

Press Release
For Immediate Release



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23-year-old cancer patient with two months prognosis hosts solo art exhibition

Singapore, 21st April 2016 – Life took a turn for the worst when happy-go-lucky and out-going art student Muhammad Khairul Ikwan, 23, was diagnosed with Stage 4 colorectal cancer and two months to live, in October 2015. He was subsequently referred to Star PALS, a paediatric palliative care programme under HCA Hospice Care, when Nurse Nicole Peng discovered his talent as an artist.

The effects of Khairul's cancer caused a whirlwind of changes in his life. His vision and hearing, both of which are important “tools” for him as an artist, were disrupted. Yet he neither feels defeated nor dissuaded. Khairul has managed to outlive his prognosis and is now working towards fulfilling his bucket list, one of which is the hosting of his solo art exhibition.

“I simply wish that he can do something that he really wants to do in this lifetime. If Star PALS can help to make his dream come true, why not?” says Nicole, who is helping Khairul with his preparations for the upcoming exhibition.

“Khairul is a vessel that is ever changing but stays true to himself. He is someone who is deeply in love and passionate about art,” says Muhammad Azri Bin Chapar, one of his many close knitted friends.

Khairul will be launching HOPE, an exhibition showcasing his art on 21st Apr 16. It will be an opportunity for him to share about his life and how he deals with the reality of his own condition.

“Somewhere around the world lives another soul who suffer the same pain as you do but that soul wishes to continue to live on in this world, because they believe it is not their time to leave yet and also because they desire to share and create many more memories for themselves. It's because of these souls that I press on”.

The flamboyant life he once had has given way to one that is constrained by regularly medical reviews and chemotherapy treatments. Through it all, Khairul remains positive and upbeat.

HOPE is a collaborative exhibition that follows the artistic journey of Khairul and his battle with cancer. Beneath the aesthetics and beauty of Khairul designs lies a simple individual pressing on to encourage his loved ones, friends and fans alike of the humanity and hope he discovered on the journey.

The exhibition looks into how each individual ruminates and reflects on the idea of hope differently, casting wider interpretations on the very essence of life and living.

Khairul's life exemplifies HCA Hospice Care's aims to provide the best quality of life for patients with life limiting illnesses by delivering professional palliative care and providing compassionate support to their families.

About Star PALS

Star PALS (Paediatric Advance Life Support) is a paediatric palliative care service dedicated to improving the quality of life for children with life-threatening or life-limiting conditions, in the comfort of their homes.

Multidisciplinary teams comprising doctors, nurses, medical social workers and counsellors work hand-in-hand with parents, caregivers, and the child's healthcare professionals to tailor treatment plans to each child.

Star PALS is a service by HCA Hospice Care.

About HCA Hospice Care

HCA Hospice Care (HCA) is Singapore's largest home hospice provider and has been a registered charity since 1989. The organisation provides comfort and support to patients with life-limiting illnesses regardless of age, religion, ethnicity, nationality and financial status. HCA's core service, home hospice care, is provided at no charge to more than 3,500 patients annually. Besides medical care for patients, this service also entails psychosocial support for patients and caregivers. A 24/7 hotline ensures help is available round-the-clock.

HCA is a NCSS Centre of Specialisation for palliative care, and conducts palliative care training for its patients' caregivers. Its other services and programmes include day hospice care, paediatric palliative care (Star PALS), bereavement support, and outreach programmes such as the Young Caregivers Programme. www.hca.org.sg

For more information

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