

# CARE Network Insider

ISSUE 5 | SEPT 2023



## CN SUMMIT 2023



On 27 July 2023, the CARE Network Summit 2023 delved into the topic of desistance. Themed “Desistance in the CommUNITY”, the event emphasised the need for the community to support ex-offenders in their reintegration journey towards long-term desistance from crime. Community leaders, desistors as well as researchers and partners came together to exchange ideas, knowledge, and initiatives.

The event was graced by Guest-of-Honour, Mr K Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, who affirmed efforts to lower recidivism rates and develop the capabilities of community partners and volunteers. Professor Shadd Maruna from Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland, who is the most-cited desistance researcher, was the event's keynote speaker and delivered interesting insights on desistance. Professor Beth Weaver from University of Strathclyde in Glasgow also presented virtually on co-producing desistance. The two presentations were complemented with a presentation from the Singapore Prison Service's Psychological and Correctional Rehabilitation Division on desistance in the local context. Click [here](#) for the presentation materials, the [CN Summit '23 booklet & toolkit](#) & [CN Summit '23 key learnings](#) <sup>(new!)</sup>.



Once again, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all CARE Network partners for coming together and making this event a success! Watch the [CN Summit 2023 video](#) highlighting the other segments: panel speaker discussions, networking sessions, breakout group discussions, and the spectacular performance by a desistor and his recovery coach. Enjoy & see you at the next CN Summit!

## ASPIRE TO INSPIRE

**Congratulations!**  
A \$20 GRAB voucher  
is coming your way.

**Yeo Yun Luo**  
(ISCOS Titan)



Yun Luo joined ISCOS as a Titan in 2020 and has been actively involved in numerous motivational sharing activities with inmates and youths. Despite his hectic work schedule, he finds the time to contribute to these engagements and actively provides feedback on improvising these programmes. Yun Luo believes strongly in the cause of supporting ex-offenders, which stems from his own experiences in his youth. His drive and motivation are truly an inspiration to me and the ISCOS team!



Jensen has been with us for ten years and is no stranger in this sector. He has successfully demonstrated that reformation is possible through his own life journey. Constantly finding ways to collaborate with other aftercare professionals to better support inmates and ex-offenders, Jensen displays credibility in word and deed, inspiring others to lead a changed life!

**Jensen Lee**  
(Prison Fellowship  
Singapore)





Nathan is a very hardworking, highly coachable, and humble young man. He also has a very kind heart and always very willing to help others patiently and going the extra mile! He has a huge potential to be a very good social worker in the future.

**Nathan George**  
(HUG Community Services Ltd)



## The Desistor Network

By Singapore Prison Service (SPS)

The Desistor Network (DN) was launched on 15 April 2023 by Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs & Ministry of National Development, Assoc Prof Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, who joined over 200 guests and community partners to mark the significant milestone. DN, a new initiative between SPS, community partners and desistors, provides an ecosystem of prosocial support for ex-offenders through activities and programmes. To-date, 62 agencies have signed up to be part of DN. If your organisation would like to be part of this meaningful initiative, sign up [here](#)!

Visit [SPS FB Post on The Desistor Network](#) for more information about The Desistor Network & join DN's telegram channel [here](#).

## PSSSST... DID YOU KNOW?



## NeuGen's After-school Activity

By NeuGen Fund (NeuGen)

Aimed at enabling holistic development and character-building, this programme offers the opportunity for children and youths from low-income families of reformed offenders to pursue interests in areas such as sports, arts, and life skills. One recent collaboration was with the Legends Fight Singapore who offered a complimentary trial session for the children to delve into the world of boxing and learn important foundational skills ranging from mastering the basic jab to hitting the bags and basic partner drills.

It was an interesting session and some children signed up for the boxing lessons subsequently, sponsored by NeuGen. If you would like to know more or support this programme, drop us an email at [hello@neugen.org.sg](mailto:hello@neugen.org.sg)!

## REGISTER NOW!

### New E-Learning Course by SACA: Group Facilitation Skills

(Registration is open throughout the year!)



## A collaborative effort by Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS), Singapore After-Care Association (SACA) and Singapore Prison Service (SPS)

In partnership with SUSS UniLEARN, SACA has launched a new e-learning course titled 'Group Facilitation Skills'. The use of group-based rehabilitation, such as support groups or psychoeducational groups, is becoming increasingly common in the work with offenders. The role of the group facilitator is especially crucial in building a safe and supporting environment for sharing & fostering peer support. Among the topics covered are the role of a facilitator, effective facilitation characteristics & skills, stages of group development and many more! This course is suitable for anyone who is looking to work with inmates and ex-offenders.

**Hurry and register [here](#)!** Visit [SACA's e-learning courses](#) for more information on other accessible e-learning courses.

## 4ST Partnership Fund

[Open for Applications in October!]

### By National Council of Social Service (NCSS)

Look out for the next grant call opening from 1-31 October 2023! NCSS is keen to support innovative, collaborative, and empowering solutions for your service users. Visit the [link here](#) or scan the QR code to learn more about the 4ST Partnership Fund.



We have also launched a **FREE proposal writing e-course**, to help you develop the skills and knowledge needed to write a high-quality proposal for submission. **Sign up NOW** at this [link](#).



## OK8 Groupwork Programme

### By THK Family Service Centre @ Bedok North

OK8 is a group work programme that supports families who are impacted by incarceration related to drugs. The programme is aimed to equip members with skills to navigate reintegration, drug relapse, and improve family relationships.

Our group work is targeted at families (family members of all ages are welcome). OK8 programme is conducted physically on selected Saturdays at THK Bedok North. The programme will commence in Sept 2023 and end in March 2024. For referrals, please fill up the form [here](#). **Registration closes end Oct 2023.**

**OUR KELUARGA (OK8)**

*“The remedy to addiction is connection.”*

**OUTCOME**

- Positive community support
- Drug relapse prevention
- Strengthening family relationships

**WHO IS THIS FOR?**

Families with members currently OR recently incarcerated due to drug abuse (within the past 3 years)

**CONTACT**

THK Family Service Centre @ Bedok North  
64491442 / 94872843  
bnfc@thkmc.org.sg / terencecong@thkmc.org.sg

**TOPICS COVERED**

- Understanding triggers of drug use
- Impact of drug use on family
- Reintegration & coping with relapse
- Strengthening communication with family

**COMMENCEMENT DATE**

- September 2023
- Saturday Afternoons (3-week interval)

**REGISTRATION PERIOD**

- Closes end October 2023

## PAY-IT-FORWARD

### Calling for Volunteers for Child-Minding Service!

#### By NeuGen Fund (NeuGen)

Every month, NeuGen organise support groups dedicated to our beneficiaries who are mothers and caregivers to share common challenges and experiences. At times, it can be hard for some of them to attend when they have no one else to tend to their children. To overcome this, NeuGen had introduced a new service – child minding – run by volunteers who help to look after the children on-site during the support group sessions. If you are comfortable interacting with children and are keen to volunteer, drop us an email at [nurul@iscos.org.sg](mailto:nurul@iscos.org.sg) to find out more!



## Launch of a Commemorative Book, titled “Forgiven, not Forsaken”

### By Prison Fellowship Singapore (PFS)

A Commemorative Book, titled “Forgiven not Forsaken”, was launched at the PFS’s Gala Dinner on 1 September 2023. This book is part of the fund-raising efforts to support our prison ministry work and to commemorate 70 years of the prison ministry in Singapore. It traces the evolution and development of the prison ministry starting in the 1950s and the aspirations for the future. It also contains the reflections and perspectives of those involved throughout the 70-year journey and their contributions in shaping the current prison ministry ecosystem. The book is authored by Dr William Wan, the immediate-past Board Chairman of PFS, and General Secretary of the Singapore Kindness Movement.

To order, contact [donate@pfs.org.sg](mailto:donate@pfs.org.sg). All donations are tax deductible and will go towards 70x7 (the IPC fund of PFS).



### Fun Fact

Read the thoughts of our SPS colleagues in the book and stay inspired!





# CELEBRATE MILESTONES & ACHIEVEMENTS!



## Opening Ceremony for Acronis x HCSA Computer Classroom

By Yellow Ribbon Fund (YRF)

Acronis and HCSA Community Services are excited to announce the launch of the Acronis-HCSA Computer Classroom at the HCSA Highpoint Halfway House on 17 April 2023! This joint initiative with the Yellow Ribbon Fund aims to uplift ex-offenders by training them in digital literacy skills, providing them with a pathway to better employment opportunities and supporting their reintegration into society. Acronis' contributions through the Yellow Ribbon Fund have provided ex-offenders with access to digital literacy training in computer classrooms.

**Keen to collaborate with YRF?** Click [here](#) to find out more about YRF and its programme.

## PAST HAPPENINGS...



## The Asia Pacific Forum Against Drugs (APFAD)

By Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA), co-organised with the National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA)

The Asia Pacific Forum Against Drug (APFAD) 2023 was held on 26 May 2023, at the Suntec Singapore Convention and Exhibition Centre. The event was graced by our Guest-of-Honour, Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister for Communications and Information & Second Minister for Home Affairs. Mrs Teo's opening remarks touched on the need for Singapore's participation in international events such as the CND, and collaborations with overseas counterparts to strengthen our capabilities in the fight against drugs. APFAD was packed with engaging activities and memorable highlights, click [here](#) for the GOH's full speech.



For more information on the event, click [APFAD video](#) & [APFAD post](#). Enjoy!

## Yellow Ribbon Culinary Competition

By Yellow Ribbon Projects (YRP)



The Yellow Ribbon Culinary Competition (YRCC) 2023 Grand Finale was held on 15 June 2023 in Changi Prison Complex. Organised by the Yellow Ribbon project, Singapore Chefs' Association, and HCSA Academy Culinary Training Centre, this competition equips inmates and ex-offenders with culinary skills so that they may consider working in the F&B industry after their release. For the first time, ex-offenders have also been invited as co-participants to form teams with the inmate participants! Thank you, Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Ministry of Sustainability and Environment & Ministry of Transport, along with partners, sponsors and the families of the participants, who had supported the participants and try out their creative dishes. For more photos of the event, click [here](#). Read on [here](#) to learn more about YRP's movement.

Be a Social Champion & Share Your Stories!



Want to contribute to CN Insider 2023? Click here [CN Insider 2023 Content](#). Also, nominate an inspiring volunteer for Issue #6 through this [link](#). All submissions to reach us **by 23 Oct 2023**. For any feedback or to unsubscribe, click [here](#).

*CN Insider is a newsletter created by the community for the community. The newsletter is not endorsed by, directly affiliated with, authorised, or sponsored by the Singapore Prison Service (SPS) and Yellow Ribbon Singapore (YRSG).*

Brought to you by the CARE Network Secretariat.