

Mountain climbing part of charity bid

Group collects RM223,766.04 for the needy



Funds for own causes and activities: Yoong (centre) with representatives from the organisations in the Rock the Mountain for Charity 2009.

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STUDENTS, adults and volunteers from various organisations joined forces to collect RM223,766.04 for the *Rock the Mountain for Charity 2009* organised by the Nanyang Press Foundation.

The organisations comprised several institutions of higher education, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and hospitals.

The project was primarily aimed at raising funds while getting participants involved in a healthy activity.

Nanyang Press Foundation chairman Yoong Yan Pin presented the cheques to the partners who participated in the project, and handed out the certificates to all the participants who successfully climbed Bukit Brinchang, Cameron Highlands.

Applauding their efforts, Yoong said: "It is a good sign that we should organise ourselves to help ourselves, rather than relying on handouts."

Of the RM223,766.04 that was collected, RM110,303.40 was disbursed to the participating organisations.

The remaining RM113,462.64 that was collected by the foundation would be used for its programmes, which includes running four dialysis centres and funding disaster relief initiatives.

While most organisations would be

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using the funds for their respective causes or student welfare activities, Tunku Abdul Rahman College (TARC) chose to donate the money they had collected to two NGOs that dealt with cancer - the Breast Cancer Welfare Association and the Cancer Advocacy Society of Malaysia (Empowered).

Ong Tzong Meng, 19, who was TARC's key coordinator for the project, said they held the collection drive with the intention of channelling the funds to charity.

"The student welfare committee from TARC's five schools coordinated the students and fund collection, while the college management decided which organisations the funds would go to," said the School of

Business Studies student representative.

In running the drive, Ong said the committee members learnt about empathising with those who are less fortunate, and the elements needed to organise a fundraising drive and reach out to the students.

Nanyang Press Foundation executive director Ann Woo noted that while the project had been held several times, this year's initiative marked the maiden participation of those from the Malaysian Association for the Blind (MAB).

"It was a very meaningful event. The 18 MAB representatives, who were either blind or had low vision, were each paired with a sighted young person for the four-hour climb.

"It offered an opportunity for the blind people to experience the outdoors, and for the young people to understand the difficulties that the blind people face," she said.

Woo said the project's objectives included encouraging the participants to raise funds to teach them to be self-sustainable, to create funds for their own causes and activities and expose them to Mother Nature.

"The funds were raised via collection cards and campaigns. Upon raising RM5,000, one person from that organisation could take part in the climb," she said.