

Mosaic mirrors of creativity

Year-long adoption programme ends with design contest for Rumah Hope kids



Having fun: The creative minds at work assisted by Ireka Cares volunteers.

BLUE, red and black – this was the winning colour combination for young Tamarasran, a child from Rumah Hope who took part in the Mosaic Mirror Design Competition hosted by Ireka Corporation Berhad's flagship corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme, Ireka Cares, recently.

At the competition's farewell party, Tamarasran, 11, said, "Blue represents Rumah Hope's logo, red is from Ireka's and black is my hair colour; and I love them all!"

His 'team member', Ireka Cares volunteer Wong Su Chin added, "He came up with the design concept and colour combination on his own. He was also very meticulous and creative – all of which resulted in this masterpiece. I'm very proud of him."

Ireka deputy managing director Datuk Lai Foot Kong concurred, saying, "All the mosaic mirrors were beautifully designed by the children. I would love to think that the arts-

themed activities we carried out over the past year have helped to realise their talents and values – in one way or another."

The farewell party, aptly held in Seni Mont' Kiara (*seni* means arts in Bahasa Malaysia), was meaningful as it marked the end of the one-year adoption programme with Rumah Hope.

Each child creatively designed their mirror frames with colourful pre-cut mosaic tiles, drawing inspiration from the beautifully landscaped Seni Mont' Kiara.

Ireka Cares volunteers who guided the children also seized the opportunity to enjoy their 'finale' get-together.

The second and third prizes went to Rayathri @ Mary, 13, and Leah Chong Ai Leng, 11, respectively.

After a scrumptious buffet lunch for the children, Lai said, "It is fulfilling to see such active participation from our Ireka volunteers who have worked hard to make a difference – even in

the smallest way. It has been an enjoyable and rewarding learning experience for us and we hope, for the children too."

Caregiver from Rumah Hope, Catherine shared, "We really appreciate all the activities organised for us throughout the year. Most importantly, thanks for spending time with our children."

The children then presented their handmade memento – a Mosaic Mirror and a *batik* handkerchief, as a show of appreciation to the organiser.

For the past year, Ireka Cares volunteers had been organising various monthly arts-themed activities, such as making clay pottery, fridge magnets, *batik* painting, friendship bracelets, cross-stitching, *sushi*-making as well as lessons in the performing arts (dance, drama and singing).

Rumah Hope was established in 1994 as a sanctuary for abused, abandoned, neglected and underprivileged children between the ages of five and 17.



Mosaic art: Completed artworks by the Rumah Hope children.



Young tutors: The children teaching Lai to design the mosaic mirror.