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# ISCOS

## eNewsletter Issue 22



### ISCOS' Inaugural Fireside Chat with Members a Success!

On 29 March 2016, ISCOS held its first ever fireside chat with the members, as part of its support group initiative. Spearheaded by the Support and Guidance team, the session was attended by 20ISCOS members who shared about their victories and the challenges they face as an ex-offender in the community. Other suggestions were made, including ways to improve ISCOS'

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

##### July 2016

- 14 July - Men's Support Group
- 27 July - Women Support Group
- 28 July - Men's Support Group
- 30 July - Learning Environment Assistance Project (LEAP)
- 30 July - Big Group Activity

##### August 2016

- 6 Aug - Tri-Event (Parenting, Children & Youth Workshop)
- 11 Aug - Men's Support Group
- 20 Aug - Education Consultation
- 25 Aug - Men's Support Group
- 31 Aug - Women Support Group

##### September 2016

- 15 Sept - Men's Support Group
- 28 Sept - Women Support Group
- 29 Sept - Men's Support Group

programmes and services and other areas of opportunities which our members can tap into.

Mr Elvis Overee, ISCOS Deputy Director and Senior Manager for Programmes and Services, facilitated the session together with Mr Patrick Ng, ISCOS Executive Director.

The Fireside Chat is a quarterly initiative from the ISCOS Support and Guidance team with the objective to engage and build rapport with its members.



### ISCOS Mini Job Fair 2016: Connecting Members with Prospective Employers

The annual ISCOS Job Fair was held on 23 April 2016 at ISCOS' premises. The event drew eight companies which were willing to support our members seeking new employment. The participating employers came from various sectors, including logistics, construction, and food and beverage companies. Participating members underwent initial job application screening and interviews on the spot.

We would like to convey our special thanks to Hasse Pte Ltd, Royal Greyhound Pte Ltd, Hoysan Stevedoring Pte Ltd, Skyy (Singapore) Design Workshop, NTUC FairPrice, Eduquest International Institute and AAT Training Hub for supporting this initiative. Thank you for believing in giving second chances to ex-offenders.



### Yearly Round-up of Achievements at ISCOS' 26th Annual General Meeting

The 26<sup>th</sup> ISCOS Annual General Meeting was



### The Tan Chin Tuan Foundation Donates to ISCOS Gift of Hope

A loyal supporter of ISCOS programmes since 2013, the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation (TCTF) generously contributed \$5,000 to our Gift of Hope (GOH) project. GOH is an initiative to assist new members to sustain their basic needs in the first few days after their release, each given a pack containing \$40 worth of items such as a NETS FlashPay Card, food and/or grocery vouchers, and other items. The donation received from TCTF will be used to purchase food and grocery vouchers for the members.

We are extremely grateful to our donors and partners who believe in this initiative, which serves as a welcome gift and relief assistance to new members as they take the crucial steps towards rebuilding their lives.



### ISCOS Family Day Goes Carnival on the Green

Close to 280 ISCOS beneficiaries, volunteers, and staff gathered on the Saturday morning of 4 June 2016 to celebrate ISCOS Family Day 2016

held on 23 May 2016 at the YMCA Singapore. More than 40 members attended the event where ISCOS' achievements and results in 2015 were reported. During the meeting, it was also announced that Mr Vernon Khoo, Mr Lim Hong Tan, Mr Desmond Chin, Mr Soo EngHiong, Mr Tan Koh Young and Mr Quek Eng Chye will end their service tenure on the ISCOS Board of Directors on 31 May 2016. Mr Vernon Khoo will be succeeded by Mr Daniel Teo, who will be taking the helm as Chairman of ISCOS Board of Directors, with effect from 1 June 2016.

To the retiring directors, thank you for the many years of voluntary service given to ISCOS, providing meaningful contributions to the co-operative and our beneficiaries. You are witnesses to the milestones, development and transformation ISCOS has achieved over the years in championing our social cause to support ex-offenders.



## The Launch of ISCOS Book Corner in Collaboration with The Patatas

The much-awaited ISCOS Book Corner is officially open! Following a ribbon-cutting ceremony on 28 May 2016, the dedicated corner was launched by Mr Janan Loh from The Patatas and Mr Patrick Ng, ISCOS' Executive Director in front of beneficiaries from the Fairy Godparent Programme and representatives from The Patatas, the brains behind this collaboration with ISCOS. More than 100 books of different genres were donated by The Patatas and made available to ISCOS.

After the launch, a total of 20 children, aged six to nine years old, were given a special treat by Mr David Seow, a local children's book author who mesmerised the audience with interesting stories such as 'The Lion Dance', 'Emma's Elephant' and 'A Royal Adventure', the latest addition to his collection of storybooks. The

at Angsana Green, East Coast Park. Themed as "Carnival on the Green", the annual event was sponsored by Goldbell Foundation in collaboration with Baker & McKenzie.Wong & Leow, who also roped in their employees to participate as volunteers for the day. Mr Daniel Teo, ISCOS' newly appointed Chairman, also graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour.

We are happy to see that the young and old enjoyed the carnival, especially the team building activities and stage performances while indulging in a variety of snacks, drinks and ice cream. Medals were given away to winners of the team building games whilst the lucky draw segment kept everyone glued to their seats as the top winners were announced.

Since 2010, ISCOS has been organising Family Day event for its members, their children and families to re-establish and forge solid family connections to make up for times lost during the parents' incarceration.



## Farewell to Underwater World Sentosa, a long-time supporter of ISCOS

On 26 June 2016, we bade farewell to one of our CSR partners, Underwater World Sentosa (UWS), as it closed after 25 years in operation.

UWS' collaboration with ISCOS dates back to as early as 2008, where it became the venue sponsor for ISCOS. UWS was also one of the employers we have partnered with under the Corporate Doors initiative events such as Children's Day (2011),

children clearly enjoyed beneficiaries, especially the children, in order to inculcate a love for reading and spur their interests across various topics. The stories, and were even more excited during the Q&A segment when Mr Seow generously gave away his books as prizes to children.

“ISCOS is grateful to The Patatas team for conceptualising this project. With this new Book Corner, we hope to see more of our members, parents and children develop a sustained interest in books, and be immersed in the wonderful world of reading,” said Mr Patrick Ng in his welcome address.



## Weekender Singapore Continues its Support to ISCOS

Over the years, the Weekender has been a regular supporter of ISCOS by providing complimentary ad space in its publication, to create awareness about our social mission. The latest advertisement was featured in the issue dated 27 May 2016. Thank you for your support! We look forward to many more years of continued partnership with Weekender Group.

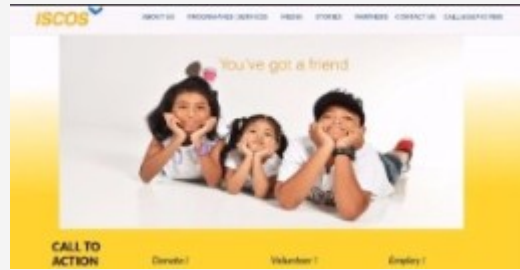
### About Weekender Group:

Weekender Group Pte Ltd is an independent media owner with a suite of integrated media offerings including print, digital and distribution. Weekender, a fortnightly lifestyle paper, is distributed to homes, MRT stations, 7-Eleven stores and petrol stations across Singapore. It is also Singapore's largest circulation lifestyle paper with 230,000 distributions.

For more information, please visit [www.weekender.com.sg](http://www.weekender.com.sg).

Workplan Seminar (2012), and others. One of the most unforgettable moments would be the Living in the Ocean programme in 2012, which gave 35 lucky beneficiaries from the Fairy Godparent Programme the rare opportunity to spend the night in the attraction's iconic underwater tunnel, camping under the fishes. It was a resounding success, with many participants reminiscing the wonderful experience of getting up close and personal with the marine creatures. In 2012, and had hired some of our members. In recent years, UWS continued to support our cause through monetary contributions.

Thank you UWS, especially Mr Kwek Meng Tiam, who has been ever supportive in bringing joy to our beneficiaries. Thank you for all the fond memories which we will continue to treasure for a long time.



## Check Out Our Enhanced ISCOS Website!

To better serve our members and stakeholders (yes, we mean you too), the ISCOS website was revamped to offer a more engaging user experience with enhanced contents. Now with the revised layout, we hope that you will be able to learn with ease what we do, and how you can be part of ISCOS to make a difference in the lives of ex-offenders and their families. The easiest way? Simply help us spread the word about our social cause – Thank you!

The enhanced website is now officially live. Visit us at <http://www.iscos.org.sg> today to find out our latest happenings!

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