

# Because those on the edge matter

Just cos you hardly see them doesn't mean they're not there. Give the homeless, helpless and abused a new beginning today.



## EMPOWER YOUR SEX

**Who** Part of the United Nations' Development Fund for Women, Unifem Singapore was created in 1999 to advance women's rights and empower women in Singapore and the region, tackling issues such as education, economic independence and violence against women.

**Why they need our help:** Women of the world unite! "Women play a central role in the world, and safeguarding their welfare and empowering them is essential," says Baey Shi Chen of Unifem. Unifem Singapore partners agencies like Mendaki Sense, Beautiful Girls, and Pertapis Centre for Women and Girls to help troubled individuals find jobs, shelter and assistance. Unifem Singapore also runs programmes and events, such as leadership courses to encourage women to step out and be heard.



**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

**Shop to do good** You can't ever do enough good — or have too much gorgeous designer wear. Kill two birds with one stone by heading to Unifem Singapore's charity designer fashion sale, Buy To Save, held to mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on December 12 and 13, 2009, at Hotel InterContinental. All items will be sold at a fraction of their original prices, with proceeds going towards eliminating violence against women. Women from organisations like those mentioned above will also be trained to be merchandising assistants to build up their skill sets. Unifem and Club 21 will also be working together to run a collection point from November 19 to 22, 2009, at the Club 21 boutique at #01-07 Forum The Shopping Mall, so feel free to drop off that still fabulous DKNY skirt you can no longer fit into. Visit [www.unifem-buytosave.com](http://www.unifem-buytosave.com) for more information.

## TIE A YELLOW RIBBON

**Who** Set up in 2004, the Yellow Ribbon Project aids about 10,000 ex-offenders released from the prisons yearly. It helps ease the reintegration of ex-offenders back into society via community acceptance, awareness and action.

**Why they need our help:** Which of us hasn't made mistakes? Ex-offenders are like any of us. "They could be anyone — your friends, ex-classmates or colleagues. All we're asking is for the public to give them a fair chance," explains Serena Lim, senior public affairs officer of prison affairs. "We help ex-offenders find jobs and reconcile with their families. And as everything is new to them, they might not be familiar with basic things like how to use public transport," says Leonie Tan, secretariat for the Yellow Ribbon Project.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

**Adopt an art piece** Investing in a Picasso can wait. Get meaningful and lovely pieces of art done by inmates instead. Bids start from \$100. Click on [www.yellowribbonprisonarts.sg](http://www.yellowribbonprisonarts.sg) to see the gallery.

**March alongside ex-offenders** The Yellow Ribbon Project is fielding a contingent for Chingay 2010. "It'll be a great way to bring ex-offenders back into our community," says Leonie. "We hope to get about 300 members of the public to participate as well." Email [yellow\\_ribbon\\_proj@yahoo.com](mailto:yellow_ribbon_proj@yahoo.com) for details.



Help Unlock the Second Prison

## PAVE THE WAY FOR OTHERS

**Who** Pave Centre was registered in 2002 as a response to the increase in family and interpersonal violence. It's also a one-stop centre for the application of personal protection orders and counselling.

**Why they need our help:** Reports of women getting attacked by their husbands aren't just tabloid fodder. "Family violence doesn't only affect the victims but also children, who are vulnerable witnesses," says Kheng Yeow, head of family development at Pave Centre. There's a steady increase in the number of cases of repeat violence, from two in 2004/5 to 12 in 2008.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

**Volunteer with their outreach programmes** Volunteers are usually tapped on an ad hoc basis, when there are outreach projects at schools, carnival, roadshows. They also help in administrative duties like designing posters for exhibitions.

**Help spread the word** Public education is the best way to get victims to seek help. The steady increase of cases at Pave Centre can be attributed to a higher rate of reporting resulting from increased awareness of the centre. "This means more people are coming for help, which is a good sign," reveals Kheng.

## BE A GOOD

**Who** Samaritans of Singapore (SOS) are trained volunteers to people in crisis. SOS also provides services like counselling for suicide attempters and email befriending.

**Why they need our help:** Callers to SOS range from social issues to relationships. Some also touch on physical and sexual abuse. This piece of information as well: Singapore averages out to be one every day.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

**Pro** back going pro... Training is... might be to... SOS at 622... samaritans... **Help cele** 2010, SOS... organising... Awareness... donations... it are welco... like publicit... much appre...

We care enough to listen.

Do you?

Volunteer with Samaritans of Singapore  
Contact us at 6221 2192 (admin line) or log on to [www.samaritans.org.sg](http://www.samaritans.org.sg)

