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Singapore After-Care Association

Helping ex-offenders and their families rebuild their lives

Our Mission

As an exemplary organisation in the aftercare sector, SACA is committed to:

Empowering ex-offenders to take ownership of their own transformation and facilitating their reintegration into society by mobilising them, their families and the public

Fostering a change in the mind-set of both ex-offenders and society to enable ex-offenders achieve their fundamental life goals and needs

Our Vision

Well integrated ex-offenders contributing in a caring society that embodies the spirit of second chances

About SACA

Working together with ex-offenders, families, the community and the authorities since 1956.

GOAL: TO REBUILD LIVES

The Singapore After-Care Association (SACA) is a key aftercare agency set up in 1956 that helps ex-offenders adjust to life after prison.

After they are released from prison, ex-offenders often experience shame and feel judged by society. They wonder if their family and friends will accept them.

Depression and anxiety among them are common. Can they find the stability and strength to cope with the stresses of life and not reoffend?

Where will they stay? Finding a job is harder as an ex-offender. Earning enough for food and transport can be difficult.

Their families might suffer as well. The family income could have been badly affected.

The children left behind might resent their missing parents. They can be bullied for having parents in prison. Their studies can be affected.

Our staff and volunteers step in to help as much as possible. When ex-offenders do well after they are released from prison, they are less likely to offend again.

Our work is self-funded through donations, grants and sponsorships. We are a:

- charity
- Institution of a Public Character (IPC)
- member of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS)
- founding member of the Community Action for the Rehabilitation of Ex-offenders (CARE) Network, a grouping of social service agencies and government organisations coordinating aftercare interventions.



Programmes



CASE MANAGEMENT

A mandatory, structured service for offenders, organising support services and guidance.

Case Management Services (CMS) in conjunction with the Singapore Prison Service:

- Identify and address rehabilitation needs
- Coordinate social support services
- Counselling
- Provide support to the family



EDUCATION SUPPORT

Facilitates the education and training goals of ex-offenders through measures like goal planning, counselling, application for bursaries and work skills training.



REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE

Coordination of services for clients who approach SACA for help or for those directed to SACA by the State Courts to work on the underlying issues driving offending behaviour.

- Phone hotline, walk-ins, emails
- Court-Directed Pre-Sentence Protocol (CPSP)

Education Support Programme (ESP):

- Case management
- Funding support such as Lee Foundation Education Assistance Scheme (LFEAS) and Skills Upgrading Scheme (SUS)
- Motivation and learning support, e.g. creative writing competition, free tuition and workshops



SOCIAL SUPPORT THROUGH VOLUNTEERS

SACA's volunteers befriend ex-offenders and provide support to their families, including the vulnerable children of incarcerated mothers.

Volunteer After-Care Programme (VAP):

• Befriending Programme

Volunteer befrienders provide pro-social support to clients, particularly to clients with little to no family support. Showing them care and concern could go a long way in encouraging them to press on with the goals that they have set for themselves and stay away from old habits.

• Initiative for Incarcerated Mothers and Affected Children (IIMAC)

IIMAC caters to incarcerated mothers with children 16 years of age and below. Trained volunteers assist full-time staff in conducting home visits to assess and ensure the well-being of the children and their caregivers during the mothers' incarceration. Those who require additional assistance will be referred to services and agencies in the community.

• family-connect @ State Courts

A collaboration with the State Courts since 2017, this project extends emotional support and practical help to families when their loved ones are sentenced to imprisonment at the court.

Our volunteers are equipped with knowledge on the various community resources available as well as prison processes, and are trained to assist the families in navigating these areas.



TRAINING

An equipping function to address gaps in the sector and increase effectiveness.

- Volunteer training
- Staff training

Changing Lives

After Jenny, a mother of five children, was incarcerated, her children had to live with their grandmother, aunt, uncle and seven children. This meant that 15 people were living in the same house. SACA volunteers who visited the family found that Jenny's two oldest children were displaying behavioural issues such as smoking, theft and poor conduct in school. The three younger

children were not told that their mother was imprisoned and one of them wondered if she had abandoned them. Through the interventions of SACA volunteers and staff, the aunt agreed to explain Jenny's absence to the children and to have the five children referred to a social service agency for help to process their mother's absence and guide them in their conduct and studies.

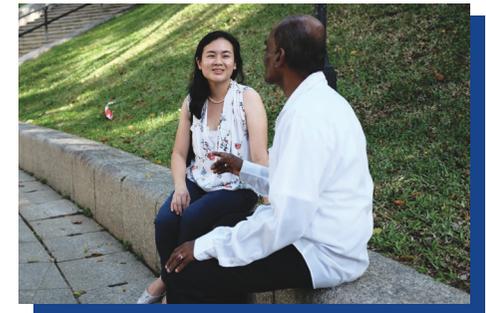


LOVE WILL BRING US HOME
Throughout all this drama and chaos, my parents stoically stood by me and my wife. I know what it must have cost them to do that.

— A reflection of an inmate in an essay competition; he used to dislike how his parents were very strict

“To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.”

Lewis B. Smedes
Author and ethicist



Ex-offenders have already paid their dues and yet, are not seen as equals to the rest of the population. This **drives my work, as I am able to make a difference in their lives — be it through a listening ear or a referral to other social service agencies to meet their basic needs.**

— Hamdan, Case Manager

