



## PRESS RELEASE

### **VOLUNTEERS RAISED OVER \$560,000 TO SUPPORT INMATES, EX-OFFENDERS AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH THE YELLOW RIBBON FUND CHARITY GOLF AND DINNER 2024**

**Singapore, 20 March 2024** – A group of avid golfers, led by Dr Jimmy Koh, has been instrumental in helping to raise funds for the Yellow Ribbon Fund (YRF). Capitalising on their extensive networks and passion in golf, these volunteers have been helping to organise the bi-annual YRF Charity Golf and Dinner to raise funds to support inmates, ex-offenders and their families. Since its inception, they have raised close to \$4 million for YRF.

2. This year's edition of the YRF Charity Golf and Dinner, held at Tanah Merah Country Club, celebrated the significant milestone of YRF's 20th anniversary. Over the last two decades, the YRF has uplifted the lives of over 70,000 beneficiaries through the funding of various programmes, such as the YRF Skills Assistance to Restart (STAR) Bursary, which provides financial assistance for low-income ex-offenders who wish to pursue further education or acquire vocational skills after their release.

3. Today's event raised a record \$568,096, which will go a long way towards funding the various rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for inmates and ex-offenders, as well as to support their families.

4. The Chairman of YRF, Mr Edmund Cheng, commended the volunteers' invaluable contributions. Mr Cheng said, "On behalf of YRF and all its beneficiaries, I would like to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to Dr Koh and his extremely passionate team of volunteers. It is indeed heartening to see their commitment to help raise funds for the Yellow Ribbon cause, and how they have used their love of golf to do so, and have fun at the same time. I look forward to seeing how their selfless actions can inspire others to similarly come forward to offer their time and services, to help ex-offenders turn their lives around. I also thank all our donors, sponsors and community partners for journeying with YRF over the last 20 years, and for their continued support over the next 20 years!"

5. Dr Koh has served as the Co-Chairman of the YRF Charity Golf and Dinner organising committee since it started in 2008, and this year marks the 9<sup>th</sup> edition. Dr Koh recalled his first step in supporting the YRF, "The YRF's tagline *Unlocking the Second Prison* really resonated well with me. The reality of what ex-offenders face, and the impact to their families, got me thinking of how I can help enable them to overcome this second prison. Being a golf lover, I naturally reached out to my golfer friends. As this is a very worthwhile cause, it was not difficult to get them onboard to start our first charity golf event. Our satisfaction comes from knowing that people in the community are willing to give them second chances, through their valuable contributions that benefit the inmates, ex-offenders and their families. That is what has given us strength to continue supporting YRF till today."



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**About the Yellow Ribbon Fund**

Launched in 2004, the Yellow Ribbon Fund (YRF) is the first national charitable fund devoted entirely towards the development and implementation of rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for inmates and ex-offenders, as well as family support programmes to strengthen their family ties. Proceeds from the various fund-raising activities will go towards funding a variety of rehabilitation and family programmes, as well as aftercare services.

The YRF is registered under Yellow Ribbon Singapore (YRSG) and is a member of the CARE Network, an alliance of public and non-government agencies that aims to promote supportive aftercare for ex-offenders.

In 2018, 2019 and 2023, YRF was conferred the Transparency Award from the Charity Council, signifying exemplary disclosure and good transparency practices by the Commissioner of Charities (COC).

For more information on YRF, please visit <https://www.yellowribbon.gov.sg/yellow-ribbon-fund>.