

Another Week Beyond - 1303

Dear Team

A family with young children spent last night and a good part of today preparing the food for a community celebration that kicked off a few hours ago at the United World College. They rallied friends and relatives to help out and as the food was prepared at our premises, we could not help noticing the orderly and efficient manner in which the work was carried out. "This is nothing compared to cooking for a Malay wedding where the guests never stop eating," they joked as we complimented them.

It definitely was a lot of work but the mother told us that it was something she enjoyed and it was something she was doing for her own well-being. She elaborated that she has been free of narcotics for slightly more than a year and was recently acknowledged for her effort by the Narcotics Anonymous Fellowship she attended. Hence, she regarded her efforts as a way of carrying the message to others in her neighbourhood that with support, honesty, an open-mind and the willingness to get better; we can turn our lives around.

More than 60 children were acknowledged for their achievements in school but the evening was also a celebration of the generosity, kindness and cooperation that is community is capable of. Boon Kiat, a 16 year old presented the certificates to children who have just entered Primary School. He was chosen by the mothers of these children because they regarded him as a polite, helpful and respectful person who looks out for others in the neighborhood. Besides Boon Kiat, we were glad to see a few other regular folk given the honour of handing out the certificates because they had brightened the community with little deeds that came from their strong love for their neighbourhood.

The other highlight for us was how volunteers from different schools and backgrounds contributed towards a shared purpose. A student from United World College and a youth from the neighbourhood worked together as comperes for the evening and those from Raffles Junior College and River Valley High School played no less significant roles in encouraging the children alongside a whole lot of other individual volunteers who helped out in various ways.

Of course when so many people come together, work is not always smooth but we take heart from the African proverb *"If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."*

Enjoy your weekend.

Gerard

True power comes through cooperation and silence. - Another African Proverb

Gerard Ee
Executive Director
BEYOND SOCIAL SERVICES
26 Jalan Klinik #01-42/52
Singapore 160026
DID: (65) 6664-8571
Fax: (65) 6274-0633
HP : (65) 9788-5700
www.beyond.org.sg
ged@beyond.org.sg

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