



NATIONAL CANCER SOCIETY MALAYSIA OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES ITS YOUNG CANCER SURVIVORS GROUP

Kuala Lumpur, 19 March, 2019 – The National Cancer Society of Malaysia (NCSM) launched its Young Cancer Survivors Group today, officiated by YB Nurul Izzah Anwar.

For over 50 years, NCSM has empowered people in preventing, detecting, and overcoming cancer by providing health and cancer screening. It also runs a children’s home for child cancer patients undergoing treatment in Hospital Kuala Lumpur. Additionally, the Society supports cancer patients and survivors through peer groups, wellness and recovery programmes, as well as a toll-free cancer helpline.

The idea to form a Young Cancer Survivors Group began in 2016 with the aim of bringing young cancer survivors together to discuss issues, challenges and support those who are grappling with life after or during cancer.

According to the Malaysian National Cancer Registry Report, between year 2007 to 2011, 103,507 new cancer cases were reported. Out of this, more than 12,000 cases reported belonged to those aged between 18 to 40.

“I felt lonely during my journey with cancer. I was constantly trying to find someone my age I could relate to and seek advice from. This group was formed for other young cancer patients and survivors to never feel the same way anymore”, said Dr. Choo Mei Sze, NCSM’s Youth Ambassador and a colorectal cancer survivor. Dr. Choo Mei Sze was entrusted with the task of spearheading this group to find young cancer survivors, bring them together through workshops and activities and develop the growth of its members.

“For young people living each day with their entire lives ahead of them, the trauma of having their future, dreams and hopes threatened by cancer is too much to handle. Although they may be physically cured post treatment, the same cannot be said for their mental and emotional well-being. Today, we are proud to say that our Young Cancer Survivors Group has grown to 70 members strong,



and has become a pillar of support to enable young cancer survivors find a place of solace and lean on each other as they learn to carry on with life after cancer”, said Dr. Saunthari Somasundaram, President of NCSM.

Open to youth aged between 18 to 35, YCSG conducts free workshops and activities on a monthly basis such as zumba, boxing, skincare and makeup, healthy eating workshops and many more. These workshops are sponsored by NCSM and third parties. The group also comes together to develop the growth of YCSG and recruit new members, who happen to be young cancer survivors.

For more information or to be a part of the Young Cancer Survivors Group, please contact us at 1-800-08-1000 or email help@cancer.org.my.

About National Cancer Society of Malaysia / Persatuan Kebangsaan Kanser Malaysia (NCSM)

The National Cancer Society Malaysia (NCSM) is the first not-for-profit cancer organisation in Malaysia that provides education, care and support services for people affected by cancer. Over the last 50 years, it provides holistic cancer support to patients and caregivers. NCSM supports patients in understanding and dealing with cancer in various phases through its five cancer centres – the Cancer and Health Screening Clinic, Nuclear Medicine Centre, Resource and Wellness Centre, Quit Smoking Clinic and the Children’s Home of Hope and has branches in six states, i.e. Johor, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Perak, Penang and Sarawak.

For Cancer Information and Support, please call 1-800-08-1000

For media inquiries, please contact:

Niranjni Jayabalan, Manager, PR & Communications

+603 2698 7300 ext 46

niranjni@cancer.org.my