



# The Helping Hand

“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden,  
and I will give you rest” Matthew 11:28

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## Message from CEO



Mervyn Lim

2021 has presented The Helping Hand (“THH”) with opportunities, as well as challenges. It has been a very busy year for THH as management and staff have had to cope with the volatility in working conditions brought about by COVID-19 and its variants, while still executing on its four-fold therapeutic community (“TC”) rehabilitation model.

The aging profile and working experiences of the emplacements we receive from Singapore Prison Services (“SPS”) have opened opportunities to develop new work activities such as contract delivery services with Grocery Logistics Singapore, a member of the FairPrice Group Supply Chain (“GLS”), urban farming and baking. This is in addition to our existing Removal and Furniture businesses. Our collaboration with corporations and businesses through on-job-training placements and eventually employment, have helped our residents acquire new and useful skills. THH has achieved an employability percentage of 92% and we pray to improve this percentage in 2022.

Heightened safe management measures (“SMMs”) and stringent regular testing have increased operating costs. A sudden spike in COVID-19 infections resulted in a lockdown in October 2021 and the suspension of income producing activities for three weeks. This resulted in a significant reduction in income from social enterprise activities (“SEAs”). The pandemic has also caused donations to come down as many donors and businesses face donation fatigue. Grants too have come down as certain grants received in 2021 have been discontinued or reduced.

As THH transitions into endemic normalcy, SMMs and regular antigen rapid testing (“ART”) will continue to be strictly administered to keep THH safe. As at the date of this report, all management, staff and residents are fully vaccinated.

Notwithstanding these challenges, we have steadily proceeded with our various programs and activities to rehabilitate our residents. Our focus remains on achieving THH’s Vision in transforming our residents to live Christ-centred lives.

To this end, we accelerated our drive towards a God-centred ministry through CHRISTformation, always placing our trust in the Lord providing for our needs. Our prayers were answered with a bountiful harvest from our fundraising events and certain sponsors. The proceeds helped to cover the shortfalls from our traditional sources of income, namely SEAs, donations and grants.

With a “3M” philosophy of placing “Ministry before Money” (Matthew 6:33), the pastoral team have kept the Spiritual programs going despite the challenges caused by the pandemic. We are also grateful and extremely blessed with our regular volunteers from International Baptist Church and Bethesda Depot Walk who have helped us to facilitate in small group settings with residents the morning devotion sessions four times a week, and our volunteer counsellors who meet up with our residents every evening.

Our focus in 2022 is to instill the values of CHRISTformation in every member of management and staff so that it becomes a natural part of our lifestyle and forms the “DNA” of THH to Honour our Lord, Adapt to life’s changes using Godly principles, Nurture one another to have a fulfilling Spiritual walk with God and lastly being Devoted to our Lord (“HAND”). This “DNA” will be driven across all areas of the ministry as we mentor and rehabilitate our residents.

And so, as we bid goodbye to 2021 and welcome in 2022, we are confident that with the Lord’s blessings, we will be able to achieve significant progress in CHRISTformation that is built on a solid Spiritual foundation and sustained through the core values of the ministry.

On behalf of management and staff, I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to all Stakeholders for your continuous support and encouragement.

In His Glorious Name.

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IN CHRIST ALONE



# Yellow Ribbon Awards 2021

**THE STRAITS TIMES**

Thursday Dec 09, 2021



Deputy Superintendent Lawrence Lee (left), co-chairman of the Yellow Ribbon Awards 2021 Organising Committee, presenting the Beyond Second Chances Award to Mr. Moses Arulandu. The award, the highest honour, was for Mr. Arulandu's work at Halfway House The Helping Hand, where he counsels former offenders. PHOTO: YELLER RIBBON AWARDS

## Mum's 'tough love' helped him battle drug addiction

Ex-offender who now counsels others among 253 recognised at inaugural Yellow Ribbon Awards

**Diamond Chia**

He was hooked on cannabis at 15, and then got addicted to heroin. One night in 1996, when he was in his room with a stash of drugs, he heard a knock on the door. A group of officers from the Central Narcotics Bureau had turned up, tipped off by his mother.

He was 20 then.

Mr. Moses Arulandu, now 31, vividly remembers the day he was hooked up by the authorities, and how stunned he was to find out that his mother had reported his and his twin brother's drug addiction.

"I was angry and thought 'What kind of a mother was she?' But when she visited me in (DRC), I realised it was tough love... She was a single mother and didn't want to see her sons destroyed by drugs."

Mr. Arulandu received the Beyond Second Chances Award - the highest honour - for his work at Halfway House The Helping Hand, where he counsels former offenders.

The award also recognises his commitment to start again after his time in DRC did not deter him from taking steps.

His mother had given him a chance: Go back to DRC or work help at Halfway House.

"I made a choice. I was tired of addiction as there was no peace," said Mr. Arulandu, who checked into a halfway house for two years.

Another 253 offenders, community partners, volunteers and donors who helped give a second chance to former offenders were also lauded at yesterday's ceremony, which was held virtually.

Law and Home Affairs Minister K. Shanmugam, who was the guest of honour, said finding a job is a key part of reintegrating former offenders as it helps them to be financially independent, find community and develop a structured lifestyle.

A training academy will be set up in Changi Prison Complex next year to provide more than 100 inmates with courses to help them secure jobs upon release, he added.

The facility is set up by Yellow Ribbon Singapore and the Singapore Logistics Association.

Former drug addict lawyer Ang, 64, who was in and out of jail between 1979 and 1996, said it has been difficult to find work.

She received a second chance after her controller put in a good word with her employers. She overcame her drug addiction with the help of former drug addicts and by regularly attending church.

Currently, she has two work roles: to look after her elderly mother and daughter, who is partially blind and needs help with daily activities.

Melanie Ang, who was given an award for overcoming her drug addiction, said: "I'm thankful that I have changed or I won't even look like I am any more. If I hadn't, I wouldn't be able to look after myself or my family who needs me."

**MR. MOSES ARULANDU** on discussing his brother's drug addiction to the authorities

[www.singapore.com.sg](https://www.singapore.com.sg)

The inaugural Yellow Ribbon Awards 2021 was held on 8 December 2021 and jointly organised by the Singapore Prison Service ("SPS") and Yellow Ribbon Singapore ("YRSG"), a statutory board under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Themed "We Are Each Other's Second Chances," the event recognised individuals and organisations celebrating their success journeys, collaborations and second chances. This event celebrated the community's success in shaping a more inclusive society, recognising 577 award recipients for their achievements and commitment to second chances. The guest of honour was Law and Home Affairs Minister K. Shanmugam.

Two of our staff members, Executive Director Richard Khalil, and Pastoral Staff Moses Arulandu, were both conferred the Beyond Second Chances (Overcomer) Award. We are thankful to God for our two brothers receiving the highest award for remaining crime- and drug-free for more than 20 years.

Another 37 of our staff/alumni also received awards in other categories. The awards recognized the success of ex-offenders as they journeyed through life and adopted positive influences to stay on the right path. These awardees served as positive role-models and great encouragers to other ex-offenders who are still in the process of their recovery and trying to gain acceptance from their families and society.

Our hopes and prayers are for our brothers to continue to let their light shine before others so that people may see the changes in them and give glory to our Father in Heaven. We beseech our God to bless, guide, and sustain all our brothers in The Helping Hand ("THH") throughout their life-long recovery journeys.





# The Helping Hand Christmas Celebration at Kim Tian Christian Church on 18 December 2021



It has been a long and tough 2021, mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has been affecting our lives and work. Despite the many challenges, we have come through by the grace of God and we want to celebrate God's goodness towards us. Thanks be to God that we were able to gather at Kim Tian Christian Church for our Christmas Celebration on 18 December 2021.

The theme for our celebrative service was **Christ our Hope** (Isaiah 9:6). Truly He alone is our hope as we put our trust completely in Him.



The service commenced at 4pm and was attended by about 130 people from THH with proper SMMs in place. It has been a long time since we were able to gather for a time of worship as a THH family. Praise be to God for such a joyous occasion!



The service began with a warm welcome by our CEO, Mr. Mervyn Lim, followed by the opening prayer by our THH Board Chairman, Rev. Dr. Yap Kim Sin. Our Executive Director, Richard Khalil, led the worship team to render to God the familiar but evergreen Christmas carols such as **"Mary's Boy Child"**, **"Joy to the world"** and **"Silent night"**. The worship team sang English and Mandarin gospel songs with gusto and joy. Even though the congregation could not sing with their lips, they sang with their hearts. The worship session was immediately followed by the Christmas message delivered by Rev Jason Goh, THH's Spiritual Mentor. The topic was, **"Are you seeking God"**, based on **Mathew 2:1-12**. After the message, a recorded video of former THH residents sending their Christmas well-wishes were screened. It was very inspiring to witness the success stories of THH's former residents. All glory to God!

The services ended with the all-time Christmas favourite **"We wish you a merry Christmas"**. After the service, everyone proceeded back to THH for a sumptuous catered bento dinner. Turkey, ham, cakes, and cookies were also served. There was warm fellowship over dinner and everyone ate to their hearts' content. Each attendee also took back a goodie bag.

It was a memorable time, and we want to give thanks to our good LORD who has so faithfully watched over us and provided for us at THH. We hope and pray that as we embark on **"CHRISTformation"** as a vision for THH, the vision will take flight and come to fruition in His glorious time.

To God be the glory!



## Christmas Evangelistic Meeting @ BBTC on 25th December 2021



At 7pm on Christmas Day 2021, Bethesda Bedok-Tampines Church ("BBTC") invited The Helping Hand ("THH") to a Christmas Evangelistic Meeting (Hokkien Service) to share God's love to His people. The Chaplaincy led by Raymond Choo and Jason Gwee, together with Kenny Tan and Chia Yang Pheng represented THH. The worship team from BBTC led everyone through praise and worship before handing the time over to Bro Jason Gwee.



Brother Jason Gwee introduced the ministry of THH and then shared a Christmas message on the topic "Special love for the Special you" from John 3:16 and 1 John 4:19. He reminded the congregation that Christmas is about the revelation of Jesus Christ and the relationship He wants to have with us. He also spoke of the difficulties ex-offenders face during their paths of recovery. Jason captured the attention of the listeners through his engaging delivery.



After the message, the team presented a Mandarin song, entitled The Healing Touch of God. This was followed by Kenny Tan, who shared his testimony. Kenny shared about how his life was meaningless before he knew Christ, but his life is now meaningful and filled with purpose after receiving Christ as his personal Lord and Saviour.

We hope and pray that lives were ministered through Kenny's testimony, and they will make their personal decisions to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

It was encouraging to see God's people coming together on this auspicious day and we thank God for this wonderful opportunity of fellowshiping and interacting with the brethren from BBTC.

As we conduct our deputations and share the ministry of THH, we pray that by God's grace, we can build up and strengthen our relationship with the churches and more churches will invite us to share about the work that God is doing in our ministry.



## 总裁的话



Mervyn Lim

2021年给予援手之家（“THH”）带来了许多机遇更是挑战。对于中心的管理层和员工来说，这是一个非常忙碌的一年。在应对冠病及其变异所带来的工作环境条件的更动时，我们同时间仍在执行其四大综合治疗的社区（“TC”）康复楷模。

我们从新加坡监狱服务处（“SPS”）接待较年长和他们拥有工作经验的学员，为此开发新的工作领域并提供了就业机会。例如与 FairPrice Group 供应链（“GLS”）的成员 Grocery Logistics Singapore 的合约式的派送服务、都市农业和烘焙。这也补足我们现有的搬家和家具业务。我们更通过实习与职业培训和最终就业与公司和企业合作，来帮助我们的学员学习到新的实用技能。THH 的就业率达到了 92%，我们祈愿在 2022 年能提高这百分比。

加强防御安全管理措施（“SMMs”）和严紧的定期测试无形中也提高了运营成本。2021年10月因冠病突激爆增导致一度的封锁和一切经营的运作活动也得暂停三周。这也导致由社会企业活动（“SEA”）的盈利有大幅度的减少。疫情更影响许多捐赠者和企业面临生意和捐赠上的拮据，因而导致捐赠减少。由于某些赠款已在2021年停止或减少捐赠，因此总捐赠款项也有所减少。

随着THH正处于转变疫情为地方性常态的过渡期时，SMMs 和定期抗原快速检测（“ART”）将会继续严紧的实行，以确保 THH 安全。截至本报告日期，所有管理层、员工和居民均已完成接种了冠病疫苗。

尽管面临这些挑战，我们继续持守及稳健进行我们的各项计划和活动，以帮助学员们的康复疗程。我们的焦点仍然是实现 THH 的异象，使学员们活出以基督为中心的生活。

为此，我们通过基督模式加速推动以上帝为中心的事工，始终信靠上帝会供应我们的需要。上帝也通过机构的筹款活动和某些赞助商的慷慨捐赠回应了我们的祷告。所得款项有助于弥补我们一贯传统的收入来源（即 SEA、捐赠和赠款）的不足。

凭着将“事工置于金钱之上”（马太福音 6:33）的“3M”理念，尽管面临大流感带来的挑战，教牧团队仍保持灵性计划的进行。我们也非常感谢 International Baptist Church 和 Bethesda Depot Walk 的定期志愿者，每周四次协助我们与学员们在早会小班环境中的服侍，以及志愿辅导员每天晚上给予学员的辅导。

在 2022年，我们的焦点将会是以灌输主基督为我们生命模式的价值观，给予每一位管理层委员和同工。使其成为我们生活方式的自然组成部分，并形成THH援手之家的“DNA”文化，尊荣我们的主，并以敬虔的原则适应生活的变化，培育彼此有一个圣灵充满与主同行的心志，最后将自己奉献给我们的主（“HAND手”）。在我们引导和帮助正在康复中的学员时，这“DNA”文化将贯穿于中心的所有事工与领域。

因此，当我们告别 2021 年和迎接 2022 年之际，我们满有信心地在主的赐福下，将能够在以基督为生命的模式中有特别的卓越进展。因为我们是建立在坚固的属灵基础上，并透过事工的核心价值观得以持续下去。

我谨代表管理层和同工，向所有慷慨解囊人士在这些日子里来的支持和鼓励表示万二分的感谢。

荣耀归主名。



# The Helping Hand

## Governing Board:

Rev. Dr. Yap Kim Sin  
Ms. May Loh  
Mr. Timothy Hia  
Mr. Micheal Chew  
Dr. Erik Ang  
Ms. Lee Sue-Ann

## Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 578  
Ang Mo Kio Central  
Singapore 915603

## Home Address:

819 Upper Serangoon Road  
Singapore 534678  
Tel: 62832204 Fax: 62833748

Email: [adminsUPPORT@thehelpinghand.org.sg](mailto:adminsUPPORT@thehelpinghand.org.sg)

Website: [www.thehelpinghand.org.sg](http://www.thehelpinghand.org.sg)



@thehelpinghandsingapore



## Pray With Us

### The Helping Hand's prayer requests and needs

1. Pray for the staff to live exemplary lives that will encourage the residents and glorify our God in heaven.
2. Pray for all residents walking through the gates of The Helping Hand to experience the amazing love of our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Pray for God's blessings to be upon our Social Enterprise Activities to generate the necessary funds to sustain the ministry.
4. Pray for protection during the COVID-19 pandemic. A safe and smooth recovery for those affected by the COVID-19.
5. Pray for God to lead and guide us in ensuring that everything we do will be according to His will and for His glory.

S/No	Items	Amount
1	35 <sup>th</sup> Annual Magazine 2022 fundraiser	\$156,000
2	Bibles and Christian Educational Books	\$2,000

We are grateful to all the people who are being used by the Lord to provide for our needs. Your every act of generosity is deeply appreciated and is a great encouragement to us as we continue to labour for the Lord.

To donate, please scan the QR Code or click the link below.



<https://www.giving.sg/web/the-helping-hand>



Charity Reg: 000673/IPC: 000344/UEN: S88SS0058F

**All Donations to The Helping Hand are tax-exempt**

IN CHRIST ALONE