

For Immediate Release

ISCOS celebrates 35 years of supporting ex-offenders in Singapore

Singapore, 9 November 2024 –The Industrial and Services Co-operative Society Limited ('ISCOS'), Singapore's only co-operative for ex-offenders, proudly celebrated its 35th anniversary today at a joint appreciation lunch with NeuGen Fund ('NeuGen'). The event, attended by 250 sponsors, donors, volunteers, Titans, and other stakeholders, underscored ISCOS' enduring commitment to helping over 20,000 members rebuild their lives and reintegrate into society. Reflecting its tagline 'You've Got A Friend', countless individuals had been supported through key initiatives such as the Skills Assistance Subsidy Scheme, pro-social support groups and its signature Titans¹ programme.

Held at PARKROYAL COLLECTION Marina Bay, the celebration was graced by Madam Halimah Yacob, Chancellor of Singapore University of Social Sciences and former President of The Republic of Singapore as the Guest of Honour. In addition to the tokens of appreciation given to donors, volunteers and Titans, the programme featured a screening of ISCOS' commemorative video along with cake-cutting ceremony to mark the joyous occasion.

In her speech, Madam Halimah Yacob highlighted the inspiring journey of Mohammed Fairizal Jaffar, a Titan who overcame multiple incarcerations. After diligently studying while in prison, Fairizal secured employment with Infinite Transport upon his release in 2015, and has since risen to the position of Operations Manager. Despite the tight work schedule, he remains actively involved in the Desistance Project and school talks. "Fairizal's journey is just one of many, showcasing the amazing passion of the Titans to inspire the lives around them," concluded Madam Halimah Yacob in recognising their immense value and contributions.

Among the volunteers appreciated at the event, Koh See Khiang was celebrated with the 'World Changer Award' for his exceptional dedication as a Family Befriender, supporting three families within the NeuGen network. His genuine care and commitment to fostering growth made him a truly deserving recipient.

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¹ The Titans programme by ISCOS involves a selected pool of ex-offenders who have successfully reintegrated into society and are given opportunities to give back to society through community outreach and engagement with inmates, at-risk youths and members of public.

About the Industrial and Services Co-operative Society Limited (ISCOS)

Since 1989, the Industrial and Services Co-operative Society Limited (ISCOS) has been extending friendship and support to its members (ex-offenders) and their families so that they can lead meaningful and productive lives. Under the purview of the Ministry of Home Affairs, ISCOS is the only co-operative in Singapore that actively engages the community to help ex-offenders gain a foothold in society. More information can be found on www.iscos.org.sg.

ISCOS is proud to be one of the founding members of the Community Action for the Rehabilitation of Ex-Offenders (CARE) Network which organizes the annual Yellow Ribbon Project.

About NeuGen Fund

Established in 2018, NeuGen Fund (“NeuGen”) is a registered charity with an Institution of a Public Character² status established to serve children and families of reformed offenders. Through the Neu Empowerment Model, NeuGen engages beneficiaries through various academic and pro-social initiatives with the long-term objective of preventing intergenerational offending.

Intergenerational offending is not an easy challenge to crack. When a family member commits an offence, family members are not only affected in terms of livelihoods and discrimination, but such situations can result in a gravity pull to keep the children within vicious cycles of crime.

NeuGen seeks to amplify its impact by reaching out to more children and families in such situations and fulfil its vision of shaping a caring and inclusive society where lives are rebuilt to be productive and self-reliant.

Website: www.neugen.org.sg

Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn: **NeuGen Charity**

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² Institutions of a Public Character (IPCs) are exempt or registered charities which are able to issue tax deductible receipts for qualifying donations to donors. In other words, donors can claim tax relief from their assessable income based on the amount donated, at prevailing deduction rate. As this makes IPCs more appealing to donors in attracting donations, these organisations are rightfully held to a higher standard, both in terms of regulatory compliance as well as governance.