

MAN Continues Charity Drive

With MAN's drive to support those in need, everyone is a winner as they decided to donate the prize money from MCVE's Best Booth Design Award to two organisations that help children.



Following the activity during the Ramadan month, whereby MAN Bus & Truck (M) Sdn Bhd's Managing Director Hartmut Mueller handed out food packets, the management of the German brand continued to do good with visits to two homes that focus on the needs of children. This year's winner of the Best Booth Design Award at MCVE

2017 decided to donate the prize money so that more people can share the joys of having taken home the coveted award.

The first stop was at the Ideas Autism Centre, No. 9, Taman Bukit Tember, Selayang Baru. Meeting with Sanne Jansen, Development Manager IDEAS, it was learned that Autism is on the

rise and that it takes some special care to ensure that the children will be able to integrate into society later on. Ideas focuses on the poorest families with a household income of under RM 3 000 per month. "If one of the parents has to give up work to be able to attend their autistic child, the family will be burdened even more. To ensure both parents can work full time, our center is open until the late afternoon," Jansen said. The donation to the centre came as a welcome gift as there is a growing number of children being autistic while many organisations compete for funding of their noble causes.

The second stop was at a foster home just down the road from MAN's HQ in Rawang. Mrs. Christina Soosai cares for a group of some 20 children in the Ephratha Home, No. 42, Jalan Pelangi 16, Taman Pelangi. She sees it as her duty to ensure that the kids lead a good life and she insists on them only leaving after they have turned 21. During our visit she recounts many occasions, during which the situation seemed very dire, but somehow "There is always some angel that shows up to support us. One time a Chinese man came to me to have a chat, following which a newspaper came to interview me. That in turn led to many donations to pour into this place. I don't know the name of the Chinese man, nor his story or reason for what he did." Offloading buckets of KFC lunches, the children feasted on their treat while MAN staff unloaded a truck-load of groceries and supplies for the home.

When asked about the selection criteria for the two homes, Mueller explained: "We chose these two organisations because we see it as our obligation to help young people, be it orphans or those with disabilities, to be able to make it in society. This is the same donation activity we have done two years ago. Apart from that, we will also continue to look out for other organisations that need help and will make our decision based on which has the more critical need." **F**