



UNLABELLED

Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, attended the event as the Guest of Honour and joined the participant in the 10km run.



Participants getting ready at the Starting Point

It is the year 2016, the year when The New Charis Mission launched our first ever community awareness run. It had begun as an initiative to raise awareness and support for the work done with the core beneficiaries of The New Charis Mission, the ex-offenders. Yet, it was not to be about the giving of second chances. It was to highlight the strengths, potential and contributions by transformed lives. It was birthed forth as the Unlabelled Run.



The labels on jars conceal what the jars truly contain. Tear off the labels and you see what is inside. Labels on people conceal true strengths and true potential. Tear off the labels and watch the magic unfold.



Growing up, we teased one another with nicknames. With manners in place, we became less blatant in our name-calling but that is exactly where labelling began. The name-calling now happens in our heads. They became labels.



Flag-off by Ms Grace Fu



The Return of the Spiderman!

“The self-fulfilling prophecy is, in the beginning, a false definition of the situation, evoking a new behaviour which makes the originally false conception come true. The specious validity of the self-fulfilling prophecy perpetuates a reign of error.”

– Robert K. Merton.

Labels are self-fulfilling prophecies pronounced on people.

Ex-offenders are incorrigible? They become incorrigible.

Ex-offenders will never be up to anything good? They will never be up to anything good.

The Unlabelled Run advocates tearing off these labels and in the place of labels, a recognition of buried potential. The ex-offender today, with his life changed, is not

who he was. The man with multiple tattoos is not what society says he is. The teenager living next door is not a rebel as tumultuous adolescence suggests.

The New Charis Mission commemorated the third edition of the Unlabelled Run, 30th June 2018 where we advocated for the “unlabelling” of our young people. The run was flagged off by our Guest of Honour, Ms. Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, who also personally ran alongside the 4,000 participants in support of the cause. Our Guest of Honour from our 2016 edition, Ms. Denise Phua, Mayor of Central Singapore District, also graced



10km runners

the run in her personal capacity. Several celebrities also ran in both our 5km and 10km routes.

Minister Grace Fu echoed the call of Unlabelled Run 2018, emphasising opportunities for our youth to explore their passions and get to know who they truly are beyond the labels that placed upon them.

“Thousands of participants are here today; it shows that the Unlabelled Run unites everyone here in unison and in solidarity. It sends across a strong message to the youths who are looking for ways to discover themselves and be a part of our society again. I want to encourage all youths to look at their own strengths and their passions and make good use of them.”

– Ms. Fu



50 delegates from Vietnam participated in the Unlabelled Run



The highlight of Unlabelled Run is the symbolic act of removing the tattoo sleeves issued to every participant, signifying the unlabelling of youths and other marginalised communities. Thousands from Singapore and more than 60 delegates from the rehabilitation agencies in Vietnam and China enthusiastically took part in it, an encouraging sight to behold.

Unlabelled Run 2018 was endorsed and jointly supported by Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF), SG Cares and National Youth Council. With the support rendered to the Unlabelled Run, we aspire to energise the Unlabelled Movement, thereby empowering those marginalised through a strong advocacy for the removal of negative labels.

Join us. Lend your heart and voice to the Unlabelled Movement.

Ms Denise Phua, Mayor of Central Singapore District, graced the run in her personal capacity.

Unlabelled Run Committee

From left :
 Johnny Chin, Raymond Tan,
 Robin Tay, Pastor Don Wong,
 Jack Zhu, Chew Chor Meng,
 Deon Tan, Andrew Ong
 (not in picture: John Lee,
 Yvonne Low and Jaclyn Tang)

