

# **Christian Counselling Services**



## **Annual Report 2023**

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

2023 was a challenging year for Christian Counselling Services.

Singapore Prison Service closed cluster A2 for renovations and upgrading.

As the inmates are transferred to other CUs which were not served by CCS volunteers, we had to re-deploy many of our volunteers to serve in other areas such as Aftercare and Volunteer Case Officers (VCO).

We thank our God for His grace and mercies that CCS maintained particularly good relationship with Singapore Prison Service (SPS) and her officers. CCS will continue to work together with SPS in rehabilitating and reintegration of desistors. Here CCS would like to thank CCS volunteers; fellow organizations serving desistors, halfway houses, shelters, and other supporting organizations. Partnering with these organizations has helped CCS to achieve many new milestones.

We praise and thank God for His providence in 2023. With God's help we were able to reach out to more philanthropic organizations to diversify our donors and sponsors. CCS is very grateful to these new supporters who have contributed generously. However, we hope to engage more prospective supporters in the days ahead.

With the strong support of CCS Executive Committee members, CCS will continue to improve our services to the desistors community, as well as to provide a better experience for our volunteers working alongside us. Our focus areas for 2024 will be on training, aftercare for women ex-offenders, bridging training gaps for volunteers to serve effectively, and preparing more volunteers for aftercare work. We also hope to collaborate with more social service agencies and fellow organizations serving ex-offenders to accomplish these goals.

My personal and heartfelt thanks go to many who have partnered with CCS throughout this journey. I thank the management team and all officers of Singapore Prison Service for giving CCS the opportunity to serve and for placing their trust in CCS, all CCS tireless volunteers for their dedication in serving, our donors and supporters for funding CCS' operations, and the various fellow organizations and agencies that have come to CCS' assistance.

Most of all, we thank our God for the grace and providence He had bestowed upon CCS to make all these possible. We trust that our good God will continue to guide CCS and help transform more of our beneficiaries' lives for His glory!!

To God be the glory for all things He has done.

**Philip Lim**  
President

**CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(UEN: T12SS0078B)**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (Year 2023 to 2025)**

<b>LIM POH SOON PHILIP</b>	<b>PRESIDENT</b> (Appointed on 25 April 2023)
<b>REV DARREN LIM SOO KUAN</b>	<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b> (Appointed on 25 April 2023)
<b>DAVID DANIEL SIOW PENG GUAN</b>	<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b> (Appointed on 25 April 2023)
<b>TEO BOON TECK TERRENCE</b>	<b>HONORARY SECRETARY</b> (Appointed on 25 April 2023)
<b>SAM HENG HIAN NGEE</b>	<b>HONORARY TREASURER</b> (Appointed on 25 April 2023, Resigned on 31 January 2024)
<b>LEOW CHEOK HWA EILEEN</b>	<b>HONORARY TREASURER</b> (Appointed on 1 February 2024)
<b>LEOW CHEOK HWA EILEEN</b>	<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b> (Appointed on 25 April 2023)
<b>JIMMY TNG CHYE YONG</b>	<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b> (Appointed on 25 April 2023)

## **CCS Activities Report 2023**

### **Volunteers**

As of 2023, CCS has 136 volunteers actively serving out of a total of 230 volunteers on record. There were 16 new volunteers who joined CCS in 2023.

### **In-Care**

CCS volunteers participated in the pilot Volunteer Case Officer (VCO) program initiated by Singapore Prison (SPS) in February 2023. Under the VCO scheme, volunteers support ex-offenders who are released into the community in the areas of case management, counselling, and provision of pro-social support. Its aim is to manage and provide counselling for ex-offender supervisees emplaced in Community Based Program; to help steer, coach and guide them to live prosocial lives with the goal of reducing 5-year recidivism rates for SPS. CCS had 8 volunteers who signed up as pilot VCOs.

In October 2023, SPS underwent some restructuring exercise which led to the closure of one prison facility, cluster A2. Several CCS volunteers had been serving In-care in this facility for many years and will need to be re-deployed. These volunteers were channelled to other volunteering programs such as VCO and Befriender. A good number have already agreed to take on these new volunteering roles.

With the A2 closure, CCS is left with 7 weekly In-care sessions across prison clusters A1, A4, and B2. Motivational talks continue to be held across clusters A1, A3 and A5.

This year, CCS explored closer collaboration with Prison Fellowship Singapore (PFS) in Angel Tree Project (ATP), distributing Sheng Siong shopping vouchers to the inmates' families to promote family reconciliation. A total of 850 families benefited from this project.

### **AfterCare**

Faith fellowship continues with desistors gathering on a bi-monthly basis at Rejoice Community Baptist Church, held every second and fourth Thursday of the month.

Throughout the year, CCS participated in several events organized by Desistor Network and AMASE. Desistor Network aims to bring together both desistors and the social agencies supporting them as one community to work together in ex-offender rehabilitation. The first Desistor Network was officially launched on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023 with more than 70 organisations onboard and with some CCS volunteers helping out the launch.

CCS also participated and hosted AMASE events. AMASE is another group of likeminded SPS volunteer organisations working to support, help, guide, mentor persons with in-prisons experience.

VCO volunteers have also been engaging desistors as part of an overall Throughcare experience that includes both Incare and Aftercare.

### **Training**

In 2023, CCS volunteers continued to attend training by Blended Concept (DORP) in collaboration with Singapore Prison Services (SPS). DORP stands for Development Framework for Offender Rehabilitation Personnel.

### **Publication / Publicity**

CCS continued to invest in IT infrastructure with the goal of further digitalization of its operations, which will include more media communications to all interested parties through various multi-media channels. Project is still work in progress.

### **Other Notable Events in 2023**

CCS resumed its Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Safra Toa Payoh Jubilee Restaurant on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Commissioner of Singapore Prison Services, Mdm Shie Yong Lee; Senior Director of R&R, Mr Ong Choon Yong; and some other officers were able to join in the celebration.

A token of appreciation was given out to volunteers Richard Tan, Florence Ng and Khew Swee Ling, for faithfully serving alongside CCS and SPS for long 30 years of counselling sessions. It was indeed a joyful night with all the volunteers and desistors coming together for celebrations.



*CCS Appreciation Dinner 20 March 2023*



CCS Appreciation Dinner at Safra Toa Payoh, Jubilee Restaurant in 2023



Richard Tan receiving his 30 years Long Service Award



Florence Ng received her 30 years award



Kwek Swee Ling receiving her 30 years award from Commissioner



Overcomers Song Presentation

SPS Long Service Awards were granted to several volunteers for their dedication as prison volunteers. Pactrick Chow received his 15 years award, whereas Jack Wong, Jenny Lim, Chen Chee Cheong and 4 other volunteers received their 10 year award. Additionally, 2 volunteers received 5 year awards and 18 volunteers received 3 year awards. Rev Darren Lim was nominated the Throughcare Hero Award for his dedicated service to ex-offenders. CCS congratulates them and appreciates their dedication in helping the ex-offenders.



Volunteer Jack Wong receiving his 10 years of long service award



Some CCS Volunteers at SPS Long Service Award Ceremony

In March 2023, CCS hosted a visit by Director of Rehabilitation and Reintegration Division, AC Caroline Lim and several SPS officers for general discussions.



SPS R&R Director, Caroline Lim and her team visiting CCS Office for discussion.

In June 2023, Minister of State for National Development, Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim visited CCS office to acknowledge CCS for its contributions over the years in helping ex-offenders.



MOS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim visited CCS Office for acknowledgment.

## **NOTE FROM TREASURER**

The results of CCS for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 with a net surplus of \$99,830. against the previous year's net deficit of \$26,043. Some funds were raised from donors in 2023.

As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, the accumulated fund totaled \$276,784.

### **Donations**

For the year 2023, total cash contributions from direct donors including collections received from CCS fellowship activities amounted to \$199,272.

### **Expenditures**

Total expenses amounted to \$99,442 for 2023.

As the core services of CCS are focused on counselling activities through the effort and time of CCS volunteers, expenses were mainly incurred in administrative operations.

Such administration work involves co-ordination of various programs between prison, volunteers and ex-offenders undergoing rehabilitation.

For 2023, total expenditures were in line with the previous year.

Please refer to the '**Summary of 2023 Expenditure**' for more details.

### **Reserve Policy**

CCS reserves target is at least 1 year of total operating expenditures.

As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, the reserve ratio was 2.78.

## Summary of 2023 Expenditure

### **General Administration      \$86,639**

Rental, staff costs and telecom services make up the bulk of general administrative expenses. CCS employed one full-time staff for the entire year whose responsibilities include co-ordination of various programs between prison, volunteers and ex-offenders undergoing rehabilitation, as well as all other administrative work required in the running of CCS operations. Some allowances were also paid out to a volunteer consultant.

### **Indirect / Administrative Expenses    \$3,454**

Expenses incurred for auditors and professional fees.

### **In-care      \$1,043**

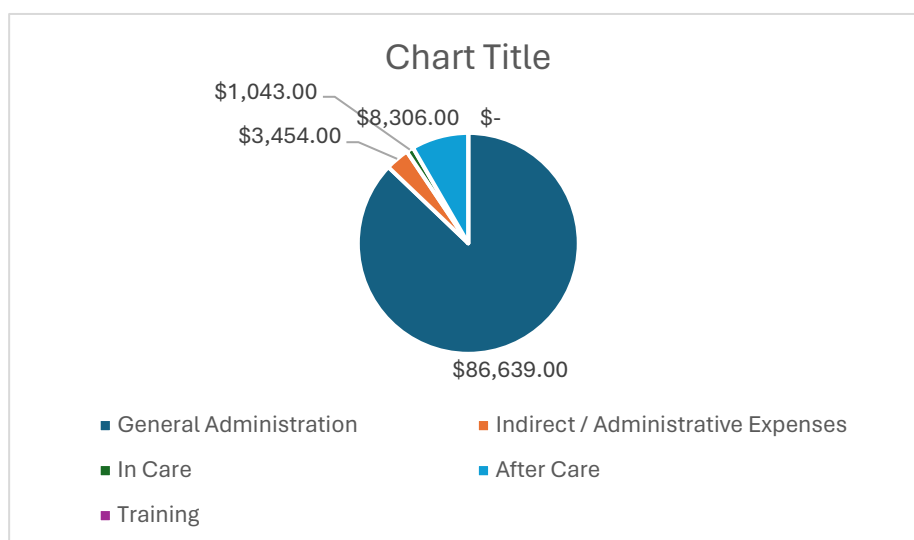
In-care expenses include instructional materials for prison inmates. This year, snacks packs for special events held inside prison were sponsored by SPS. Christmas gifts to the families of inmates were also sponsored by another social agency.

### **After-care      \$8,306**

Expenses to conduct bonding and counselling activities between ex-offenders and volunteers, including rental of premises.

### **Training**

There were no expenses incurred in 2023 as DORP training (Development Framework for Offender Rehabilitation Personnel) was provided pro-bono to CCS volunteers and courtesy of Singapore Prison.



Honorary Treasurer  
Eileen Leow