	Age	Format Options	Fee
Open Individual 1km	13 years old and above	• Virtual • Physical	$22
Open Individual 15km	13 years old and above	• Virtual • Hybrid • Physical	$38
Open Individual 55km	13 years old and above	• Virtual • Hybrid	$55
Families for Life 1km	1 parent + 1 child (6 to 12 years old) Additional pax (max. up to 2)	• Virtual • Physical	$35 + $12 per pax
Families for Life 5km	1 parent + 1 child (6 to 12 years old) Additional pax (max. up to 2)	• Virtual • Hybrid • Physical	$50 + $12 per pax
Team 250km *(Min 5 pax to form a team)*	13 years old and above	• Virtual • Hybrid	$45 per pax

For physical format:	
Dates	**Locations**
21 Sep	SAFRA Choa Chu Kang
28 Sep	SAFRA Yishun
29 Sep	SAFRA Mount Faber
12 Oct	SAFRA Toa Payoh & SAFRA Jurong
21 Sep & 27 Oct	SAFRA Tampines

- Virtual – Participants swim at their own convenience at any swimming facility islandwide and simply log their distances online.

- Physical – Participants complete their swim at a selected SAFRA club.

- Hybrid - Participants swim 1km at a selected SAFRA club and the remaining registered distance virtually.

Family Carnivals

In conjunction with SAFRA Swim for Hope 2024, vibrant family carnivals were held at four SAFRA clubs featuring a variety of games and pool activities. Proceeds from carnival tickets contributed towards the fundraising effort.

21 Sep	SAFRA Tampines SAFRA Choa Chu Kang
28 Sep	SAFRA Yishun
29 Sep	SAFRA Mount Faber

Beneficiaries

NCSS Special Assistance Fund

Funded by NCSS and administered by SG Enable, this fund complements the Assistive Technology Fund by providing additional financial support for persons with disabilities who are facing financial difficulties in affording co-payment amounts to purchase assistive technology devices that improve their ability for independent daily living.

SPD

Founded in 1964 by a group of Rotarians, the organisation was known as Society for Aid to the Paralysed (SAP). In the earlier years, SAP provided employment opportunities at its sheltered workshop to people with disabilities who had difficulties seeking open employment. We were renamed Society for the Physically Disabled (SPD) in May 1998 and subsequently to just SPD in July 2014 to better reflect the work that SPD do – serving people beyond physical disabilities.

Through over 20 programmes that encompass early intervention, therapy, vocational training, assistive technology, day care, as well as educational, employment and social service support, SPD serves people with physical, sensory and learning needs.

President’s Challenge

The President's Challenge is a national movement led by the President to rally Singaporeans to build a caring and cohesive society. It aims to bring people from all walks of life together to help those who are less fortunate. Every dollar donated to the President’s Challenge goes directly to the beneficiary organisations.

SAF Care Fund

The Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Care Fund is set up to provide additional support to SAF servicemen who are severely disabled due to military service, over and above MINDEF's existing compensation and welfare frameworks. The Fund enables members of the public to make contributions and show their support to injured servicemen.

Singapore Aquatics Development Fund

The Singapore Aquatics (SAQ) Development Fund is set up to provide an opportunity for every child and youth in Singapore to learn how to swim. Through an annual grant program and by partnering with swim lesson providers and water safety advocates across the country, it helps to support swimming lessons and educate children and their families on the importance of learning how to swim.

The Past 3 Editions

Year	No. of Pax	Funds Raised	Beneficiaries
2021	4,400	$213,046	Muscular Dystrophy Association Singapore, Singapore Swimming Association's One Team Singapore Fund, SAF Care Fund
2022	4,816	$260,710	Rainbow Centre, President's Challenge, SAF Care Fund, Singapore Swimming Association Development Fund, Special Olympics Singapore
2023	5,788	$285,310	Care Corner Singapore, Children's Aid Society, President's Challenge, SAF Care Fund, Singapore Aquatics Development Fund