

Lessons on money

Children from home learn about savings and spending

THE children of Lighthouse Children's Welfare Home learnt about the value of money recently at a Financial Literacy Workshop organised by Ireka Cares, a flagship Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme by Ireka Corporation Bhd.

The workshop was conducted by professional trainer Lim Kit Wan who is also the co-founder of a training centre that offers life skills programme for children.

During the session, the younger children below seven years of age, were each given a simple glue-and-paint kit to create their own money box. With guidance and assistance from the volunteers, the children unleashed their creativity by painting their money box with their favourite colours and cartoon images.

Lim also taught the older children,

from eight to 17 years old, the basics of managing one's own finances, about prudent spending — differentiating between 'needs' and 'wants'.

The interactive session ended with an activity where the children learnt to earn 'modal' or capital using their own efforts which they could later 'spend'. Overall, the workshop was light-hearted yet educational, teaching on sensible savings and spending.

Since adopting Lighthouse in July last year, the group aims to contribute to the betterment of the children's lives by drawing on its expertise in infrastructure, real estate and technologies.

As part of the one-year adoption programme, the volunteers also initiated outreach activities for the children to learn concrete skills that help them to eventually integrate into



Fun in colouring: The children creating their own unique money box, guided by the volunteers.

mainstream society. Some of the sessions conducted include a fitness regime by a personal trainer; an educational workshop on personal hygiene by a physician; a 'self-expression via comic' workshop by a Malaysian artist; and more recently, a workshop on financial literacy.

Committee chairman and Ireka's deputy managing director Datuk F. K.



Happy group: Lim (front, in white) with the volunteers and the children.

Lai said, "We aspire to leave a deeper impact than mere monetary contributions. It's fulfilling to see the active participation by all our staff who shared their love, care and expertise."

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

and run by Mr and Mrs Steven Silvaraju and their family members, they aspire to bring the children up in a loving, family-oriented environment. "All children are encouraged to explore their full potential through arts, music and education. This, we believe, will make a difference to their future lives," said Mrs Silvaraju.