

Packing meals for needy in Malaysia

Hundreds of volunteers prepare food worth RM100,000 for flood victims and less fortunate

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THE spirit of volunteerism was in full force at Berjaya Times Square Kuala Lumpur's lower ground concourse as both the young and adults gathered for a good cause.

Some 470 volunteers participated in the Berjaya Youth - Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing charity event to prepare RM100,000 worth of meals for the less fortunate.

Berjaya Corporation Bhd corporate communications senior general manager Judy Tan said the monetary contribution of RM100,000 was from Berjaya Cares Foundation.

"This is our fourth instalment working together with Rise Against Hunger to identify those in dire need in the country, held in conjunction with World Food Day.

"It is uplifting to see such a huge number of Berjaya staff coming together to lend their support. What was even more heartening was that many were repeat volunteers.

"Besides giving, we are creating awareness and helping to eradicate poverty through the meal-packing event held in the mall.

"This event also allows engage-

ment with employees as well as external people, especially the youth," she said.

The volunteers, comprising about 430 Berjaya staff with their friends and family as well as youths who signed up on Berjaya Youth's Facebook page, worked in two shifts at 12 packing stations.

Equipped with hairnets and gloves, each volunteer was assigned to a task in the packing process which included filling the ingredients, weighing, sealing and boxing the packed meals.

Each meal pack, serving up to six individuals, consisted of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and 21 essential vitamins and minerals.

Joining the initiative was Berjaya Hotels and Resorts chief executive officer Hanley Chew.

"We have to remind ourselves that we need to do our part and give back to society.

"It is a very good effort by Berjaya Youth which is also in line with our chairman's vision to help the less fortunate," said Chew.

Puah Zi Xu from Puchong who came across the event on Facebook said he was glad that it happened after his exams.

"I feel great being able to help the underprivileged.

"As teenagers, we need to be



Equipped with hairnets and gloves, each volunteer was assigned to a task in the packing process which included filling the ingredients, weighing, sealing and boxing the packed meals. — Photos: AZMAN GHANI/The Star

more proactive in giving back to the society," said the 16-year-old student who helped to fill the packets with rice.

It was the first time for 19-year-old Wan Nur Iliya. She said, "I like that this initiative was conducted in a fun way and that we gathered at a station to carry out one task.

"Not only can I play a part in

helping out, I can also enjoy myself and meet new people," she said, adding that she would definitely share her experience with others and return for the next event.

The meals were presented to four beneficiaries.

Rotary Club of Kota Kinabalu South received RM40,000 worth of

meals which will be distributed to the recent flood victims in Kota Belud, Sabah, as well as poor communities in the interior of the state.

A total of RM30,000 worth of meals was presented to Malaysia Red Crescent Society to aid those bracing for the monsoon season on the East Coast of Malaysia while RM20,000 worth of meals went to MyKasih Foundation for needy orang asli communities in some parts of peninsular Malaysia.

Alliance Chin Refugees received RM10,000 worth of meals for their seven schools and clinic operation.

"Rise Against Hunger's vision is to see a world without hunger by continuously mobilising resources and providing food and life-saving aid to the world's most vulnerable.

"We hope to generate a greater awareness among Malaysians about the most basic of need - food and nutrition," said Rise Against Hunger Malaysia president Tiki Keh.

Tan said Berjaya has plans to expand this meaningful exercise to other parts of Malaysia next year, through its subsidiaries.

"By doing so, various operating companies can take the lead for the same cause," concluded Tan.



(From left) Tan, Malaysia Red Crescent Society representative Datuk Zakaria Abdul Hamid, Berjaya Corporation Bhd chairman and chief executive officer Datuk Seri Robin Tan, MyKasih Foundation managing director Jeffrey Gerard Perera, Keh, Alliance Chin Refugees general manager Evan Hau Khat Mung and Rotary Club of Kota Kinabalu South representative Dodo Chow at the meal packs presentation.