

Children of kidney patients receive school supplies

KOTA KINABALU: All 13 children of Peter Mole MBE - MAA Medicare Charity Dialysis Centre received school supplies for the 2015 school term.

The "Back to School Programme" is MAA Medicare's (MAA Medicare Kidney Charity Fund) signature annual assistance programme, whereby schoolbags inclusive of school and daily necessities are given to children of patients from the dialysis centres.

Started in 2009, the Kids@medicare programme was intended to assist kidney patients' children return to school with dignity and content, as most patients come from the poorer socioeconomical circle. Throughout the years, thousands of school bags and items have been handed out to some 250 kids each year. This year, the donation is made possible with the sponsorship from Roche Malaysia.

The presentation was made at the Low Kawi Wildlife Park in Penampang.

Smiles were written on the children's faces when they got on the tram ride and watched the animal shows. A drawing competition was also organized after which the kids were treated to lunch.

Tan Sri Datuk Ibrahim Menudin, MAA Medicare's Board of Trustee member accompanied by Aliyah Karen, CEO of MAA Medicare and Chai Nam Khian, Sales Manager of Roche Malaysia also joined in the outing and handed out the bags, t-shirts, towel, stationeries and Bata shoe vouchers to the children worth RM100 and RM120 each, for primary and secondary students respectively.

"This year's programme shares an unwavering commitment to giving children living in the poorest, toughest situations a stronger start in life. Through our work, patients are getting the right health care, and their children are given learning assistance and opportunities, and a greater chance to reach their full potential," said Ibrahim.

"This little act of kindness can make all the difference for these poor children. While most of us take such basic educational tools as pencils and erasers for granted, for them, the lack of these basic implements can be just one more reason to feel left out, drop out of school, and miss out on the education that could lead to a better life," he said.

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Kids@medicare