

Dear Team

An Amazing Race that was scheduled for today and the finals of our Inter-Neighbourhood Football Tournament tomorrow were called off because of the haze. Preparations for these 2 events had begun and when we decided that it was “no go” yesterday morning, we found ourselves with quite a bit of peeled potatoes and blended spices that would have been part of lunch for 200 youths. There were also other perishable food items that could not be frozen for future use.

Our initial fears that the food would go to waste were unfounded as food was not something that would have gone to waste among our members. With our permission, the perishables were repacked and distributed to families identified by us. A family with 5 young children was extremely grateful. Mother is not feeling well and so her neighbours decided to use the ingredients to prepare dinner for them over the next 5 days.

The haze did not deter some 200 volunteers from the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank (HSBC) as they proceeded with their plans to create study corners in the homes of 18 of our children and to spruce up the homes of the elderly in the neighbourhood. This is the 6th year they have been doing this and what’s extra special for us this time round is seeing 3 of our children who had benefitted from this programme a couple of years ago coming back as volunteers. A boy and 2 girls aged 13, 12 and 11 were initially doubtful if they could be of any use but after a day’s work they were all smiles relating to us how they did almost everything the adults did. They painted the walls, masked the areas that should not be painted, cleaned the floor and cleared the rubbish. The one thing they admittedly did not try to do was to fight the cockroaches and were quite relieved that the adults took care of that.

“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.” - Charles Dickens. This seems true as the 3 children were still brimming with enthusiasm at the end of the day really pleased that they could be of assistance to their elderly neighbours. As for the chaperon for 2 of these children from HSBC, she remembers painting their flat a couple of years ago and it seems that it was not just a study corner the children received. From her, these children studied how one can bring happiness into the homes of others.

Enjoy your weekend.

Gerard

If you get, give. If you learn, teach. - Maya Angelou