

Spreading the magic of Xmas

Company's volunteers hold party at Lighthouse home

VOLUNTEERS of Ireka Cares (Ireka's flagship corporate social responsibility programme) recently organised a special Christmas party for the children of Lighthouse Children's Welfare Home, spreading much love, joy and cheer.

The children were treated to a East-Meets-West lunch together with some 40 Ireka volunteers, consisting of staff across all levels of the organisation.

To bring more Christmas magic, Cha Cha the entertainer kept the children happy with exciting games, creative balloon tricks and every child's all-time favourite – a magic show.

Aside from putting entertainment, food and decorations, the team went the extra mile, acting as a secret Santa or Santarina by getting each child a Christmas present.

Some picked their gift on the "Love, Hope, Faith" theme, some personalised theirs with the name of the child embroidered on the gift for that extra special touch; some granted the child's wish, given that they have known each other for over five months now!

As a show of gratitude and appreciation, the children performed an inspiring Christmas carol.

Having adopted Lighthouse since July 2010, Ireka Cares aims to contribute to the betterment of the children's lives by drawing on its expertise in construction, property development and IT.

To-date, the design and construction teams have carried out refurbishment and repair works at the children's home.

The IT arm of Ireka assisted Lighthouse on IT matters and also provided website maintenance training to the home's caretakers.

As for the monthly outreach activities, the Ireka Cares team planned some carefully thought out activities under three categories: 'Life Skills', 'Creative Arts' and 'Games & Sports'.

A physician gave a talk on per-

sonal hygiene, a professional trainer had a fitness session with the children, and most recently Ireka Cares invited young Malaysian artist, Chin Yew, to teach the children to express themselves through comic strip drawings.

Lighthouse founder Mrs Steven Silvaraju said: "We actually can't find enough words to express our

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MRS STEVEN SILVARAJU

gratitude for what Ireka Cares has done.

"They met with us, discussed with us on what we needed in terms of refurbishments around the house, IT support and areas or activities in which our children can learn.

"In fact, the children and volunteers are becoming much like one big family now."

Ireka's deputy managing director, Datuk F.K. Lai, said, "The inception of Ireka Cares signifies the group's effort to steer it into a more focused, purposeful direction which involves not only monetary contribution but also engaging an active participation by all Ireka staff."

The Lighthouse Children Welfare Home houses 33 children, ranging from two to 16 years old.

Founded and run by Mr and Mrs Steven Silvaraju and their family members, the home aspires to bring the children up in a loving, family-orientated environment.



Caring nature: Mrs Steven (second left) receiving the Ireka Cares adoption plaque from representatives of Ireka.



Kids in action: A special performance by the children from Lighthouse.