

Time to say goodbye

Company's charity programme with children's home comes to an end

MIXED emotions ruled the day when volunteers from the Ireka Cares corporate social responsibility programme by Ireka Corporation Bhd said goodbye to the 33 children and their caregivers at the Lighthouse Children's Welfare Home.

Lighthouse had been adopted under the programme in July 2010 and during the farewell, the children were given a fun-filled day out at the Young Explorer Kids' Gymnasium in Mont'Kiara.

Members of the Ireka Toastmasters Club also organised a workshop on impromptu speaking and social etiquette for the teens from Lighthouse while the younger ones enjoyed the gymnasium.

The children were then treated to a meal at Tony Roma's before 16-year-old Joseph gave an appreciation speech for Ireka Cares.

The children then unveiled a meticulously-crafted model lighthouse that they had made for the volunteers from the programme.

Since adopting Lighthouse in 2010, Ireka Cares has been contributing to the betterment of the children's lives by drawing on the company's expertise in infrastructure, real estate and technology.

One of the first acts carried out by the volunteers was the refurbishment of the home, which included installing window grilles and additional fencing.

On the IT front, Ireka provided website maintenance training for the home's caretakers and helped finetune Lighthouse's online donation system so that the home could continue to receive public donations.

The volunteers also created a series of outreach activities for the children in three categories – Life Skills; Creative Arts; Games & Sports. Some of the sessions conducted included a fitness regime



Happy bunch: Ireka Cares volunteers and the Lighthouse children posing for a group photo at the end of the event.



Steady does it: The Lighthouse children having a whale of a time together with Ireka Cares volunteers at the Young Explorer Kids Gym.

by a personal trainer; two educational workshops on personal hygiene and puberty by a physician; a workshop on financial literacy and a model-making arts and craft session.

Ireka Cares committee chairman and Ireka deputy managing director Datuk F.K. Lai said, "I am glad that our programme has come a long way since it was initiated. I wish to pay tribute to

the volunteers who have contributed their time, care and expertise.

"I also wish to thank Lighthouse for giving us the opportunity to get to know them and help them as much as we could."

The Lighthouse Children's Welfare Home houses 33 underprivileged children ranging from three to 17 years old.

The home was set up and is being run by Mr and Mrs Steven Silvaraju and their family members.

"The contribution over the past year has certainly made a huge difference to Lighthouse.

"Although the initial refurbishment and repair works were completed last year, they did not hesitate to further help resolve our water supply issue when the problem occurred three months ago.

"They also organised all sorts of activities which helped the children learn concrete skills which I am confident will help them to fully realise their talents," Mrs Silvaraju said.