



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities opens two new EIPIC Centres to support children with developmental needs**

**Friday, 19 July 2024** – Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities (THKMC) has set up two new Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIC) centres this year. **THK** EIPIC Centre @ Pioneer and **THK** EIPIC Centre @ Toa Payoh started operations in January and July respectively. These new additions are part of the strategic plan to meet growing demand, reduce waiting time for government-funded Early Intervention (EI) services, and provide timely support for children with developmental needs, as highlighted in the Committee of Supply (COS) debate in March 2024. **THK** EIPIC Centre @ Pioneer was officially opened by Guest-of-Honour, Mr Patrick Tay, Advisor to Pioneer SMC, on 19 July 2024.

With the inclusion of these two new centres, **THKMC** now operates six EIPIC Centres under its Early Intervention for Children Services. This expansion increases **THKMC**'s capacity to serve up to 1,100 children, a significant increase of ~35% from the previous number of children served under the four existing EIC centres. **THKMC** will be adding 80 early intervention teachers, therapists, psychologists, social workers and support staff for the two new centres.

"I am grateful for the set up of **THK** EIPIC Centre here in Pioneer Constituency which will better serve the needs of children and families living in Pioneer and the Jurong West community. There will be many opportunities for **THKMC** to work with our grassroots and community partners to support and uplift the lives of our residents here!", shared Advisor Mr Patrick Tay.

## **THKMC ELM (Empowered Learning Community)**

The official opening of **THK** EIPIC Centre @ Pioneer saw the announcement of the launch of **THKMC** ELM (Empowered Learning coMmunity) Portal, a one-stop virtual platform for caregivers' support and empowerment. The portal offers a range of support resources such as videos, activity kits, webinars, workshops and forums, and virtual support groups for caregivers to connect with one another. Through **THKMC** ELM, **THKMC** aims to enhance caregivers' sense of parenting competency, knowledge and skills to support their child, as well as establish a strong social support network amongst the caregivers.

## **THKMC WE-BBC (Waitlist Engagement - Building Blocks of Communication)**

To further support parents whose children are on the waitlist, **THKMC** introduced the WE-BBC (Waitlist Engagement-Building Blocks of Communication), a tele-coaching programme. This programme enhances parents' interaction skills with their child. Parents are coached by experienced Early Intervention professionals on an evidence-based programme. Parents then apply these skills during play routines at home, facilitating the development of their child's social communication skills. The programme's pilot has garnered positive outcomes from parents who have reported significant improvements in their children's social and communication skills.

## **Success Stories**

Ms Katherine Agpoon, mother of a child with Autistic Spectrum Disorder shared, "Within 3 months of enrolling in the EIPIC centre, I noticed a significant improvement in my child. She is more expressive and aware of her own feelings and is observant with her friends as well. She is more verbal, putting labels on the emotions. With that, I have more understanding on how to help her deal with big emotions. These progresses are huge for a parent who struggles to understand her child."

Similarly, Ms Goh sees improvements in the way her child manages his emotions ever since he joined **THK** EIPIC Centre @ Pioneer. She shared, "Previously, when he wants to eat or play with the toy and he is not able to have it, he used to make a scene. Now,

he does not take long to calm down and is able to communicate better with us. He also looks forward to going to the EIPIC centre.”

**THK**MC’s Chief Executive Officer Mr Jason Lee shared, “As we expand our services to support families of children with developmental needs, we aim to ease the worries of parents by increasing capacity for EI services. We remain committed to support parents awaiting EIPIC centre placements for their children with added resources, and we encourage them to make full use of these support resources.”

**THK** Early Intervention for Children Services is dedicated to enhancing children’s learning and fostering meaningful engagement in their natural environment. Parents of children with developmental needs are encouraged to seek early intervention to receive the support they need to lead fulfilling lives.

## About Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities (THKMC)

**THKMC** was incorporated on 13 October 2011 as a charity to provide multiple social and welfare services to the community at large, and achieved an Institute of Public Character (IPC) status on 18 November 2011. **THKMC** is the charitable arm of Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society, which lives by the mission of serving people with diverse needs by providing impactful community services. **THKMC** today serves more than 70,000 beneficiaries through more than 70 programmes across five Services, which include Disability, Early Intervention for Children, Family, Seniors' Community, and Therapy.

### **太和观慈善机构简介**

**太和观慈善机构**成立于 2011 年 10 月 13 日，为广大社区提供多种社会和福利服务的慈善机构；并于 2011 年 11 月 18 日获得公益机构 (IPC) 认证。**太和观慈善机构**是德教太和观旗下的实体慈善企业之一，忠于为广大不同需求的人民提供具有影响力的社会援助服务。如今，**太和观慈善机构**通过五大服务部门，其中包括残疾、幼儿早期介入、家庭、乐龄社区、和治疗护理，提供 70 多个项目和活动为超过 70,000 名受益人提供服务。

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### **Media Contacts**

#### **Ms Nadia Norman**

Manager, Corporate Communications

Email: [nadia.norman@thkmc.org.sg](mailto:nadia.norman@thkmc.org.sg)

#### **Ms Koh Mui Leng (许美玲)**

Senior Manager, Corporate Communications

Email: [muileng.koh@thkmc.org.sg](mailto:muileng.koh@thkmc.org.sg)