



Visitors at the Touch J.A.M. Carnival, which aims to raise \$3.3 million for Touch Community Services' programmes. In 2026, besides new active ageing centres and dedicated spaces for people with intellectual disabilities, the charity will open its first workplace mental wellness centre. ST PHOTO: ARIFFIN JAMAR

Charity to open new active ageing centres, spaces for those with intellectual disabilities

Megan Wee

In 2026, Touch Community Services will add three new active ageing centres to its existing five, and two dedicated spaces for people with intellectual disabilities, as well as its first workplace mental wellness centre, which will open in the Central Business District.

It will also introduce community engagement hubs in Tampines and Marine Parade, said its chief executive James Tan on March 13.

Called Touchpoints, these hubs will house multiple services under one roof to serve families, children, youth, seniors, caregivers and people with special and wellness needs.

Mr Tan made the announcement in his opening speech at the inaugural Touch J.A.M. (Joy, Art and Music) Carnival, which runs till March 15 at Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza.

The carnival, which aims to raise \$3.3 million for the charity's programmes, was launched by Mr Eric Chua, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Social and Family Development and Law.

The launch festivities included performances by Touch's children and youth beneficiaries, and a catwalk by artists with intellectual disabilities sporting Journey x Snoopy merchandise that featured their work.

Journey is a brand of lifestyle products under Touch Community Services that showcases the creative talents of people with intellectual disabilities. The carnival's Journey x Snoopy pop-up store includes a series of newly designed limited-edition bags and charms featuring Galactic Playground, an original work of art by 27 artists from Journey.

One of the artists, Mr Hee Wan Po, 58, said he enjoyed putting on the catwalk performance with fellow Journey members.

Journey beneficiary Jocelyn Kong, 37, who does packing and quality-checking of products at the brand as part of vocational training, said she was happy to see Mediacorp artiste Rebecca Lim, who was making her first official appearance as a Touch ambassador.

Besides food, drinks and games, the event includes live performances by Touch beneficiaries and by South-east Asian singer-songwriter lullaby every evening, with a special fan meet

on the afternoon of March 15. Local band 53A was set to perform on March 14, while Glenn Yong will take the stage on March 15.

"Events like this create opportunities for Singaporeans to connect, for families to spend meaningful time together, and for people from different walks of life to contribute in their own ways," said Mr Chua.

The carnival is supported by national grid operator SP Group, whose \$2.1 million contribution will support more than 700 children and young people aged seven to 17 from lower-income families over three years through the SP Champ League.

This initiative will provide beneficiaries with mentoring, academic tutoring and enrichment activities to build cognitive skills and improve social mobility.

The remaining \$1.2 million raised will go towards the Heart of Community Fund to support its programmes, which benefit more than 216,000 individuals under Touch's care, as well as fund outreach programmes that promote cyberwellness and mental health.

Admission to the carnival is free. All proceeds from game coupons and snack bags and donations at terminals around the event plaza will go to the fund, as will a portion of earnings by food and beverage vendors.

Fourteen-year-old Owen Sim is a superhero fan who has loved martial arts since he was young.

Coming from a lower-income family, he did not have the chance to pursue his interest until his family learnt of Touch Young Arrows, a programme that provides children from low-income and single-parent families with free academic coaching and enrichment activities.

In 2024, SP Group donated \$500,000 to Touch Community Services to support at-risk youth from lower-income families, providing them with digital learning resources, academic coaching and enrichment activities. This served as a pilot run of SP Champ League.

In the past two years, Owen has attended STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programmes, including one called "superhero science", as well as a mixed martial arts programme. "I learnt a lot of cool moves in martial arts and learnt self-defence," he said.

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