

Red-dy to make a difference

Charity event raises tidy sum for empowerment project

SOCIALITES of Penang banded together to 'Paint the Town Red' for the Dream Zephyr Foundation's (Dreamz) Aspire Life: Educate and Empower Our Young project.

Sporting outfits in every shade of crimson imaginable, they gathered at the grand ballroom of St Giles Wembley in Magazine Road for a charity event that successfully raised RM15,000.

Highlights of the afternoon included a fashion and jewellery show by Joo Lee Couture and Venessa Diamonds which featured stylish evening wear and professional attires.

There was also an informative health and aesthetics talk by Dr Choi Hang Seok from Korea-based JK Medical Group, though the most anticipated session was the lucky draw.

Dreamz patrons Datuk Seri Choot Ewe Seng and Erlina Tan drew the winning numbers for over 50 prizes with a total value of around RM10,000.

"We are most grateful for the overwhelming support received from generous guests and sponsors," Choot said of the recent event.

On the Aspire Life project,

Dreamz president Angelina Cheong explained, "The world is progressing every day. However, not every child has the opportunity to be properly equipped with the necessary skills to thrive in this 21st century.

"Through this initiative, we hope to make a meaningful difference in their lives by providing them with proper education so they can go on to create a better future for all."

The programmes being conceived under it include 'Get Ready for the Real World', a two-day soft skills certification course targeting secondary school leavers.

There is also 'Enhance Your English', an endeavour that helps less privileged school students, especially girls, improve their command of the language via supplementary classes.

Cheong said the foundation is looking forward to kick off the inaugural programme in December, with the support of ITD World as training partner, and 1919 Global as venue sponsor.

"We are targeting 200 deserving school leavers, to expose them to management, leadership and public-speaking skills, as well as industry-related topics," she added.



(From left) Datuk and Datin S.H. Wong, Dr Khoo, Tan, Dr Choi, Cheong and Choot posing for a group photo during the Paint the Town Red charity event in Penang.

Further details on the programme will be announced at a press conference in July.

Secondary schools in the region who are interested may contact Cheong at 012-4928368 or Dr Khoo Seok Wah at 012-4308402 to find out more.

To ensure continuous funding for the Aspire Life project, Dreamz will stage several fundraising

events throughout the year.

The foundation also welcomes more to come on board as strategic partners, be it training providers, international schools, English learning centres or corporate sponsors.

"This is only the first step. We hope to be able to sustain and add on to our programmes according to the needs of our children.

"Together, we can start making a difference in their lives," concluded Cheong.

Dreamz is a charitable organisation set up in 2003 to create a sustainable fund for supporting society's varied humanistic needs.

Since 2011, it has focused on issues affecting women and children. Visit www.dreamzfoundation.com to find out more.