



ST NICK'S NEWS



ST. NICHOLAS' HOME PENANG (8TH EDITION JULY/AUGUST 2013)

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The second half of the year has just begun and the Home is now in full swing getting ready for the various events that will be coming up!

One of the highlights for the second half of the year is our annual SNH Carnival scheduled to be held on the 7th of September! Read all about it in this issue of our newsletter. Also, find out more about our one of a kind library!

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish all our Muslim friends, *Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri! Maaf Zahir dan Batin!*



SNH CARNIVAL 2013

St. Nicholas' Home, Penang is organising the annual SNH Carnival for the second time around. This year, it will be held on the 7th of September from 10am to 3pm at our St. Nicholas' Home field.

With around 70 stalls, the carnival will feature various types of delectable local food, delightful arts and handicrafts, fun and educational games and great entertainment. Massage services will also be offered by our very own St. Nicholas' Home Wellness Centre. We will also have blind awareness stalls, where people can learn about and experience blindness, low vision and braille.

There is something for everyone to enjoy while spending fun and quality time with their family. The children will have a great time with Mr. Bean the clown entertaining them with stories, magic show and balloon animals. This year, we have something extra special as well. We will be having a petting zoo and pony rides during the carnival!

St Nicholas' Home is a premier institution that serves the blind and visually impaired in Malaysia. Established as an orphanage in 1926, the home has since grown to become a fully residential training centre. Besides providing training in massage therapy, basket-weaving, pastry-making and IT, the home also provides counseling and interventional services for individuals suffering from imminent blindness. St Nicholas' Home is also the only institution that serves children with multiple disabilities and senior citizens with visual impairment. And soon, we will have a TASKA for BVI children in Penang!

Over the decades, the home has been able to provide its services free of charge, thanks to the generous contributions from organizations and individuals. The home relies heavily on donations, sponsorships and revenue generated from charity events. All proceeds from this carnival will be channelled towards creating awareness as well as our educational and skills training programs that would benefit our trainees directly.

We appeal to the individuals and organisations to support us by buying our coupons priced at RM20 per booklet or set up a stall at the carnival. If you are unable to operate the stall on the day, you can sponsor one at RM500. Donations towards the cost of the Carnival are also welcomed and tax-exemption receipt will be issued. We hope to raise RM100, 000 after expenses from the Carnival this year. We expect to welcome 3000 people at our Carnival, joining hands with us in our effort to serve and support our blind and visually impaired friends.

Coupons for the carnival are available at St. Nicholas' Home. Enquiries on the coupon and stall can be made by phone at 04-2290800 or via info@snh.org.my.



ST. NICHOLAS' HOME PENANG

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Website: www.snh.org.my

Facebook: St Nicholas
Home Penang



If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, give us a call!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Walk For Sight 2013
6/10/2013

White Cane Day
12/10/2013

Access Audit
Workshop
4-5/9/2013

**Contact us for further enquiries:
04—229 0800**

LESSONS IN LIFE BY NATASHA

As an SNH staff, I am privileged enough to be given the opportunity to stay in the Home and interact with the blind and visually impaired trainees. Often times, when I am in my room, I think to myself, how can I contribute or help these people around me who are blind.

One day during lunch, I walked passed a man named Dan. He is a diabetic and he is also blind. He was sitting in a corner by himself. I looked at him and wondered what he was thinking, whether he was thinking about his life or whether about his lunch, I was not sure. I asked him how he was and he told me: "I am fine". That made me smile. It was a simple answer but it touched me because there have been many times in my life where I have complained about many things and said to myself I'm not fine despite being so blessed to have vision. Dan made me realised that I have everything to be thankful for and I should be thankful because I have "EYES" that can see. A simple word opened my heart to see things differently in my life.

Rob is another regular that I often meet at the dining hall. Rob is a very charming person and he smiles all the time. Whenever I greet him good afternoon or good evening, he would always reply good morning regardless of the hour and I used to ask him why. He would say all the time is good morning for him and that made me think deeply of what he meant. I realised then that every hour for him is morning. At times, there will be tears shed from my eyes because even though it is morning, afternoon or evening, it is the same for them because they are unable to see the differences between day and night.

To everyone reading this article, I would like to say, in this day and age, people are constantly chasing for money to ensure a better living for their family. That may be a good thing in life but if you want to contribute or make a difference in the life of others, people should try visiting places like St Nicholas' Home to spend valuable and precious time with the BVI community of SNH. As a blessed human, I believe I can contribute a lot to people around me. I truly feel the best thing I can do and the smallest thing I can contribute is to get to know people like those at SNH because they are truly a special bunch of people.

SNH BRAILLE LIBRARY

The St. Nicholas' Home library was officially built in the year 1956 and it provides easy accessibility to information and resource for blind and visually impaired persons in Malaysia. The Centre has been producing books, magazines, news and various other reading materials in accessible media. The media, ranging from cartridges to cassettes have evolved into digital formats available on compact discs and soon in MP3 format in keeping abreast with advancement in technology. Among its services are loaning of Braille and Audio books, distribution of magazine in Braille and print, providing transcription services and also to promote interest in reading and use of Braille among blind people. The objective of the library is to make available books, magazines, news and other reading materials through accessible media thereby promoting literacy among the blind and visually-impaired.

As of now, it is the only Braille library in Penang with a collection of 3100 Braille books and 1050 audio books. "We have around 200 audio books and 360 Braille books in Malay. Besides that, there are also about 25 different Braille magazines which cover Christian, local and general topics," Librarian Mohd Shukri mentions. Recently, the library extended its collection for staff with a professional collection of management books. Residents, trainees and staff of St Nicholas'

Home as well as the Blind and visually impaired people from all over Malaysia make use of the library. Nowadays the library has 40 active members from all over Malaysia. "It is my wish to be able to provide the members with newer books in the future.



Furthermore, it would be nice to get more Malay story books since they are popular among our V.I.P. and blind trainees at SNH." Mohd Shukri explains.. The library also serves as a good place to prepare a declamation for the weekly chapel service. "The senior citizens usually sit down in a quite area in the library to read using one of our Braille bibles and make notes on a Braille machine." Mohammed says.