

# ROTARACT CLUB OF AMPANG

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## DISTRICT AWARDS SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT (TRINITY HOME)

### 1. Executive Summary

When the Rotaract Club of Ampang was revived this term, it was the unanimous agreement of the members that the primary focus of the club would be on the Community Service Avenue. With that in mind, the Club proceeded to adopt Trinity Home, a foster home for abused and neglected children in Petaling Jaya. This project will serve as our club's flagship as well as long term project.

### 2. Objectives

- (a) To support one of Rotary's Six Areas of Focus: Literacy and Basic Education
- (b) To help the children in their studies
- (c) To build the children's confidence, self-esteem and self-worth

### 3. Tuition Classes

During our first visit to the Home, we learned that the Trinity Home children have been falling behind their peers in studies. Some of the children could not read and write as well as children their age normally does, and some could not understand basic arithmetic. It was then decided that our primary commitment to Trinity Home is to provide tuition for the children, with the hope of helping them improve in their studies and guiding them in their schoolwork.

The tuition classes conducted by our Rotaractors were as frequent as thrice a week, with at least four Rotaractors at any given time assigned to teach subjects like Mathematics and Bahasa Melayu. Our Vice President, Rtr Rebecca Yuvonne led the team of extraordinary tutors. Children who were sitting for public examination were given priority, but other children were welcomed to join in the classes as well. Aware of the fact that these children have very short attention span, our Rotaractors endeavoured to make the

classes more interactive and fun by encouraging the children to speak up, interacting more with the children and incorporating practical and fun activities into the lessons.

As a result of the dedication of our Rotaractors, there was a marked improvement in the result of some of the children during their mid-term examination.

#### **4. Visit to National Science Centre**

On 12 February 2011, the Club organized an educational trip for the children to the National Science Centre. This trip was part of our agenda to educate the children, by encouraging them to take interest in Science. It has always been our Community Service Director's plans to bring the children of Trinity Home to the National Science Centre and make it his main project as he has always lived by the motto "all work and no play makes Jeff a dull boy".

Perched atop a hill on 8 hectares of landscaped grounds at Bukit Kiara the northwestern fringes of the city, the centre was officially opened on 29 November 1996. The main aim of the science centre is to promote greater understanding and interest in science and technology. The building resembles a truncated cone capped with a geodesic dome. Among the themes featured in the exhibition galleries are an environmental odyssey, pathways to discovery, future world and thinking machines.

After some thorough planning, the idea was to start the journey from a point of meeting that is common to every member of the club. So, it was decided the Home itself would be the most suitable place as each and every member has been to Trinity Home before. The meet up time would be at 9.30am as scheduled. It was all bad news as the project seem to have hit a road block at its very beginning. Upon our arrival, we were told by the caretaker that the children's van driver went incognito. However, Rtr Jeff decided to turn this road block into a minor speed bump and volunteered to drive the van for the children. So, slow and steady we made our way to the national science centre with the 15 kids in the van.

Upon our arrival, the kids decided to take matters into their own hands, forgetting all the instructions that were briefly told to them before we left the home and started running all over

the place! After some great leadership skills by our beloved president, we managed to gather the kids together and decided to start the tour of the national science centre from outdoors first. Outdoor activities includes a sanctuary of butterflies, a brief explanation and experiment process of how plants absorb food and water, a tour in a mini train around a passage of time (to check out how the earth was made) and also many outdoor gadgets with water fountains (that even had our grown up members misbehaving!)

Before entering indoors, we decided that a masterplan has to be drawn out in order to contain the kids excitement. Hence, an idea came to mind to assign 3 kids to each adult. This is to ensure that no child gets lost when we were indoors. The children were given some refreshments before entering as all the playing outside has taken its toll on them.

The first point of visit indoor was a science experiment conducted by volunteers of The National Science Centre. The experiments and the science tricks done by the volunteer has been exceptionally intriguing and informative. The children participated eagerly to each and every questions posed and most of them were more than willing to volunteer as guinea pigs!

After an exciting round of science education, the children were beginning to feel hungry, so we decided to have another pit-stop to enjoy the sandwiches prepared by our ever well prepared president. With a full stomach, the next stop was the Dinosaur exhibition. The dinosaur exhibition did not match up to the hype created on the catalog as the dinosaurs on display were merely oversized artificial figures. However, kids being kids, the children found other means to entertain themselves. We walked around the whole of ground floor area playing with all the science gadgets which never seems end in numbers.

At about 3pm we decided to go home as fatigue was apparent on the children's faces (well, it was more like fatigue was apparent on the adult member's faces). We have not even managed to explore the 1st and 2nd floor of the science centre! However, since too much play would also make Jack a lazy boy, we decided to call it a day. After dropping the kids back home, we decided to meet up at Picadilly's PJ to have our lunch and to reflect on the event. Although feeling tired, we were all glad that the project went smoothly with a couple of minor hiccups here and there. Most important thing was the children had a great time learning and exploring while having fun.

A sense of satisfaction does flow through your conscience when you feel that a good has been done towards the community!



## 5. Other Activities



We recognize that the emotional growth of the children in Trinity Home is equally as important as their intellectual growth. As such, we have organized several programmes to assist these children in developing their self-esteem and to build a bond

between our members and the children. These programmes are:

(1) 14.08.10: Ice-breaking Day – The purpose of which is to enable our members to get to know the kids better.

(2) 11.09.10: Trinity Home Children Day – The kids were divided into two teams as they battle out to win the title of The Ultimate Kids. But at the end of the day, everyone is a winner as the

kids learn a thing or two about leadership, teamwork and sportsmanship from the games that we have prepared for the Children Day.

(3) 27.12.10: Christmas outing in One Utama with RC Ampang & RC Sri Petaling: The Trinity Home kids were invited to a Christmas party organized by RC Ampang and RC Sri Petaling with the assistance of RAC Ampang. They kids were brought to the Starship Galactica theme park, and were also entertained by performers arranged by the Rotary Clubs.

## **6. Conclusion**

We understand the value, worth and positive effect of long-term projects, which is why we have decided to give our long-term commitment to Trinity Home. This project exemplifies the Rotaract motto of Fellowship through Service – where Service comes **FIRST**, and through service we build fellowship. Our common goal of bringing joy to the children of Trinity Home has brought all of us closer together as fellow Rotaractors and as friends. We also have a number of guests who joined us in our activities, and one was eventually inducted as member of the Club.

In 1985, Rotary identified basic literacy to be a pre-condition to the development of peace, and today, it has been declared to be one of the six areas of focus for Rotary Foundation. As Rotaractors, we recognize our responsibility to assist Rotary in improving the literacy of children in our community, especially those with learning difficulty and those who could not afford to go for tuition like their more well-to-do peers. The adoption of Trinity Home was done with this in mind.

As Rotaractors and young leaders of the community, we are expected to be the role models for younger people like the children in Trinity Home. We sought to instill positive values in these children through our presence and activities, hoping that these children will grow up to be responsible citizens and members of the society.

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