

PART A: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Shelter Home is a registered welfare organization that has been in existence since 1981 to help the abused, abandoned, neglected or at-risk children. The home started off as a result of the vision of a group of seven friends who wanted to help the children in a squatter settlement along Old Klang Road. They initiated tuition classes so that the children could do better in their studies.

When the group found three homeless boys sleeping in the corridors of the State Cinema (now Lotus Restaurant at New Town, Petaling Jaya) the group decided to rent a single storey bungalow in Section 12, Petaling Jaya. All they had was an empty house without any furniture's. They sat, ate and slept on the floor - indeed a very humble beginning.

The group of friends then decided to bring one of the families from the settlement who had been evicted from their house, to stay in the house in Section 12. Most families in the settlement were living on rented premises but found it difficult to pay the rent. As numbers in the home increased, they moved to their present premises at Jalan Tinggi, Petaling Jaya. Various groups helped by providing tuitions and even fostered those in need of foster care placement.

In time, Shelter Home established 10 kindergartens in squatter settlements with the first one being in Damansara Dalam (1989). A nominal fee of RM5 was charged per student. These kindergartens were an effort in helping children from underprivileged homes to have a good start in life. However, Shelter decided to close down the kindergartens after 15 years of operation when they noticed a dramatic drop in the number of children attending the kindergartens - urban affluence had also affected low income families in their perception and preferences for education for their children.

As Shelter Home evaluated the work, they decided to move into a more proactive approach in helping disadvantaged children by being a positive influence on teenagers. They also ventured into community youth work among youth prisoners in Kajang Prison. They hope to educate, train and help the juveniles to regain their self-respect and integrity so that they can rejoin society at a later date.

As to date, Shelter Home has 3 children homes and 5 refugee schools for Myanmar Children.

PART B (1): OBJECTIVES

1. To provide a healthy, fun and safe environment for the Myanmar Refugee Children of Shelter Home to learn, grow and experience new adventures
2. To work hand in hand with our Rotarians to help the Myanmar Refugee Children
3. To expand the members understanding on the hardships and different life paths of children within the community
4. To instill leadership qualities in making members more effective leaders through organizing and executing the project
5. To provide a better understanding to guests on the Rotaract Organization and its avenues
6. To involve the active participation and fellowship among the club members and guests
7. To achieve the objectives of World Rotaract Week, Presidential Citation and DRR Citation

PART B (2): ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Organizing Chairperson: Belvinder Kaur Kuldip

Secretary: Sylvia Chew

Treasurer: Sanjeev Kumar

Photographer: Jimmy Cheng Jit Ming

Programmes: Belvinder Kaur Kuldip

Sponsorship: Everyone

PART C: ACCOUNTS

Items	Amount		Total
	Debit	Credit	
Total Donors	4068		
Zoo Negara Visit		324	
Petrosains Visit		1002.2	
Christmas Party Wish List		1242.85	
Skytrex Little Adventure		14	
Megakidz Funland & Edutainment		62.85	
TOTAL	4068	2645.9	1422.1

Note:

1. Donors include volunteers who paid for their own expenses (entrance fees and meals).
2. Entrance Fees only (Lunch - KFC is sponsored by volunteers).
3. Includes breakfast, lunch, bus to and fro and entrance fees.
4. Presents for the children and KFC Lunch
5. Fully sponsored by Skytrex. Expenses for drawing and colouring materials for children too young (or below the height limit) to spend time in Taman Pertanian Bukit Cahaya (venue for Skytrex)
6. Fully sponsored by Megakidz Funland & Edutainment. Expenses for purchase of socks for the children to enter Megakidz.

PART D: PHOTOS

ZOO NEGARA VISIT

At the entrance of Zoo Negara

Gathering all to line up to enter the zoo

Wearing the tags provided for entrance

Textual cues and boards around the zoo

Enjoying the 'Underwater World' show

The enthusiastic volunteers of the day

PETROSAINS VISIT

T-shirts donated to the children

Messing around at the KLCC playground

Enjoying themselves with the slides

The volunteers having just as much fun as the kids

Having fun with the audio equipments

Learning through the innovative tools provided

POOL PARTIES

The swimming pool at StART Foundation pool

Having a great time in the pool

Having a hearty meal after the pool time

Wishing the two Birthday Girls

Playing a game of ball in the garden

Enjoying a quiet game of checkers

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST PROJECT

Children with their generous donor

Happy faces opening their presents

The children all ready for the singing of carols

PP James doing a dance round with the children

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The entrance of Taman Hana

The various architecture style & influence

One of the many huts located in the garden

Playing a game of catch in the garden

The beautiful stream we all had fun in

Lining up for their lunch

SKYTREX LITTLE ADVENTURE

Listening attentively to the briefing session

Drawing & coloring session at the Skydeck

Children on the Little Adventure Circuit

“Jungkit Arnab” (Rabbit Flip-Flop)

“Tulang Naga” (Dragon Bones)

Crossing over the suspension bridge

MEGAKIDZ FUNLAND & EDUTAINMENT

All eager to enter into the park

Having a good time bouncing around

Fried rice with chicken nuggets for lunch

All ready for 2nd round of fun!

Volunteers are no match for the children's energy!

Leaving the park with smiley faces

PART E: "THE MAKING OF..."

We were introduced to the Myanmar Refugee School in Puchong through DRR Sanjeev who got to know about the centre from a friend named Christy. He first met her when she performed in a Rotary Function back in 2003 whereby she played a dhol, a double-sided barrel drum; very popular in modern Punjabi music. In the same year, he met her yet again in another Rotary Function, also armed with her dhol and her Bhangra Band. From there, they became friends and was introduced to a close friend of hers by the name of Sue Lynn. He found out that they both visited the refugee centre on a nearly daily basis and were trying to raise funds to provide better meals for them.

Upon obtaining more information on the refugee children there and the operations of the centre, DRR Sanjeev who was the Community Service Director of RAC Subang felt that it was a good project for the club and they have been looking for potential homes to adopt. Initially we went to the centre to interact with the children, but along the line we decided to bring them out for a fun and educational trip to the National Zoo. What started off initially as a one off trip became RAC Subang's long term project.

On par with the theme of 'Building Communities - Bridging Continents' we, Rotaractors of the RAC Subang are playing our parts and taking a step of our own towards achieving this goal. Through these Myanmar Refugee Children, we strongly believe that it gives us the opportunity to work towards a greater cause to help these underprivileged children.

Activities that have been carried out for these children as listed as below:

Activity	Dates
Trip to Zoo Negara	5 th June 2010
1 st Pool Party / Birthday Celebrations	31 st July 2010
Trip to Petrosains Discovery Centre, KLCC	25 th September 2010
2 nd Pool Party	13 th November 2010
Christmas Wish List Project	19 th December 2010
Christmas Party @ Janda Baik Resort	26 th December 2010
Skytrex Little Adventure	12 th March 2011
MegaKidz Funland & Edutainment	10 th April 2011

The project with these Myanmar Refugee Children was kicked off by organizing a visit to Zoo Negara on the 5th June 2010. We were joined by Rotaractors of RAC Pudu and guests who combined efforts in making this a successful trip.

Zoo Negara is managed by the Malaysian Zoological Society, a non-governmental organization established to create the first local zoo for Malaysians. Zoo Negara is now 48 years old and has matured into a well-known zoo all around the around. They now have a total 5446 specimens from

476 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. Zoo Negara covers 110 acres of land which is situated only 5km from the city of Kuala Lumpur. Over the years, the zoo has transformed itself to an open concept zoo with over 90% of its animals being kept off in spacious exhibits with landscape befitting its nature.

The day began at 8.30am with the division of 36 children into groups of 6 in which volunteers were assigned to each group at the day care centre in Puchong. Before we left the centre to the zoo, the children were assigned the task of identifying selected animals such as giraffes, lions, rhinoceros, zebras and monkeys whereby they were required to inform the volunteers on things they saw and knew about these animals. Equipped with water and food like bread and biscuits, along with hats and sunscreens, we were all ready for our little adventure.

Upon arrival, we were greeted by DRR Sanjeev who was there earlier to purchase the entrance tickets along with a few volunteers. The zoo was crowded with excited children and frazzled parents. We couldn't help noticing a number of crying children as well that we encountered on our way to the zoo grounds. Being the school holidays, it was a relatively busy day with many families taking advantage of the sunny but not too hot day.

We saw lions, tigers and other animals moving about lazily in their cages. Some of the animals appeared to be bored, and they took little interest in the visitors. The monkeys, however, showed their natural agility. Whenever they saw a visitor, they ran towards him and begged for something to eat. The children were indeed amused at their behaviour and were daunted by the large figure of the elephants. They were also fascinated by the extreme heights of the giraffes. Some got the opportunity to feed these incredibly graceful and agile creatures with leaves that was provided by the zookeeper.

Some of the reptiles and birds were also very interesting to see. Their variety was amazing and the beautiful feathers of the birds fascinated the children. We were all deeply interested in their behaviour and movements within their cages. The children also got the opportunity to watch an 'Underwater World' show where they were very mesmerized by the otter and dolphins.

We brought these Myanmar Refugee Children to the zoo as we strongly believe that this trip would not only be fun but it would also be a very educational experience for them. Majority of us live in this boring concrete jungle, where we lead a life of more-or-less traffic jams, high storey buildings, gadgets, etc. It is such a relief to visit the zoo which has natural surroundings, filled with animals and birds and their sounds. The whole ambience is a different and enriching experience. Through this visit, it was also an enjoyable learning session. There were a lot of textual cues and boards in the zoos with intent to educate the visitors. Therefore, by reading the facts about the various creatures seen, the visit was very educational which encourages exploratory learning, not just for the children, but for the adults too.

By visiting the zoo, we were also educating the children on the importance of awareness on conserving nature and protecting the creatures as some were already or if not close to extinction. We enlightened them to ponder on how the animals, very much like the human spirit could be broken by confinement. Confined to their cages, some of these animals had become spiritless. Even the sight of food did not seem to excite them much.

At the end of the visit, the children were asked to share on how they felt on the visit; from the less to the more exciting and including the more surprising discoveries they made that day. This was to gauge on their experiences to the learning in a process of understanding what and why has happened during the visit. They shared with us some of the key learning points like a few facts on some of the animals seen based on their observation and textual cues and boards provided in the zoo. Some of the facts shared included were the female lions do most of the hunting and they hunt large mammals including the zebras and the color of a giraffe's coat tends to become darker with age. Having this sharing session and listening to the children giving us back these interesting facts, we were convinced that the visit has indeed served its purpose.

This visit to the zoo gave the children room and space outside the four walls of the centre to spend quality time with each other, with the volunteers and members of the club in this little adventure of theirs. For the volunteers, after a long tiring week of work and classes for some, the trip to the zoo was very much refreshing and invigorating to prepare for the arduous tasks stacked against them in the forthcoming week.

The 2nd of these educational trips saw RAC Subang bringing the Myanmar Refugee Children to PETROSAINS, Petronas Twin Towers, Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC). PETROSAINS is a very popular interactive science discovery centre that enables all to experience the showcases of exhibits featuring the wonders of science and technology related to the petroleum industry in a fun way. This involves from the source of petroleum, locating, extracting, processing and use of petroleum products such as fuel for vehicles, make-up, perfume and tar for road. The concept and content not only revolve specifically around petroleum science, but also embrace all other aspects of general sciences.

On the 25th September 2010, armed with an 'army' of 36 children, 3 guardians, 2 teachers from the centre along with 16 volunteers from RAC Subang, Rotaractors from other clubs and friends, the day started off as early as 8.30am with gathering of the children at the day care centre in Puchong. They were provided with breakfast and goodie bags which was generously sponsored by President Roger Yue of Rotary Club of Subang. In these goodie bags, there were mineral water, box drinks, face towel, a new T-shirt, toothbrush, toothpaste, stationeries, key chains, stuff toys and sweets, very much to the delight of the children. After having their breakfast, 'Colonel' DRR Sanjeev and the 2 teachers organized the children and divided them into groups of 6. The 'army' was then ready to embark on their 'battle field' to a world of discovery and adventure.

Concurrently, 'Sergeant' President Belvinder was at PETROSAINS to purchase entrance tickets, gather the 'soldiers' of volunteers and break them into 6 groups and assigned each 'platoon' group numbers. The volunteers were then all ready to greet the excited children upon arrival in KLCC. The volunteers and children had a great bonding session at the KLCC playground - indeed a children's heaven. It took them only minutes to conquer the playground and having the fun of their lives. The 'army' of children was everywhere! From the monkey bars, to the swings and slides, you can easily spot out a group of excited children - their faces showed it all. The volunteers of each 'platoon' were also put to test having to ensure their safety and keeping an eye on these active and vibrant children.

After being all charged up at the playground, the 'army' of volunteers and children gathered in front of PETROSAINS for a short briefing session. The children were told to stay close to their volunteers and to not separate themselves from their groups at all times. They were also told to write down information that they found interesting as a quiz would be conducted at the end of the tour. Ensuring that the children understood the instructions given, we were all set and ready to go! The visit began with a fascinating 'dark' ride and then proceeded in a linear sequence through 7,000 square metres of exhibit area featuring interactive exhibits, fun activities and displays. The front-line personnel acted as guides, presenters and demonstrators as well as facilitators to ensure that the children's enjoyment and learning experience were maximized.

The children had a great time exploring everything in sight. The rich source of information presented in an innovative and hands-on learning environment involving visual, audio, touch and smell enabled the children to obtain a better understanding of science. They had a good time with the friction games to the illusion mirrors and earthquake assimilation machine. The computers and motion censored games provided also certainly caught their attention. The Dinosaur Age, Science Fiction, Exploration Centre and Formula One Racing were particularly popular with the children. They also went for the famous helicopter simulation ride. As much as some were slightly afraid when the helicopter got off to a rocky part, they were thrilled having the opportunity to experience the feeling of flying in air.

At the end of the tour, we had a short sharing session at 1.30pm whereby the children narrated to us on the discoveries they made and the learning experience they gained and enjoyed throughout the visit. We then adjourned for lunch in KLCC Foodcourt. By 3.00pm, the children were taken back to the centre in Puchong.

The visit also left the volunteers feeling extremely fulfilled with the outcome - that they played their parts for a good cause and made a difference, no matter how small or big in these children's lives. For many, playing in the park is a common thing but for these children, it's a luxury - one that does not come often. Giving them the opportunity for such visits not only allowed room for learning and development for these children, but the experience they gained from this visit is one they will treasure in a long time.

Children and water are a connection that cannot be separated. It's an attraction that most especially children cannot deny. This not does exclude the Myanmar Refugee Children. In July 2010, an active volunteer of the centre, Christy suggested having a pool party for the children in conjunction with hers and another volunteer, Sue Lynn's birthdays. Believe it or not, but the children have not been to a swimming pool. With the small swimming pool at the StART Foundation being recently repaired, it was the perfect place and best activity for the birthday party planned. This double birthday celebration took place on the 31st July 2010.

Any parties are not complete without food! The food for this celebration was catered and the menu included fried rice, chicken curry, mixed vegetables, watermelon and chocolate cake. Some of the volunteers took the children shopping for swimming suits and trunks prior to the celebration. Like norm, we always have our Rotaractors from other clubs joining in activities organized by RAC Subang, namely RAC Kelana Jaya and RAC Kuala Lumpur. We were also joined by our friends and readers of Sue Lynn's blog (<http://bangsar.babe-blogspot.com>).

Eight cars arrived at the day care centre in Puchong at 8.00am to bring 25 excited children to the StART Foundation in Jalan Gasing. The children were given bread for breakfast. As soon as they arrived, they got changed into their swimming attire and they went straight into the pool.

Volunteers were divided into groups to perform various tasks during the birthday party. Some were in the pool as guardians to ensure the safety of the children. As we had some children who could not swim, this was an extremely crucial task whereby volunteers had to ensure the children were equipped with the necessary floats and kept a watchful eye on them. The smaller kids hung onto the volunteers while they were brought around the pool so they could enjoy the 'swim' as well. Some volunteers were watching them by the poolside while others kept themselves busy arranging the tables and chairs for lunch. All volunteers had their hands full looking after these children.

Gabby, one of the volunteers brought balloons and it's not surprising that not long after the balloons were distributed, the children and volunteers started having a water balloon war! The children had so much of fun that we literally had to pull them out of the pool and get changed for lunch at 1.00pm.

Being well-mannered and disciplined, the children lined up to take their food and quietly sat down for a scrumptious meal. Volunteers only joined in for lunch later after ensuring the children had enough on their plates. After lunch, we sang the birthday song for both the birthday girls. Some of the children even had hand-made cards for Christy and Sue Lynn. After enjoying the delicious cake, the children were brought back to Puchong at 3pm.

The second pool party was held in conjunction with DRR Sanjeev's belated birthday on the 13th November 2010. Similar to the previous pool party, details of the event was posted on RAC Subang's Facebook page. On top of the swimming activity, we also played board games, puzzles and badminton. As usual, breakfast was a must for the children.

You will never encounter a scene of a fight over the games as these children practices the art of sharing and distribution among themselves making it all the more fun in playing with them. The children were treated to the '101 Dalmatians' movie after lunch. At 4.00pm, the children were brought back to centre with promises of more future birthday cum pool parties!

No longer a holiday observed only by Christians, Christmas means something different to every person in every country. All around the world, people of different religions, ethnicities and beliefs come together to celebrate the goodness of Christmas and share the merry traditions of love and togetherness. Not wanting to miss out in the spirit of Christmas and on par in the festive mood of giving and sharing, RAC Subang organized a Christmas Wish List Project for the Myanmar Refugee Children.

Volunteers of the home was engaged beforehand to help us out in identifying items the children would love to have as Christmas gifts. The objective of doing so was to get a donor per kid where they would be generous in getting the gift identified for each child. Upon obtaining the list, it was shared with Rotaractors, our sponsoring Rotary Club (RC Subang) and friends. Some of the items listed as gifts included story books, watches, jigsaw puzzles, footballs and sport shoes. A total of 37 children were enlisted in this Christmas Wish List.

To our delight, many came forward enlisting themselves as donors for these kids; in fact some listed for more than one child. We also received contributions of cash in kind including PP Rotarian Mohan. These donors took the effort and time of shopping themselves to purchase the items the children wanted. From the donations received, we used it wisely to purchase the items for the children without donors, especially for those who requested for sports shoes.

We brought the children for a shoe shopping trip to Tesco Puchong. It was indeed a fun experience shopping for these children. We were also joined by Rotarian Soo Keong to share his 'parenting' expertise. Stepping into Tesco, with Christmas songs being played in majority of the shops, families carrying shopping bags and Christmas decorations filling up the areas, everyone can't help but to feel excited! We could see the eagerness in the children faces; knowing that they would have a say in purchasing the item of their liking. And so we began hunting for the shoes, carefully picking the colors and sizes that suited and fitted everyone. Occasionally we could hear the children scream in delight with remarks such as "Ooooooo your shoes is so pretty! So is mine!" or "What colour is your shoe? Mine is my favourite colour! Pink!" Seeing the children beaming with joy definitely made time invested for the shopping trip worthwhile.

We organized a small celebration on the 19th December 2010 with the intentions of allowing the generous donors to meet and pass the presents to their respective kids themselves. This would give a personal touch considering the efforts taken by the donors in purchasing the gifts. All the children were beaming widely when they saw all the presents being neatly arranged at the table. We could tell they were eager to receive their presents and all excited to hold them in their hands. Each donor presented personally with their kid the gifts bought for them. All donors were pretty excited as well as

they were curious to know the children they have in mind when they bought these gifts as they only knew the names and ages of these children.

The kids were ecstatic in opening the presents. Some took the time in removing the cellophane tape on the wrapping paper hoping to reuse it while some tore it off, too eager to see what was inside. The smiles on the children holding onto their presents were priceless! They were all so happy with the gifts received. The donors were all equally happy as well to know the gifts bought were well received by the grateful children.

The donors had a good time with the children, laughing and playing games with them. Led by the teacher of the centre on his guitar, the children sang Christmas carols, sang and danced. Even PP James was roped in to teach them a short and quick dance! Children are notoriously unconcerned about how they sound and how loud they are, and this is was wonderfully liberating and entertaining! We also discovered new talents as the children, both girls and guys did the 'catwalk' in a pretend world of models and muscular man. Everyone had a good laugh over the catwalks performed but at the same time, we were very impressed by the confidence of these children.

The celebration ended with the children having KFC for dinner which was bought and served at the centre itself for the convenience of all. Both children and donors had a good meal while happily chatting over the fun they had, the lovely gifts bought and received and the sheer excitement and the new bond they share.

We also had a Christmas treat for these Myanmar Refugee Children at Janda Baik on the 26th December 2010 for a day outing. We were hosted by political writer Syed Hussein Alattas whereby this location was suggested to us by one of the volunteers, Alex who made the necessary arrangements in securing the place for us to organize our outing with the children there. In joined efforts with RAC Subang, volunteers and friends, a total of 27 kids were brought to Taman Hana for a day out under the sun with 16 adults.

All volunteers gathered at the day care centre in Puchong at 8.30am, equally as eager as the excited children. After ensuring the children were equipped with light food like bread and biscuits and all safely tucked in behind the passenger seats of the cars, we started the journey and convoyed to Janda Baik. The journey to the resort was challenging for the children. Half of them got carsick; not because the volunteers' driving was bad, but because they were not used to travelling and the bumpy and windy roads throughout the journey did not help. Thankfully we came prepared with ample supply of vomit bags.

With eager spirits, we soon arrive at our first checkpoint: the Genting Sempah rest area, at the foot of Genting Highlands. Instead of taking the uphill climb, we kept going along the sea-level route, which eventually tapers off into a single lane. After about 30 minutes of tree-lined serenity, the odd roadside village houses and numerous slip roads marking the entrances to a multitude of sleepy rubber and fruit plantations, we arrived at the laid back township of Janda Baik.

Syed Hussein Alattas, or fondly known to the villagers as Pak Habib, was on hand to greet us at the entrance to Taman Hana, the garden he built from scratch and named after his beloved wife. The surroundings was magical, filled with greenery, full of colour with beautiful landscaping and sceneries and a clear stream that leads to a pond. "Arches mark the start of a civilization or an era," Syed explains when he notices us admiring the hand-carved wooden structure marking the entrance. Inside this eight-acre compound is a collection of five dwellings that include the home of the Alattas family as well as accommodation for his helpers and occasional guests. The main house stands beside the tree lined earthen driveway and there's more than enough room for a brave of SUVs. Arranged in a stepped fashion along the riverbanks are the other houses, each with its own outdoor, roofed living room.

Taman Hana is the result of Syed's ongoing efforts to create a kampung retreat where one can enjoy quiet moments to reflect and be inspired by being close to natural and scenic surroundings, yet remain within easy reach of the city. It was a childhood dream of his, inspired by his grandfathers' sprawling home in Johor Bharu where he grew up. "It was a huge house, with a lovely garden, but sadly, after he passed on, no one took care of the place and so they tore it down," Syed recalls. The loss planted the seed of an idea to build a home that he could pass down to the future generations, and ambitiously, he not only wants to leave a legacy that reflects him but also that of Malaysia's rich cultural heritage.

As you look closely at the architecture and details of each structure, different cultures come to mind - Indonesian style architecture, coloured earthen tiles, traditional Malay woodwork and shuttered windows, doors and also generous balconies that remind one of colonial British plantation houses. "You can say this place is truly Asia," he says proudly.

In fact, his other objective for building Taman Hana is to serve as a writer's retreat, a place where artistic souls can be surrounded by inspiring elements. "There are a few spots in this compound where I love to sit and work, one of them is the main balcony of my bedroom," says Syed. "It's a great vantage point - I can see the moon rising from behind and watch it go down on the other side in the morning. At night, I can savour at least four different scents from the flowering blooms around the house."

Syed says that the multitude of different influences built into every corner of the compound was similarly inspired by what he had read or experienced in the past, and sometimes, inspiration can indeed come from the most unexpected places. In a corner of his garden, we see what appears to be a work-in-progress featuring a stone archway that leads to a series of cobbled stairs. "What I want to build here is a life-size 'snakes and ladders' game," Syed explains. "It may seem like a simple game, yet it's a reflection of reality - in life, there are ups and downs."

After walking around and being kids, it's only natural that we have a few mischievous children, running around and unable to keep still, they were done in exploring their new environment and wanted to play in the stream. They got changed quickly into their swim-wear and dipped themselves

into the refreshing waters of the stream nearby. The braver boys embraced the cool water by jumping straight into the stream while the girls sat at the corners, splashing water among themselves. Six to seven volunteers including DRR Sanjeev and PP James Ong went in to keep an eye on them. The other volunteers watched over the children by the side of the stream. The surroundings of the stream were very refreshing from the cool waters and fresh air. The action of the water producing motion and sound were very relaxing. Some of children remarked that the huge rocks and pebbles in the stream felt like "home".

After so much of fun in the water, we made sure the kids got out of the stream by 1.30pm; the younger ones were starting to turn blue in the lips due to the cold waters. While waiting for lunch prepared by the helpers there, the children ran around the garden, sat by the pond and interacted with the volunteers.

Affording shade all day long is a generous collection of trees, some of which stood there even as Syed was clearing the land to build the place. Others have been carefully planted to decorate the compound with beautiful, colourful flowers. The garden is also an orchard of sorts, with durian, pulasan and mangosteen trees among them. The walkways around the houses and paving the bank are constructed from stones found in the stream.

When its time for lunch, all had a hearty meal of rice with fried chicken, fried long beans with eggs and chicken and tofu soup along with bananas. The children also had goodie bags of sweets courtesy of Syed Hussein. We had a great time for lunch while chatting happily in the 'arms' of Mother Nature and her natural surroundings. When it was time go back, the volunteers had difficulties in getting the children back to the cars as they were reluctant to leave the place. After much persuasion and running around, we were ready to head back. The journey home saw the children fast asleep as they were tired from playing in the stream and catch around the garden.

A volunteer, Daniel and his friends brought some chocolates and gave them to the children at the end of the day upon arrival at the centre. As much as they were tired from the travelling, the children showed their excitement at the mention of more treats. After ensuring that each had one, we said our goodbyes and all volunteers left the centre with the feeling of gratitude and a sense of accomplishment that they were able to give back to society.

In conjunction with World Rotaract Week (7th March - 13th March 2011), Rotaract Club of Subang and Rotary Club of Subang jointly organized a community service project for the Myanmar Refugee Children. This project took place at the Skytrex Adventure Park in Bukit Cahaya Shah Alam on the 12th March 2011. This event was made possible with the generous sponsorship of Julian, founder of Skytrex who sponsored the activity fee for both children and volunteers.

The Skytrex Adventure Park provides an organized outdoor eco-recreational cum educational activity which will take the participants from tree to tree via series of aerial obstacles suspended at 3 meters to 22 meters in the air. The first of its kind in Malaysia, Skytrex Adventure is a place where you can

enjoy jungle trekking from a height never reached before - via the canopy! It would test your agility, challenge your fear, walk, crawl, glide and swing through their different challenges in the sky, in total safety while appreciating the wonders of the surrounding tropical rain forest.

The park was built by giving a particular attention to these 4 elements: recreational, safety, educational and environment. They offer different circuits based on age groups from the Little Adventure, Big Thrill and Extreme Challenge. This project saw the children undergoing the Little Adventure circuit - suitable for children above 8 years old.

The event under this joined efforts brought together a total of 35 children and 3 teachers from the centre accompanied by 7 members of RAC Subang along with the participation of 7 active guests. We were also joined by President Roger Yue of RC Subang, our New Generation Director Rajj Melambaran and 3 other guests of Rotary - Chuan Leng, Siva Kumar and Shirley Hoe who contributed and assisted heavily in carrying out the activities.

We started the day by gathering all the volunteers at the centre in Puchong about 12.00pm. The children were divided into small groups of 4 to 5 and were all safely tucked into the passenger seats of the cars by 12.30pm. Upon arrival at Skytrex at 1.00pm, we were greeted by President Roger and Wei Kein, a RAC Subang member who was there earlier to make the necessary pre-arrangements.

The children and the volunteers were brought to the Adventure Park by bus from the entrance of Bukit Cahaya. The 15 minutes bus journey saw us going up a hill where the air was refreshing and we saw a lot of excited cyclers paddling and raving up the steep hill. Upon arrival, we were all brought to an initiation area to complete the necessary registration forms. The children were provided with light lunch, sponsored by President Roger. At 1.30pm, everyone was ready to kick-start their activity of the day and embark on their 'Little Adventure'.

Before beginning the activity, a briefing session was conducted for all children and volunteers where we had to go through the initiation circuit before proceeding to the Little Adventure Circuit. We were taught on how to use the personal protective equipment (PPE) worn and how to ensure safety measures are observed and taken at all times. Due the minimum height requirement of 1.1m, only 27 children were allowed to participate in the Little Adventure Circuit. The remaining 8 younger children remained at the Skydeck, an elevated wooden platform with picnic tables located near the initiation area where they did drawing and coloring. What started of as light activities soon transpired into vigorous activities of playing with balloons, playing catch and running around the camp area.

Both children and volunteers who participated in the Little Adventure Circuit went through a total of 23 challenges with ranging difficulties from easy to difficult, taking the participants from tree to tree via series of obstacles suspended at platforms as high as 3 to 5 meters in the air. The challenges are named after common animals' behaviour such as "Rubah Terbang" (Flying Fox), "Tulang Naga" (Dragon Bones, "Jungkit Arnab" (Rabbit Flip-Flop) and many more. As a finale, all participants completed a 70m flying fox circuit which saw them crossing 2 lakes to the finishing point.

The entire circuit took approximately 30 minutes for the older children, physically capable and adventurous ones and a little while longer for the younger ones. All participants were allowed to complete as many rounds as possible with a maximum timeframe of 2 hours. The various challenges throughout the circuit kept the children and volunteers very focused to ensure that safety was being prioritized just as much as having fun while carrying them out throughout the duration of the activity. The adventure ended at about 4.30pm whereby all subsequently adjourned to a nearby open hall for some light refreshments, also sponsored by the generous President Roger.

While eating donuts, jam tarts and fizzy drinks, the children also had a fun time playing around in the open field area adjacent to the hall area. Some children also spotted a monkey around the field area and resorted to feeding the monkey with bits of their donuts. The volunteers had to step in to stop the children from feeding the monkey and doing things which may aggravate the creature.

At 5.00 pm, after exhausting themselves from the circuit adventure and playing around in the open field, it was time to say their goodbyes and head back to the centre. As much as the children were tired from the events of the day, they had a fulfilling day outdoors and simply being children. The volunteers ferried the children back to their centre by 5.40 pm, leaving with pictures of the smiley children imprinted on their minds.

Which child wouldn't love a day out to play? On the 10th April, RAC Subang took a total of 26 children and 13 volunteers, comprised of both members and guests to MegaKidz Funland and Edutainment in Mid Valley Megamall. The day started at 9.00am when all volunteer drivers met up at the centre in Puchong to pick up the children. They were all ready and geared to go out for a day of fun! It did take a little while to organize all of them into the cars, but eventually we got them all packed in and off we went!

MegaKidz offers unrivalled facilities and services, catering to children aged 1 to 16 with wide ranging educational and development programmes in a totally safe and professionally managed environment. MegaKidz believes in not depriving children from having sufficient time in recreational play by giving them the opportunity to use their excessive physical energy productively to develop a healthy body and well-being.

Upon arrival, we encountered a minor set back whereby we were not informed before hand that all children and guests of MegaKidz are required to wear socks to gain admission inside. Three volunteers namely Padmini, Shirene and William immediately took charge and made a side trip to Carrefour to purchase the socks for the whole crew. The volunteers who stayed behind had to do minor crowd management as the children were all so enthusiastic to get in but we had to refrain them from doing so. Some were standing by the gate while some stood there watching eagerly at the other children who were already in. Fifteen minutes later, we got them all 'socked up' and off they ran all happily into the park; not wanting to waste any more precious playing time.

Honestly, it was very hard to tell who was actually enjoying the park more, the children themselves or the volunteers. Adults were found everywhere; from climbing frames, under the slide, crossing over the mazes - definitely rekindled the youthful soul in them. The bouncy castle was filled with both the children and adults, attempting to jump as high as possible. A few of the little boys even started showing off a few stunts from wrestling to martial arts.

After approximately an hour of 'monkey-ing' around, we all took a break for lunch which was generously sponsored by MegaKidz. We were served with fried rice with chicken nuggets and juice. The children ate their lunch pretty fast not only because they were hungry but rather they just couldn't wait to get back for another hour of fun. By this time, you could tell the adults were already exhausted. We realized that there is a reason on why this place was designed and made for children and not for adults! We take our hats off for the children's spirit and high energy level! We spent the rest of the hour over-seeing the children while they continued happily bouncing around and finding themselves around the mazes. It took us a while to locate all the children and the nooks and crannies of the place but we managed to round up all 26 of them and got them all back into the cars. The children got home, exhausted but very happy. All of them had such a good time and one can definitely say the same for all the adults who re-live memories of their childhood experiences.

A great big thank you goes out to Perrie Choo, the Operations cum Marketing Manager of MegaKidz for sponsoring the entrance fees for the children and volunteers as well as providing lunch for all. It was certainly a very successful project that left everyone with smiles!

PART F: "TELL US WHY..."

The Myanmar Refugee Centre in Puchong of Shelter Home only has the basic necessities and with the limited volunteers and staff they have, they strive very hard in ensuring that each child has a smile on their face. Touched and inspired by this, RAC Subang has taken it into our responsibility to give back as well, on par with the Rotary's motto of 'Service above Self'.

Being part of our community, we hope to improve the quality of life for these Myanmar Children. By organizing educational trips and fun activities for them, we hope that we are able to fulfill their social need - to play, to go out and explore; every child is need of that opportunity without having the fear of being watched and caught.

Through interaction and play, we believe that the children would be able to interact better outside the four walls of the centre, broadening their horizons and exploring 'adventures'. We hope to help these children enhance their development in a healthy and positive environment parallel to providing an education and exposure.

We hope to rope in Rotarians, Rotaractors, friends and guests into our activities and spread the word and joy in giving a helping hand to these children. This would promote a better relationship staying true to Rotaract's motto 'Fellowship through Service'.

RAC Subang sincerely hope that our efforts in helping the Myanmar Refugee Centre would make a difference in the lives of these children and bring smiles to this eternally grateful kids.

In this process, it has taught us to be grateful for what we have and to be more appreciative of the simple luxuries of life that we have taken for granted.

We look forward to more activities with the Myanmar Refugee Children that will contribute to the quality of life and wellbeing of these children. The smiles on each of their faces, their pleas for us to bring them out more, motivates us Rotaractors and volunteers to continue to contribute and give back to society in ways that we can. We hope that our efforts will come a long way to making their lives a better one.



ROTARACT CLUB OF SUBANG

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

BRINGING SMILES TO THE

MYANMAR REFUGEE CHILDREN

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