



# Skills that go a long way

Children from home learn soap-making techniques at special workshop

**I**REKA'S flagship Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, Ireka Cares, recently conducted a soap-making activity with children from Rumah Kanak-Kanak Angels.

The mentor for the day Kindersoaps founder Michelle Ho, who was invited to conduct the workshop.

Aside from sponsoring the ingredients, Ho also demonstrated the way to make soap from scratch using natural ingredients such as palm oil, coconut oil, water, apricot kernel oil and essential oils.

The children, supervised by Ireka Cares volunteers, had a fun time working together as they measured the ingredients while practising safety measures when handling chemicals.

The raw soap mixture was blended with a handheld blender or wooden spatula until it reached a pudding-like consistency, then essential oils were added.

The mixture was left to harden in clean juice and milk cartons before they were sliced into individual soap bars. These soap bars were left to cure in a cool and dry place for 30 days before used.

Ireka Cares also helped the home by carrying out minor reconditioning, repairing and refurbishment work through two of its

subsidiaries, Ireka Engineering & Construction Sdn Bhd and Ireka Development Management Sdn Bhd.

Most recently, a badminton court was built in the home's compound.

Ireka group deputy managing director and its CSR Steering Committee chairman Datuk FK Lai said, "Ireka Cares has come a long way since we first started in July 2010. We aspire to create a significant impact for fellow volunteers and the homes we have adopted over the years aside from monetary contribution.

"It's especially fulfilling to see the active participation and devotion by fellow Irekians who share their love, care and experience. To us, this outcome is beyond measure."

Since its inception, volunteers have initiated monthly activities for various charitable homes.

The weekend activities provide opportunities for the children to have fun and learn skills that will help them later in life.

Rumah Kanak-Kanak Angels was set up in 2004 to provide shelter for underprivileged or abandoned children between the ages of five and 16 years.

This is the second time Ireka Cares has adopted the home. In previous years, the programme adopted Lighthouse Children's Home, Rumah Hope.



① Tin Sook Fun (right) and Mimi (left) preparing the soap mixture.

② Soap mixture is left to set and harden in milk and juice cartons overnight.