

Taking Heart

We are Family

TWENTY-ONE families left the "We are family" event last week with professional family portraits, thanks to Help-Portrait Singapore and Star PALS (Paediatric Advance Life Support), a service by HCA Hospice Care which provides palliative care for children aged up to 19 years living with a range of conditions.

In addition, Nikon Singapore sponsored DSLR cameras for the volunteer photographers. The event was held at Jurong Bird Park's Lakeview Ballroom, and brought 105 children and family members through makeovers and portraiture.

"We are Family" is a pro bono professional portrait-taking event, which is part of an initiative by a worldwide community of volunteer photographers, Help-Portrait, who use their skills in photography to give back to their societies across the world on Dec 7.



One for the album: The Ng family flash their best smiles for their family portrait at the "We are family" event.

On the Kampong Glam Heritage Trail

CHILDREN from the Lakeside Family Centre's Before and After School Care Centres got a chance to learn more about the history of Kampong Glam, and gain a

better understanding of the Malay-Muslim community's lifestyle, practices, and beliefs, when they were taken on the Kampong Glam heritage trail by some 50 DBS Bank staff.

Each DBS staff member was partnered with a child

from the Lakeside Family Centre, a not-for-profit organisation whose emphasis is on community care.

A Children's Christmas

CHILDREN from two homes tried their hand at decorating their own gingerbread man, and even met Santa Claus earlier this month, at the "Children's Christmas", which was hosted by Conrad Centennial Singapore and Rotary Club of Marina City. Some 55 children also met the hotel mascot, Conrad Teddy, as they tucked into an afternoon tea at the hotel.

Trees of Life

SHOPPERS can sponsor a child or give gifts to needy children and families in the form of food, clean water, clothing, education, medical help, and tools for livelihood, from now till end of December, at any of World Vision Singapore's Trees of Life. The trees are located

at various malls, including VivoCity, Liang Court, Tiong Bahru Plaza and White Sands.

School for Life Chiang Mai

MORE than 100 Thai children received new sports shoes, thanks to a novel initiative by the SilverNeedle Collection to donate shoes on behalf of delegates to their trade show, Luxperience 2013, instead of offering customary corporate gifts.

The shoes were donated to the School for Life Chiang Mai, which houses and educates children who have been affected by Aids, natural disasters, abuse, or been forced into child labour. The school provides for their basic needs, offers psychosocial support and medical care.

By **MINDY TAN**

Taking Heart is a regular column highlighting charitable causes