

For Immediate Release

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With pix

## **Manulife-donated Gymnasium opens at Hong Chi Morninghope School Insurer hopes it will help build up students' immune systems against virus infections**

**Hong Kong** - With the danger of easily contracted respiratory diseases again in the air, the opening of Manulife-sponsored Gymnasium provides a timely facility for the more vulnerable children of the Hong Chi Association's Morninghope School to strengthen their physiques against the infection.

As Michael Huddart, Manulife's Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, Hong Kong, pointed out at the opening ceremony of the 'Manulife Gym Room': "Manulife is committed to community services for the needy with a particular focus on supporting the healthy development of our younger generation. Under the threat of a flu pandemic, it is important to stay healthy and take preventive measures to guard against contracting this kind of illness." At the ceremony, Mr. Huddart also presented a gift of 1,400 bottles of hand-sanitizer to be distributed among Hong Chi's 13 special schools for students with intellectual disabilities.

He went on: "We are delighted to sponsor the setting up of this gym room, which will help the students to build up their immune systems and is in line with our ongoing commitment to provide community services for those in particular need."

Manulife has previously donated HK\$150,000 via its Charitable Foundation for the setting up of the 'Manulife Gym Room' in the Morninghope School. The gym is fitted out with a range of new equipment designed to give appropriate training to these students, who tend to have lower levels of physical fitness and poor body coordination compared with other children. Working out at the gym will enable them to strengthen their physiques and their cardio-pulmonary systems.

After the ceremony, Mr. Huddart and other Manulife volunteers joined the students to add to the day's excitement by competing in a Fitness Challenge, which included use of the exercise bike, rowing machine and treadmill. And the Morninghope School youngsters displayed their athletic skills with a gymnastic performance.

Philip Poon, Vice Chairman of the Hong Chi Association's Schools Management Committee, expressed gratitude for Manulife's generosity and ongoing support. He said that he looked forward to further collaborations between the Hong Chi Association and Manulife with the aim of fulfilling their mutual aspiration for a better future for the children.

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**About Manulife Charitable Foundation**

The Manulife Charitable Foundation is a non-profit organization set up by Manulife (International) Limited in 1998 to support and promote educational, health and children programs for the betterment of public welfare in Hong Kong. It has sponsored the Manulife Centre for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University since 1999 with a mandate to assist children with specific learning difficulties, and their parents and teachers, by studying how to identify children in need of assistance and help them develop to their full potential.

**About Manulife (International) Limited**

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**About Hong Chi Association**

Hong Chi Association, formerly the Hong Kong Association for the Mentally Handicapped, was established in 1965. Today, Hong Chi has grown to become the largest non-profit organisation in Hong Kong dedicated solely to serving people with intellectual disabilities and their families. The Association operates 72 service units to provide one-stop services including pre-school care, special education, job training, hospitality training, sheltered workshops, supported employment service, day activity centres, residential service, community education institute, adult education, Gateway Club and treatment services to some 7,000 people of all ages and all grades of intellectual disabilities.

Captions:



Fitness Challenge Against Flu Infection - Michael Huddart, Manulife's Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, Hong Kong, and Manulife volunteers joined the students at Hong Chi Morninghope School in a Fitness Challenge, a healthy exercise to fight flu!



Manulife-donated Gymnasium opens at Hong Chi Morninghope School.