

A second chance at a purposeful life

Growing up in a single-parent family, Naresh Kumar described his childhood as often lonely. Turning to his friends for solace, Naresh found himself mixing with the wrong crowd and began to participate in illegal activities.

Naresh was incarcerated multiple times between the ages 18 to 30. In 2020, he decided to make a decisive change for himself and applied for financial assistance to support his transport and food expenses as he looked for a job.

Reintegrating into society is no easy task for ex-offenders like Naresh. Project Liven caseworker Chan Soon Onn reiterated, "It is a long and difficult journey that may be unsuccessful for some without the right support."

Soon Onn supported Naresh through financial planning, career advice, guidance, and connection to community resources to meet his needs over a period of 22 months.



Naresh working with horses in his current job

"I wanted to continue studying but felt discouraged as it was too expensive. Soon Onn encouraged and advised me to apply for the Yellow Ribbon Fund STAR Bursary to defray my expenses," shared Naresh.



Naresh and CCSS's caseworker Chan Soon Onn

Naresh received the Yellow Ribbon Fund STAR Bursary 2021 with the guidance and support of Soon Onn during the application process. With the bursary, he was able to support himself financially while pursuing further studies.

Today, Naresh is pursuing his passion for animals through his full-time job while taking a diploma in applied science veterinary technology.

Naresh shared, "It is not easy for ex-offenders like me to continue from where we left off after coming out of prison. I am very thankful to CCSS and Soon Onn for giving me a chance to live a life with purpose."

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