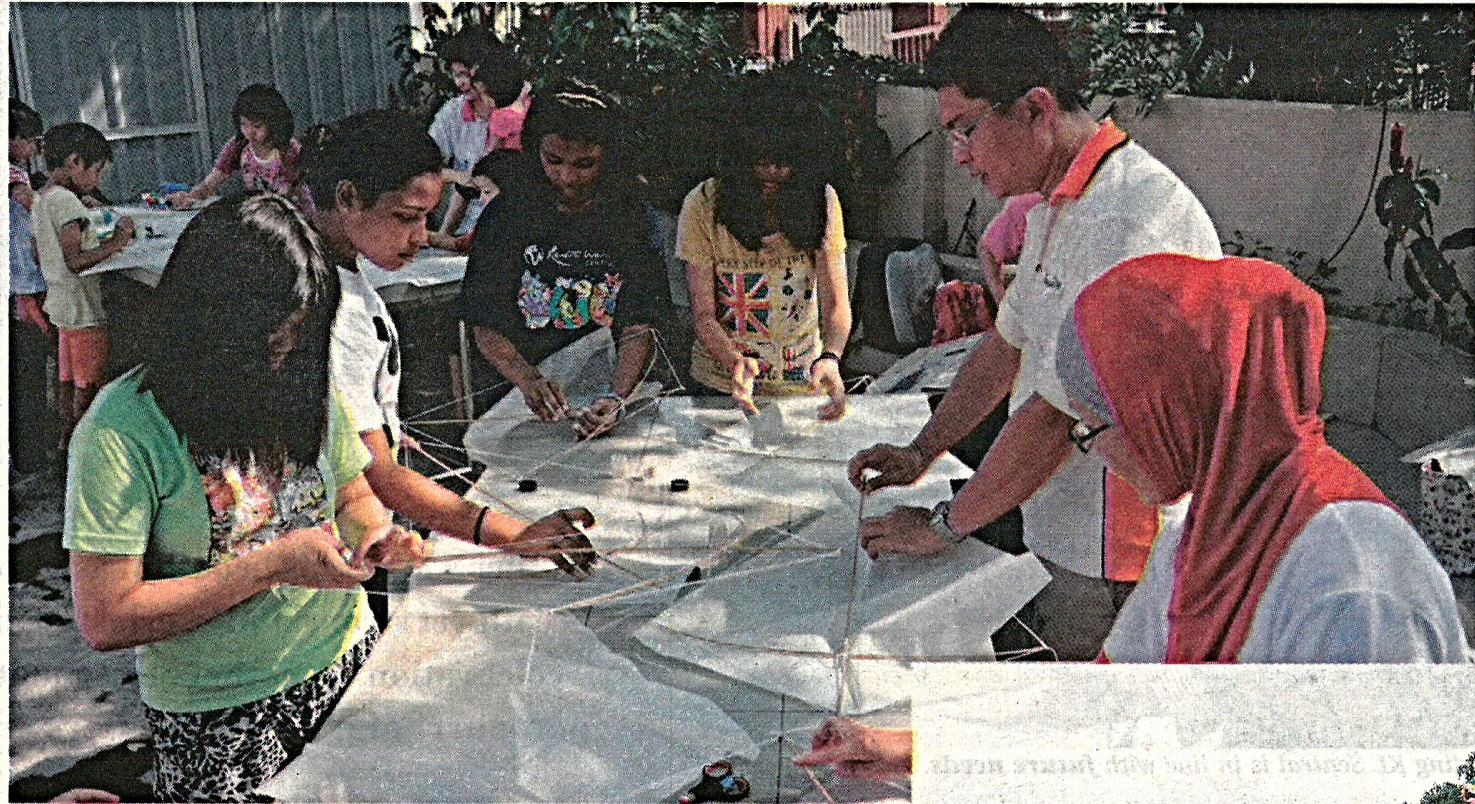


Kids learn to make kites

TRADITIONAL: Rumah Kanak-Kanak Angels children were taught the age-old art of kite-making and kite-flying



Children from Rumah Kanak-Kanak Angels learning to make kites. (Inset) A volunteer helps one of the children to fly her kite.

THOSE were the days when children played with toys handmade from whatever materials they could find. These days, children have store-bought trendy toys to play with.

To revive an interest in traditional games, Ireka Cares volunteers organised a kite-making workshop followed by a kite-flying outing for the children of Rumah Kanak-Kanak Angels.

The workshop was conducted by Danny Lau, founder of kite shop Windancer. The older children, aged from 13 to 16 years, took up the challenge to make their own kites from scratch. They were taught to make kite frames using bamboo, before sticking on mahjong paper and balancing their kites with paper strips and string.

The children then painted their own designs to personalise their kites. The younger children, aged from 8 to 12 years, had a great time giving the kites 'test runs' around the home's compound.

"Every step in kite making is crucial in ensuring the kite will fly and remain stable in the air. I want the children to learn about the importance of precision," said Lau.

Metropolitan Park Kepong was the perfect venue for the children to fly their kites. It was a bright and sunny day, ideal for kite flying. Volunteers Khairul and Hairuni were tasked to teach the children to get their kites into the air. They quickly discovered that kite flying is tougher than it looks.

Jimmy Heng, 9, whose kite was designed with a picture of his favourite superhero, Captain Amer-

ica, was excited to see his kite triumphantly soar up high into the sky.

Although some kites did not fly, everyone had a good time.

"Some of the kites did not fly but the children still had a wonderful experience.

"It was priceless to see their happy faces," said Ireka Cares Action Com-

mittee head Nor Fathiyah.

Rumah Kanak-Kanak Angels was set up in 2004 to provide shelter for underprivileged or abandoned children aged 8 to 16 years old. Ireka Cares had previously adopted Light-house Children's Welfare Home and Rumah Hope with themes such as Community, Arts, Recreation, Environment, and Sports.

