

Dear Team

A mother of 4 who is no longer living in our neighbourhood came by today to trim the hair of 12 children so that they will be ready for school on Monday. This mother is still awaiting a more permanent housing arrangement but despite her personal challenges, she believes in honouring a promise she made to herself when she was living here. After attending a meeting in our neighbourhood 2 years ago and understanding our endeavour to promote mutual help among residents, she pledged to do her part by sharing her hair-dressing skills for children at least twice a year. She always comes with her children and the tasks of powdering and cleaning the “customers”, putting a cape on them and sweeping up, are evenly distributed among them. For this family “charity begins at home” takes on a whole different meaning.

It is such mutual help that enabled us to pack and distribute 180 food packs donated by volunteers from the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF). 25 MINDEF volunteers worked with youths from our neighbourhood to get the food delivered to the elderly and families with young children. It was most heartening to see how these youths mobilised their friends and neighbours, completing the job in good time. These youths were leaders in their own right, engaging others, helping their neighbours and making sure that the job got done.

On Sunday, 7 July 2013, we will be acknowledging the contribution of such youths during our Annual Youth Day Celebration and will be delighted if you can join us at the tea reception. We have called the tea reception Journey Beyond and we hope that we can have a dialogue on where our community building efforts are now and where we are heading. Below is an invitation and we would really hope to see you.

For now, enjoy your weekend.

Gerard

*By mutual confidence and mutual aid - great deeds are done, and great discoveries made. - Homer*