

COMMEMORATING THE YELLOW RIBBON PROJECT'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY



YEARS OF CHAMPIONING SECOND CHANCES

YELLOW RIBBON: OUR JOURNEY OF SECOND CHANCES

Foreword

The Yellow Ribbon Project (YRP) celebrates its 20th anniversary this year! YRP's name draws inspiration from the song "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree", which sings about an ex-offender being accepted by his family upon his release. YRP was launched in 2004 as a nationwide public education campaign to spur society to give ex-offenders a second chance in life – to help unlock the second "prison of social stigma" after their release from incarceration.

We are heartened that the YRP has made significant progress in getting Singapore's society to accept ex-offenders as they attempt to reintegrate back into the community. Similarly, the number of employers who support the hiring of ex-offenders has gone up steadily. At its core, the YRP is now a part of Singapore's journey towards a more inclusive society. Beyond Singapore's shores, we take pride in the fact that the YRP message has spread to other countries and inspired similar movements.

Spanning three parts, this commemorative web publication tracks the highlights and achievements over two decades of the YRP. Part One recounts the YRP's journey since its inception in 2004, including key milestones. Part Two illustrates how the YRP has successfully garnered community support for second chances and beyond, both locally and internationally. Part Three showcases the talents of inmates and ex-offenders – from art to poetry, music to culinary skills.

In this 20th year of the YRP, it is timely to chronicle our remarkable journey of second chances, to take stock of our progress and how

WE ARE EACH OTHER'S
**SECOND
CHANCES!**



From left to right

Shie Yong Lee
Commissioner
of Prisons

Phillip Tan
Chairman,
Yellow Ribbon Singapore

Sunny Lee
Chief Executive Officer,
Yellow Ribbon Singapore

To commemorate our 20th anniversary, the Yellow Ribbon Project is proud to present this special web publication, a compelling exploration of second chances in three parts.

PART 1

Unlocking
the Second Prison



PART 2

Celebrating
Second Chances



To be published in
September 2024

PART 3

We Are Each Other's
Second Chances



To be published in
October 2024

PART 1

Unlocking the Second Prison

Without second chances, a released inmate will leave the first physical prison and potentially enter a second “social stigma prison”, trapped by his or her past mistakes.

YELLOW RIBBON PROJECT'S Milestones

2004 ✨ ✨ ✨

Then President of Singapore, Mr S.R. Nathan, launched the Yellow Ribbon Project (YRP) and Yellow Ribbon Fund (YRF) during the inaugural YR Charity Concert.

2006

First Celebrating Second Chances Awards Ceremony

2007

First YR Community Art Exhibition & First YR Culinary Competition

2008

First YR Charity Golf Tournament

2009

First YR Prison Run/National Day Goodie Bag packing



2010

Yellow Ribbon Community Project (YRCP) was launched to support families of newly admitted inmates

2011

Yellow Ribbon Day @ 13th International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA) Conference in Singapore

2013

Inaugural Community Action for the Rehabilitation of Ex-Offenders (CARE) Network Workplan Seminar

2016

Czech Republic's Yellow Ribbon Run

2019

11th Yellow Ribbon Prison Run attended by then President of Singapore, Mdm Halimah Yacob

2020

Rebranding of Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) to Yellow Ribbon Singapore (YRSG)

1990s

Genesis

In the 1990s, prisons in Singapore were overpopulated and many inmates were repeat offenders. This was particularly so with drug offenders, with a relapse rate of more than 50 percent.

In 1999, as part of the recommendations by the Penal Rehabilitation Review Committee led by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), a nationwide Coordinating Committee for the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Offenders (CCRRO) was formed, and the then Prisons Department (now known as the Singapore Prison Service) took the lead in coordinating the work of all agencies in the aftercare landscape.

2000

Formation of CARE Network

The Singapore Prison Service (SPS) facilitated two retreats for aftercare agencies in 2000. During the retreats, the formation of a nationwide committee to coordinate and enhance cooperation among government agencies and Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs) in Singapore was discussed. It was recognised that the aftercare agencies needed to be aware of what each other was doing to achieve better synergy and deployment of resources.

Mr Chua Chin Kiat, then Director of Prisons, subsequently sought the support of Chairman SCORE, Mr Kong Mun Kwong, on the formation of such a committee and for Mr Kong to co-chair the committee. SCORE was established as a statutory board in 1976, and its mission included the provision of vocational and employability training for inmates, and finding employment for released inmates. This led to the restructuring of CCRRO into the “CARE Network” in 2000.

2001

The Joint Task of Rehabilitation

SCORE engaged an external consultant for a complete review and study of SCORE's role vis-a-vis SPS and the working relationship, with a view to possibly restructuring its organisation if necessary.

In 2001, the external consultant recommended, amongst other recommendations, a closer "alignment" between SPS and SCORE, and also to enhance cooperation in carrying out the joint task of rehabilitation.

At the same time, SACA and SANA implemented the **Case Management Framework (CMF)**. CMF is a holistic counselling and case management approach that develops greater resilience in ex-offenders, as they prepare for their eventual reintegration. This programme helps ex-offenders in dealing with their reintegration issues such as family, financial, employment, accommodation, and other concerns.

The CARE Network was formed to bring together agencies in the aftercare landscape, to develop a coordinated approach towards supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-offenders, and to help them transit back into the community as contributing citizens. The founding members of the CARE Network were MHA, SPS, SCORE, National Council of Social Services (NCSS), Singapore Aftercare Association (SACA), Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA) and Industrial and Services Co-operative Society Ltd (ISCOS). The Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) joined in 2006. SPS took on the role as the CARE Network Secretariat.



/ Launch of CARE Network

2002

New CEO of SCORE

Mr Jason Wong (then Assistant Director, Operations) from SPS was seconded to SCORE as CEO in 2002.

Unveiling of CARE Network Logo

The **CARE Network logo**, which symbolises the concept of “turning over a new leaf”, was unveiled. The logo design was picked from more than 500 entries submitted by employees and clients of the CARE Network agencies.



/ Mr Jason Wong
CEO of SCORE (2002 to 2005)



2003

New Secretariat of CARE Network

SCORE took over as secretariat of the CARE Network.

Launch of Lee Foundation Education Assistance Scheme

The **Lee Foundation Education Assistance Scheme** was launched to provide beneficiaries opportunities to pursue the GCE ‘N’, ‘O’ and ‘A’ Levels and tertiary education through a co-payment scheme.

A Community Film - Twilight Kitchen

As part of CARE Network’s efforts to educate the public on the struggles faced by ex-offenders in their reintegration journey, SCORE commissioned a film, titled “**Twilight Kitchen**” (聚味楼 in Mandarin), which was screened in cinemas in 2003. The objective was to encourage companies to employ ex-offenders.



/ Twilight Kitchen (聚味楼 in Mandarin)
community film

2004

The Stage is Set – Launch of the Yellow Ribbon Project

Mr Jason Wong, CEO of SCORE, recognised that ex-offenders faced social stigma, and that a concerted and sustained effort was necessary to unlock the “social stigma” prison. Mr Wong then launched the Yellow Ribbon Project in 2004 - a national campaign to raise awareness about giving ex-offenders second chances.

A YRP theme song, which was a remix of the 1970s song, “Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree”, that inspired the name “**Yellow Ribbon Project**”, was also produced for the launch.



/ Then President of Singapore, Mr S.R. Nathan, launched the Yellow Ribbon Project (YRP) and Yellow Ribbon Fund (YRF) during the Yellow Ribbon Charity Concert 2004

Then President of Singapore, Mr S. R. Nathan, launched the Yellow Ribbon Project and Yellow Ribbon Fund during the Yellow Ribbon Charity Concert. The concert featured artistes, as well as inmates and ex-offenders who shared their rehabilitation and reintegration experiences through drama, song and dance.

In 2006, an audience of 6,000 and 50,000 home viewers watched the second Yellow Ribbon Charity Concert, also attended by Mr S. R. Nathan.



/ The Second Yellow Ribbon Charity Concert in 2006

2005

Inaugural Yellow Ribbon Conference and Job Fair

The inaugural **Yellow Ribbon Conference and Yellow Ribbon Job Fair** were held in 2005. Graced by then Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Education, Dr Ng Eng Hen, 17 companies supported the job fair, which collectively offered 660 positions to inmates even before their release.



(Pictures from the top to bottom)
Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, then Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports and Second Minister for Trade and Industry at the Yellow Ribbon Conference; Dr Ng Eng Hen, then Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Education graced the Yellow Ribbon Job Fair

2006

Inaugural Celebrating Second Chances Awards Ceremony

The inaugural **Celebrating Second Chances Awards Ceremony** aimed to motivate ex-offenders who have stayed crime and drug-free. They received commendations recognising their achievements at the event.



Associate Professor Ho Peng Kee, then Senior Minister for State, Ministry of Law and Ministry of Home Affairs gracing the inaugural Celebrating Second Chances Awards Ceremony

2007

Inaugural Yellow Ribbon Community Art Exhibition

The **Yellow Ribbon Community Art Exhibition** was first held in 2007 and attended by then Minister of State, Ministry of National Development, Ms Grace Fu. Japanese artist, Kon Saishu selected 10 winning entries out of 73 artworks created by inmates. The exhibition became an effective platform to showcase artworks from Yellow Ribbon Art Competitions. In 2012, for the first time, the Yellow Ribbon Community Art Exhibition featured artworks by female inmates.

Honourable Mention for Outstanding Achievement in Public Relations Campaign

The Yellow Ribbon Project received the **Honourable Mention for Outstanding Achievement in Public Relations Campaign** from the United Nations Department of Public Information.



/ The Yellow Ribbon Community Art Exhibition was attended by then Minister of State, Ministry of National Development, Ms Grace Fu



/ Then Minister of State, Ministry of National Development, Ms Grace Fu, viewing the artwork done by the inmates

“Dining Behind Bars”

Yellow Ribbon Fund’s “Dining Behind Bars” raised \$54,000 through generous donations from Bukit Panjang Government High School, NTUC Foodfare, ISCOS, NCSS, and Rotary Club of Queenstown.



/ Yellow Ribbon Fund’s “Dining Behind Bars”



2008

Inaugural Yellow Ribbon Charity Golf Tournament

The first **Yellow Ribbon Charity Golf Tournament** was held to raise funds for the Yellow Ribbon Fund. It consisted of a golf tournament and an appreciation dinner for participants of the tournament, donors and sponsors.



Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, then Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, at the Yellow Ribbon Charity Golf Tournament

“Our Crossroads”

A **Yellow Ribbon Journey Exhibition** titled “**Our Crossroads**” was held at Marina Square. More than 5,000 visitors learnt about the issues and challenges affecting inmates, ex-offenders and their families.



A Yellow Ribbon Journey Exhibition titled “Our Crossroads” was held at Marina Square, graced by then Minister for Finance, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam

Adoption of Yellow Ribbon Project in Fiji

After attending Singapore’s Yellow Ribbon Walk in 2007, the **Fiji Correctional Service** adopted the **Yellow Ribbon Project** in 2008.



Representatives from Fiji Correctional Service with then CEO of SCORE, Mr Desmond Chin, at the Yellow Ribbon Walk in 2007

2009

Calvin Klein Fashion Show

Renowned fashion designer Calvin Klein was inspired by the goal of the Yellow Ribbon Project and offered his interpretation of 'Second Chances' with a special collection at a **fashion show held at the vacated grounds of Queenstown Remand Prison**, raising \$56,000 for the Yellow Ribbon Fund.



PLEASE JOIN CREATIVE DIRECTOR KEVIN CARRIGAN TO CELEBRATE
CK CALVIN KLEIN SPRING 2010 WITH A UNIQUE INSTALLATION BY ARTIST GEOFF ANG
FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 8PM QUEENSTOWN REMAND PRISON, 50 JALAN PENJARA, SINGAPORE

RSVP TO CLUB 21 6504 422 MINGQI LIM@SO.CLUB21.BZ INVITATION ADMITS ONE AND IS NON-TRANSFERABLE

/ A fashion show held at the vacated grounds of Queenstown Remand Prison

Yellow Ribbon Packs for National Day Parade

In the same year, inmates contributed back to society by packing 35,000 goodie bags and 100,000 Yellow Ribbon packs for that year's **National Day Parade**.



/ Inmates packing 35,000 goodie bags and 100,000 Yellow Ribbon packs

The Inaugural Yellow Ribbon Prison Run

The **first Yellow Ribbon Prison Run (YRPR)** was flagged off by then Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Teo Chee Hean, where 6,000 runners demonstrated their support for second chances by running from Changi Village into Changi Prison Complex. Through their participation, \$95,000 was raised for the Yellow Ribbon Fund.



/ The first Yellow Ribbon Prison Run was flagged off by then Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Teo Chee Hean

2010

Launch of the Skills Training Assistance to Restart Bursary and Industrial & Services Co-operative Society Ltd's Subsidy Scheme

The Skills Training Assistance to Restart (STAR) Bursary and Industrial & Services Co-operative Society Ltd (ISCOS) Skills Assistance Subsidy Scheme were launched to provide financial assistance to low-income ex-offenders who were keen to upgrade their academic qualifications or skills.

2011

Learning Journey and Attachment Programme

The CARE Network Learning Journey and Attachment Programme were introduced to offer greater support to inmates and ex-offenders.

The aim was for stakeholders in Singapore's rehabilitation landscape to exchange ideas and share their insights to strengthen partnerships and understanding. A total of 473 volunteers and staff from various aftercare agencies and VWOs participated in the learning journey conducted in 2011. At the "Yellow Ribbon Tribute of Love" event, more than 50 ex-offenders and volunteers prepared a special lunch for residents of the Lions Home For The Elders.

Yellow Ribbon Day

At the 13th International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA) Conference held in Singapore, 14 September was designated as the "Yellow Ribbon Day", where about 130 community partners and representatives from CARE Network gathered to discuss community reintegration issues related to aftercare.



Yellow Ribbon Day where about 130 community partners and representatives from CARE Network gathered to discuss community reintegration issues related to aftercare

2012

Enhanced Training and Employment Assistance

SCORE enhanced skills training and employment assistance services for high-risk offenders, and focused on training offenders in vocational skills in the areas of Hospitality, Food & Beverage, Logistics and Manufacturing.

4th Yellow Ribbon Prison Run

The 4th Yellow Ribbon Prison Run was flagged off by then acting Minister for Manpower and Senior Minister of State for National Development, Mr Tan Chuan-Jin. The run saw over 10,000 participants. One participant, Ms Jenap Said, came dressed as Catwoman and pledged her support for ex-offenders by embarking on a marathon 12 hours before the official flag-off. The run raised \$131,000 in total for the Yellow Ribbon Fund.



The 4th Yellow Ribbon Prison Run was flagged off by then Acting Minister for Manpower and Senior Minister of State for National Development, Mr Tan Chuan-Jin

2013

Inaugural CARE Network Workplan Seminar

The inaugural CARE Network Workplan Seminar brought together 220 participants from 56 VWOs, religious organisations, community groups and government agencies to discuss the strategies for strengthening throughcare. It also provided opportunities for knowledge-sharing and networking between the CARE Network partners.



The Inaugural CARE Network Workplan Seminar

Formation of a Giant Human Yellow Ribbon

In 2013, 1,230 runners came together to form a **Giant Human Yellow Ribbon Formation**. This effort helped 2013's edition of the Yellow Ribbon Run to raise more than \$130,000 for the Yellow Ribbon Fund. The strong show of support from all walks of the community was testament to how the message of the campaign has permeated into the hearts and minds of society.



/ The Giant Human Yellow Ribbon Formation

10th Anniversary Commemorative Publication - The Courage to Believe

The Yellow Ribbon 10th Anniversary Commemorative Publication, The Courage to Believe, was launched in 2013 to mark the 10-year journey of advocating for second chances for ex-offenders. The publication chronicled the inception of the Yellow Ribbon Project, the journey of the campaign and success stories of ex-offenders. The book was also used as an advocacy tool for outreach and to educate the younger generations.

New Yellow Ribbon Project Logo

A new logo to celebrate the Yellow Ribbon Project's 10th Anniversary was commissioned through an online contest. Targeted at the young, the contest engaged the online community through Facebook, Instagram and the corporate website over a two-week period. The winning logo, out of 15 entries, was designed by a polytechnic student. It was used across the YRP's 10th Anniversary Campaign. This activity provided younger supporters with an opportunity to own the campaign and build greater affinity with the cause.



/ The Yellow Ribbon 10th Anniversary Commemorative Publication, The Courage to Believe



/ 10th Anniversary the Yellow Ribbon Project logo

2014

Launch of Hope Cafe - Training Kitchen and Restaurant

SCORE collaborated with Workforce Singapore (WSG, then known as Workforce Development Agency) to introduce Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) Certificate in Culinary Arts and Food & Beverage Operations, to equip offenders with skills to pursue a career in the Hospitality Industry. As part of this initiative, the **Hope Cafe - Training Kitchen and Restaurant** was jointly set up by WSG, SPS and SCORE to train inmates with relevant skills before release.



Official opening of Hope Cafe - Training Kitchen and Restaurant

Launch of the Development for Offender Rehabilitation Personnel Framework

The **Development for Offender Rehabilitation Personnel (DORP) Framework** was launched to enhance services and manage the complex needs of inmates in their rehabilitation journey by deepening community partners' capabilities. Through DORP, prison volunteers would receive basic onboarding training and opportunities to attend courses to deepen their skillsets as part of their volunteering journey.

Visit by Mr Tony Orlando – Singer of “Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree”

The Yellow Ribbon Project was inspired by a hit song from the 1970s, “**Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree**”. Mr Tony Orlando, singer of the song, visited inmates from the Performing Arts Centre at Institution A5 and shared about the importance of second chances and new beginnings in life.



Mr Tony Orlando, singer of the song called “Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree”, visited inmates from the Performing Arts Centre at Institution A5

2015

7th Yellow Ribbon Prison Run and Charity Gala

The 7th Yellow Ribbon Prison Run was flagged off by then Second Minister for Home Affairs and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Masagos Zulkifli. The run garnered participation from over 7,000 runners and raised \$85,000. Then President of Singapore, Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, attended the Yellow Ribbon Fund Charity Gala as the Guest-of-Honour, raising \$920,072.



The 7th Yellow Ribbon Prison Run was flagged off by then Second Minister for Home Affairs and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Masagos Zulkifli



Then President of Singapore, Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, attended the Yellow Ribbon Fund Charity Gala in 2015

2016

New External Laundry Facility

SCORE set up a new external laundry facility to help broaden transitional employment opportunities for ex-offenders.



Set up of new external laundry facility

Yellow Brick Road Programme

The Yellow Brick Road Programme was aimed to strengthen the future of inmates and ex-offenders' children through one-to-one home-based tuition and social enrichment workshops to unlock and develop their hidden potential and talent. More than 53 families and 84 children of inmates and ex-offenders have benefited from the Yellow Brick Road Programme.

2017

8th Yellow Ribbon Prison Run

More than 9,000 people took part in the 8th Yellow Ribbon Prison Run, which was flagged off by Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, Mr K Shanmugam.



/ The 8th Yellow Ribbon Prison Run, which was flagged off by Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, Mr K Shanmugam

Singapore Night Festival 2016 – “From Night to Light”

The Singapore Night Festival saw a record of 21,000 visitors to an exhibition themed “From Night to Light” at the Singapore Art Museum, which featured artworks by inmates, including women.

Yellow Ribbon Run in Prague, Czech Republic

Singapore’s Yellow Ribbon Prison Run inspired the Czech Republic’s Prison Service to organise its own Yellow Ribbon Run as part of the Prague International Marathon.



/ Yellow Ribbon Run in Prague

Nationally Accredited Digital Skills Training for Inmates

In 2017, SCORE initiated the WSQ International Computer Driving Licence Use Primary Functions and Applications of a Tablet programme to provide inmates with fundamental digital skills. This comprehensive course involved classroom teaching and hands-on sessions Aligning with WSG’s (WSQ) framework while integrating up-to-date industry practices. This synchronisation enabled inmates to acquire skills pertinent to the future job market and effectively apply them in various work environments, emphasising **workplace technology proficiency**.

CapitaLand-Yellow Ribbon Fund Children Support Programme

CapitaLand-Yellow Ribbon Fund Children Support Programme was piloted with the aim of reducing intergenerational offending and to rally agencies to come forward in supporting the well-being of inmates’ and ex-offenders’ children.



/ Cheque presentation for CapitaLand-Yellow Ribbon Fund Children Support Programme

2018

9th Yellow Ribbon Prison Run

The 9th Yellow Ribbon Prison Run saw about 7,000 runners, 180 volunteers and 50 organisations come together. Through the “Run for Second Chances” movement, 13 corporations helped raised a total of \$123,956 for the Yellow Ribbon Fund. The run was flagged off by then Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security, Mr Teo Chee Hean.



The 9th Yellow Ribbon Prison Run was flagged off by then Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security, Mr Teo Chee Hean

10th Yellow Ribbon Prison Run

During the 10th edition of the Yellow Ribbon Prison Run on 9 September 2018, approximately 6,500 runners supported by 180 volunteers and 50 organisations united in a meaningful journey towards acceptance. The event featured the “Run for Second Chances” category, a four-member team effort open to the public. A total of around \$130,000 was raised from both corporate and individual contributors.

Since its inception in 2009, the Yellow Ribbon Prison Run has raised over \$1 million for the Yellow Ribbon Fund, contributing to programmes and services aimed at supporting ex-offenders and their families. The Yellow Ribbon Prison Run in 2018 had Mr Chan Chun Sing, then Minister for Trade and Industry, as the Guest-of-Honour for the event.



Mr Chan Chun Sing, then Minister for Trade and Industry was the Guest-of-Honour for the 10th Yellow Ribbon Prison Run

Partnership with LASALLE College of the Arts

Yellow Ribbon Project forged a **partnership with LASALLE College of the Arts** to enhance digital outreach and bolster its online visibility. Together, they crafted impactful videos publicising initiatives within the CARE Network. These videos served to broaden their online audience by shedding light on the obstacles confronting ex-offenders and their families. The aim was to inspire viewers to contribute meaningfully to the lives of these beneficiaries and collectively foster an inclusive society. These beneficiary-focused videos were shared across various social media platforms, accumulating close to 3,000 views.



/ Impactful videos centering on the influence of initiatives within the CARE Network

Collaboration with the Global Cultural Alliance

Yellow Ribbon Project **collaborated with the Global Cultural Alliance (GCA) to launch an interactive art initiative.** This unique endeavour involved collaborative efforts, pairing inmate artists from the Visual Arts Hub in prison with elderly residents from the United Medicare Centre (UMC) as "paint-pals" to exchange their artistic creations. GCA facilitated the project by enlisting a digital technology partner to educate inmates on incorporating augmented reality elements into their artworks. The resulting pieces were showcased at GCA's gallery and later exhibited at YRP's roadshow at The Star Vista. This collaboration aimed to provide avenues for both communities, despite their diverse backgrounds, to make meaningful contributions to society. By fostering a creative exchange of ideas through this interactive art platform, it brought together these distinct communities for a powerful and shared experience.



/ Pairing inmate artists from the Visual Arts Hub in prison with elderly residents from the United Medicare Centre (UMC) as "paint-pals"

2019

Visit by then President Mdm Halimah Yacob at the Yellow Ribbon Community Art Exhibition

Celebrating nine years of partnership between the Yellow Ribbon Project and the Singapore Art Museum, the **Yellow Ribbon Community Art Exhibition** held at Raffles City Singapore received an honoured visit by then President of Singapore, Mdm Halimah Yacob. Under the theme “Transitions: Crossroads & Choices”, the exhibition showcased 78 artworks, representing the culmination of a year-long collaboration between inmates and their artist mentors.



/ The Yellow Ribbon Community Art Exhibition received an honoured visit from then President of Singapore, Mdm Halimah Yacob

Charity Gala Dinner by the Law Society of Singapore (Criminal Bar)

The Law Society of Singapore (Criminal Bar) organised a **Charity Gala Dinner** and raised \$419,200 for the Yellow Ribbon Fund. The event was graced by Mr K Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, along with 300 criminal lawyers and judges.

Community-Led Initiatives by Julie’s and Palm View Primary School

In 2019, two community-led initiatives by Julie’s and Palm View Primary School showcased their support for ex-offenders, symbolising their acceptance and dedication to fostering a more inclusive society in Singapore.

Julie’s “Best of You” x Yellow Ribbon Project Exhibition

Since 2014, Julie’s has actively supported the Yellow Ribbon Project. Under their “Best of You” movement, Julie’s elevated their commitment by collaborating on their inaugural joint exhibition with the Yellow Ribbon Project. Titled “A New Life Reimagined”, the exhibition showcased inspirational narratives and artworks crafted by ex-offenders. It also featured interactive activities, including the “Colours at Play” workshop facilitated by Mr Barry Yeow, a respected artist-mentor who had experienced incarceration himself. This collaborative effort aimed to promote inclusivity and encourage societal acceptance by highlighting the transformative journeys of ex-offenders through art and storytelling.



/ Julie’s “Best of You” Yellow Ribbon Project Exhibition

Palm View Primary School Art Exhibition: “Art from the Heart”

Since 2015, Palm View Primary School has integrated the Yellow Ribbon Project into its Community Involvement Programme. Through their Artizenry Programme, they have forged a partnership with the Yellow Ribbon Project to create paintings aimed at fundraising for the Yellow Ribbon Fund. This initiative, a component of the school curriculum, instils empathy in students by fostering a deeper comprehension of the Yellow Ribbon Project's mission. In a demonstration of solidarity for second chances, 220 Primary 3 students collaborated in teams to produce paintings. These artworks were showcased at the "Art from the Heart" exhibition held at Buangkok Square Mall, showcasing the students' support for the cause of rehabilitation and societal reintegration.



/ Palm View Primary School Art Exhibition

“TransformaCN: The Future of Aftercare”

The CARE Network organised a seminar with the theme “**TransformaCN: The Future of Aftercare**”. More than 300 aftercare professionals and 70 partner agencies participated, expressing their dedication to move beyond the two-year recidivism rate and work collectively towards reducing the five-year recidivism rate.



/ Mr K Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, giving the opening speech at the CARE Network Seminar

11th Yellow Ribbon Prison Run

The 11th edition of the **Yellow Ribbon Prison Run** received the esteemed presence of Singapore's then President, Mdm Halimah Yacob. A remarkable 10,000 participants ran the distance, symbolising their endorsement of second chances. As part of the Reach Out project, a collaborative effort involving the National Day Parade 2019 Celebration Outreach Committee, Yellow Ribbon Project, and Very Special Arts (VSA) Singapore, inmates had the opportunity to give back to society by packing 50,000 goodie packs for National Day.



/ The 11th edition of the Yellow Ribbon Prison Run received the esteemed presence of then President of Singapore, Mdm Halimah Yacob

Record-Breaking Charity Gala

The **Yellow Ribbon Fund Charity Gala** achieved a record-breaking fundraising of amount \$1.8 million. The event, attended by 700 guests, was graced by Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security, Mr Teo Chee Hean. In addition, then Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Ms Sim Ann, unveiled the **Yellow Ribbon Community Art & Poetry Exhibition** during the gala. Themed “Moving Forward Together”, the exhibition showcased 100 artworks and 23 poems created by inmates.



The Yellow Ribbon Fund Charity Gala was graced by Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security, Mr Teo Chee Hean

Memorandum of Understanding between SCORE and the Singapore Precision Engineering and Technology Association

SCORE signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Singapore Precision Engineering and Technology Association (SPETA). The MOU aimed to boost the employability potential of inmates in the Precision Engineering industry through training and job placement.



SCORE signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Singapore Precision Engineering and Technology Association

2020

Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Throughout 2020, the operational landscape changed drastically due to COVID-19, leading to the cancellation of physical events. As a national response, resources were redirected to bolster Singapore's fight against the pandemic. Several concerted efforts emerged, aiming to uplift frontline workers and aid vulnerable populations. These included initiatives such as honouring Home Team Guardians and Healthcare Angels, refurbishing blankets for COVID-19 community facilities, extending care and support to lower-income families, ensuring attention for the elderly, and fundraising for the President's Challenge. Even as these ventures addressed immediate needs, they also provided platforms for inmates and ex-offenders, alongside community partners, to actively engage and contribute toward societal well-being during this challenging period.

Crafting of Mask Pouches for Beneficiaries at Rainbow Centre Singapore

In collaboration with CapitaLand Hope Foundation, female inmates and residents of Selarang Halfway House (SHWH) collectively crafted **1,400 mask pouches for beneficiaries at Rainbow Centre Singapore.** Teaming up with CYC Made to Measure, they also produced over 1,600 reusable masks which were distributed to migrant workers. In addition, SHWH residents packed appreciation packs which were delivered by ravehearts SRM Services Pte Ltd to dormitories, expressing gratitude to frontline cleaners among the migrant worker community.



Female inmates from Institution A4 and residents of Selarang Halfway House collectively crafted 1,400 mask pouches for beneficiaries at Rainbow Centre Singapore

Rebranding of SCORE to Yellow Ribbon Singapore

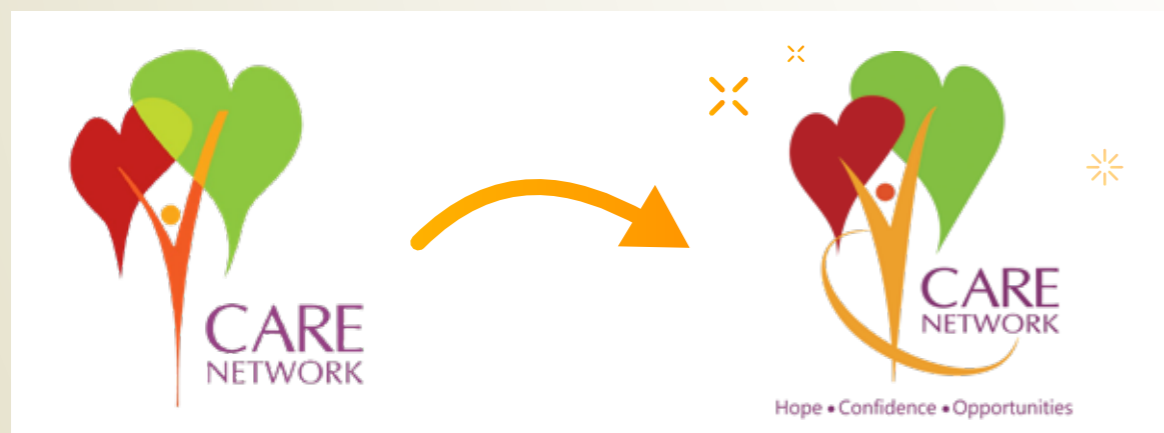
On 1 May 2020, SCORE was rebranded to Yellow Ribbon Singapore (YRSG). This transformation was a symbolic representation of the cohesive synergy stemming from the collaborative initiatives within the CARE Network.



/ Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) underwent a rebranding and emerged as Yellow Ribbon Singapore (YRSG)

Refined CARE Network Logo

In celebration of its 20th anniversary in 2020, the CARE Network refined its logo to symbolise the shared commitment to offering comprehensive care for its beneficiaries, and included its tagline to raise awareness of its vision.



/ Launch of new CARE Network Logo

Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between YRSG, SPETA and Nanyang Polytechnic

Following up from the MOU signed between YRSG and SPETA in 2019, a tripartite MOU between YRSG, SPETA and Nanyang Polytechnic was signed to help inmates acquire industry skills and pursue careers in the Precision Engineering industry.



/ A tripartite MOU between YRSG, SPETA and Nanyang Polytechnic was signed

Memorandum of Understanding between YRSG and Mediacorp

YRSG and Mediacorp signed an MOU that aimed to help inmates develop industry-relevant skills and pursue careers in the media services sector.

A media training academy was set up in the Multimedia Hub located at Tanah Merah Centre in SPS. Accredited media courses such as the Specialist Diploma in Social Media Marketing and Online Content Creation, would be offered to inmates.



/ YRSG and Mediacorp signed an MOU

2021

Yellow Ribbon Culinary Competition 2021

The **Yellow Ribbon Culinary Competition** was organised to provide inmates with valuable skills training relevant to the F&B industries, ultimately enhancing their employability upon release. Co-organised in collaboration with the Singapore Chefs' Association, the event's theme, "Recipe for Change", drew inspiration from the community's resilience amid the pandemic's disruptions and the inmates' determination to forge their own paths in rehabilitation. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the Yellow Ribbon Culinary Competition garnered vital support from key community partners like Aquaculture Centre of Excellence Pte Ltd, Thai Sing Foodstuffs Industry Pte Ltd, and Sphere Consumer Products Asia Pte. Ltd., who generously sponsored ingredients and food packaging for the event.



/ The grand finale of the Yellow Ribbon Culinary Competition 2021, graced by Ms Low Yen Ling, Minister of State for Trade and Industry and Minister of State for Culture, Community and Youth

Yellow Ribbon Virtual Run 2021

After a one-year hiatus due to COVID-19, the **Yellow Ribbon Prison Run made a comeback with a virtual edition**. Themed "Challenge YRself" and "Inspire Second Chances", 6,420 individuals enthusiastically signed up to run, walk, or hike yellow-ribbon shaped routes throughout September. For each completed yellow ribbon route, participating organisations pledged to donate \$10 to YRF. A total of \$103,755 was successfully raised through this event.



/ Yellow Ribbon Virtual Run 2021

Yellow Ribbon Community Art & Poetry Exhibition - "A Garden of Possibilities"

Themed "A Garden of Possibilities", the **Yellow Ribbon Community Art & Poetry Exhibition (YRCAPE)** in 2021 served as a platform for current and former inmate artists to express their aspirations for change. The YRCAPE adapted to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic by becoming a virtual exhibition. The launch was officiated by Guest-of-Honour Dr Maliki Osman, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Education & Foreign Affairs. The exhibition attracted 3,743 viewers. Notably, 19 artworks created by inmates were adopted—contributing to a

total fundraising amount of \$4,446 for YRF. 2021 also marked the inaugural collaboration between YRP and CANVAS, a support group established in 2019 specifically for ex-offenders who had undergone training in visual arts programmes during their time behind bars. This partnership offered new avenues for artistic expression and support for those seeking to rebuild their lives after incarceration.



/ Yellow Ribbon Community Art & Poetry Exhibition in 2021

“We Are Each Other’s Second Chances”

The Yellow Ribbon Project brand video, titled “We Are Each Other’s Second Chances”, was introduced. As of 2021, over 400 ex-offenders and 800 community partners have actively contributed to various Yellow Ribbon Project events and activities. The CARE Network aspires for increased engagement from individuals and organisations, fostering support for the meaningful cause of reintegrating ex-offenders and building an inclusive society.



/ Screenshot of the Yellow Ribbon Project brand video, titled “We Are Each Other’s Second Chances”

Memorandum of Understanding between YRSG and the Singapore Logistics Association

YRSG and the Singapore Logistics Association signed an MOU that signalled the intent to enhance the career prospects of inmates and ex-offenders in the logistics industry.



/ YRSG and the Singapore Logistics Association signed an MOU to enhance the career prospects of inmates and ex-offenders in the logistics industry

Honouring Second Chances - The Yellow Ribbon Awards Ceremony

The Yellow Ribbon Awards Ceremony (YRAC), themed “We Are Each Other’s Second Chances”, acknowledged the efforts of employers, community partners, ex-offenders, and volunteers in promoting second chances for inmates and those reintegrating into society. YRAC also saw the consolidation of two previous award ceremonies - the SCORE Appreciation Award Ceremony and the Yellow Ribbon Celebrating Second Chances Award Ceremony.



/ The Yellow Ribbon Awards Ceremony themed “We Are Each Other’s Second Chances”

Yellow Ribbon Songwriting Competition 2021

The Composers & Authors Society of Singapore (COMPASS) and YRP collaborated to organise the Yellow Ribbon Songwriting Competition, to showcase the songwriting abilities of inmates. The theme, "Hope", prompted participants to compose and perform songs centred on the concept of hope while within the confines of prison. Typically conducted behind closed doors, 2021's edition broke with tradition. For the first time, the pre-recorded contest was accessible to the public, offering a glimpse into the talents and creative expressions of inmates.



/ Inmate participants preparing for the Yellow Ribbon Songwriting Competition

2022

Yellow Ribbon Community Arts Festival

The Yellow Ribbon Community Art & Poetry Exhibition, renamed as the **Yellow Ribbon Community Arts Festival** in 2022, was a 9-day festival held in November at Gardens by the Bay. This event served as a platform to showcase the diverse talents of inmates and ex-offenders, featuring an array of artistic expressions including artworks, poetry readings, music performances, as well as engaging art and crochet workshops. Attendees also had the opportunity to explore various food and merchandise offerings.

Under the theme "Home is where the heART is", participants were encouraged to create art that evoked sentiments of home or portrayed their personal vision of what home meant to them. The festival showcased a total of 44 physical artworks and 29 poetry pieces, immersing visitors in a display that captured the essence of 'home'. In addition, an extra 11 artworks were exhibited virtually through the festival's website, extending the reach of this celebration of creativity and personal expression beyond the physical event.



/ Picture on the left: Mr Edwin Tong (in the middle), Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law with Ms Shie Yong Lee, Commissioner of Prisons and Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman of Yellow Ribbon Singapore at Yellow Ribbon Community Arts Festival in 2022

Yellow Ribbon Student Engagement

YRSG collaborated with nine schools to amplify the message of second chances and foster student-led projects as part of **Yellow Ribbon Student Engagement**. These collaborations ranged from creating music videos that highlighted the talents of the Performing Arts Centre alumni band, to raising awareness about YRP through physical booths and various social media platforms. The students' involvement proved instrumental in furthering YRSG's year-round mission to mobilise societal support for inmates and ex-offenders, significantly contributing to the ongoing efforts in advocating for second chances and reintegration.

YR Connects 2022

Over 30 key industry stakeholders comprising trade associations and employers attended the dialogue, which allowed participants to bridge different perspectives and build consensus on the best practices to support ex-offenders. As part of the dialogue, YRSG also outlined its employment support initiatives over the next few years, such as the TAP (Train and Place) & Grow initiative.



/ Dialogue during YR Connects 2022

Yellow Ribbon Race 2022

The YRP's annual flagship run was rebranded as the **Yellow Ribbon Race** in 2022. Themed "**I Race for Second Chances**", close to 5,500 participants showed their support for second chances from 1 to 30 September 2022 by participating in the physical and/or virtual race. The event also marked the return of the physical race after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19. The Guest-of-Honour, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Mr Lawrence Wong, flagged off the event and participated in the physical race. Through this event, more than \$150,000 was raised to support the rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-offenders and their families.



/ Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Mr Lawrence Wong, was the Guest-of-Honour for the Yellow Ribbon Race 2022

2023

CARE Network Summit 2023 and Partnership with Uniqlo Singapore

The 2023 CARE Network Summit focused on the concept of desistance, exploring the nature of the journey towards cessation of certain behaviours. Discussions revolved around what this journey might entail and how communities could provide support to individuals undergoing this process. The summit brought together community leaders, researchers, and partners to share insights and collaborative initiatives. During the summit, a **partnership between YRSG and Uniqlo Singapore was announced**. This partnership aimed to distribute pre-loved clothing to vulnerable communities, specifically targeting residents from the Selarang Halfway House. This initiative sought to provide support and resources to those in need within these communities.



/ Partnership between YRSG and Uniqlo Singapore announced during CARE Network Summit 2023



/ Minister for Sustainability and the Environment, Ms Grace Fu, was the Guest-of-Honour for the Yellow Ribbon Prison Run 2023

Yellow Ribbon Prison Run 2023

The **Yellow Ribbon Prison Run 2023** achieved a remarkable feat by raising over \$305,000, which was more than double the amount raised in 2022. Notably, the run made conscious efforts to promote sustainability by utilising eco-friendly materials for the run t-shirts and drawstring bags.

YR Connects x EveryWorkerMatters Conversations

Over 80 partner employers, partners from trade associations and social service agencies shared their thoughts, challenges faced and ideas to achieve a more inclusive workforce that supports second chances.



Participants' group photo during YR Connects x EveryWorkerMatters Conversations

Memorandum of Understanding between YRSG and FairPrice Group

An MOU was signed between YRSG and FairPrice Group, with the aim of providing employment with training opportunities and career development support for ex-offenders in the food services, logistics and retail sectors.



An MOU was signed between YRSG and FairPrice Group

Memorandum of Understanding between the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales South East Asia Limited and Yellow Ribbon Fund

An MOU was signed between the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales South East Asia Limited and Yellow Ribbon Fund, with the aim of providing professional certification and career opportunities in the accountancy industry for the family members of inmates and ex-offenders in Singapore.



An MOU was signed between the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales South East Asia Limited and Yellow Ribbon Fund

Memorandum of Understanding between YRSG and Nanyang Polytechnic's Asian Culinary Institute

An MOU was signed between YRSG and Nanyang Polytechnic's Asian Culinary Institute (NYP-ACI) to enhance employment opportunities for inmates and ex-offenders in the food services industry.



An MOU was signed between YRSG and Nanyang Polytechnic's Asian Culinary Institute (NYP-ACI)

THE FUTURE OF YELLOW RIBBON PROJECT



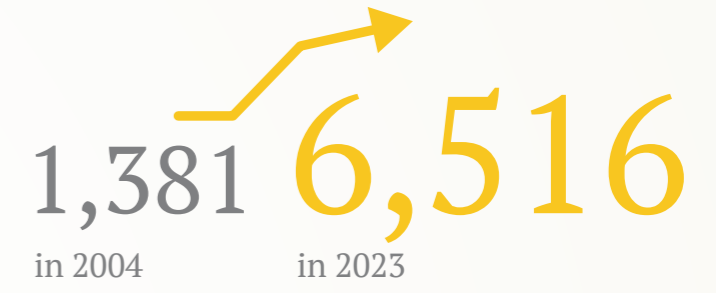
Even as the YRP commemorates its 20th anniversary this year, this significant milestone heralds a fresh collaborative mindset that encourages our community partners and ex-offenders to play a more active role in leading the advocacy of the YRP through co-organising or leading events. The YRP aims to step up advocacy efforts in showcasing ex-offenders not just as mere recipients but as active contributors who actively give back to their community by volunteering their skills, time and efforts during flagship YRP activities or co-created community events.

The YRP aims to deepen the sense of ownership and place emphasis on the inter-connected roles all community partners and volunteers play in the formation of a robust support structure throughout an ex-offender's reintegration journey. Greater focus will be placed on the cultivation of long-term community partnerships through the "Adoption of YRP" by corporates aimed at engendering co-created and self-led advocacy efforts.

On the volunteer front, the YRP aims to tap on the skills and expertise of our volunteers to create volunteer-led initiatives that improve the lives of ex-offenders and families impacted by incarceration, and provide avenues for ex-offenders to give back to their communities. Through the positive impact of these co-created programmes and initiatives, the YRP envisions an increase in community partnerships and like-minded organisations, thus forming a cycle of inclusivity and contributing to the building of a cohesive society.

Internationally, the YRP looks forward to overseas counterparts adopting and spreading the key message of building an inclusive society beyond second chances. Through these efforts, the YRP aims to create a more inclusive and empathetic community, one that believes in offering second chances and more to all.

The **number of employers** providing employment opportunities to ex-offenders has steadily increased from 1,381 in 2004 to 6,516 in 2023,



with **over 94% of inmates** who were referred to YRSG for employment assistance securing jobs prior to their release.

There has also been an **increase in awareness of the Yellow Ribbon Project** among members of the public, from more than 7 out of 10 in 2006 to more than 9 out of 10 in 2021.

