

Dear Team

70 mothers who were accompanied by some of their husbands and their children made it a memorable Mothers' Day for all who came. With almost 200 members gathered at our premises, we needed much help from a whole lot of volunteers who contributed to the joyous occasion in so many ways too. But, it was really the mothers who made the party come alive.

A group of mothers who had attended a Joy Care Parenting Workshop some weeks back wanted to bring some joy to others and got together to plan this Mothers' Day Celebration with some support from us. In the spirit of community, they decided that it would be a potluck party and it was most delightful to see the buffet table being laid out and rearranged as each mother presented her "pot of love." Some say when food is handled with love it cannot taste wrong and not only was there variety, there was plenty.

Food was just one aspect of motherly love that filled the air. When some mothers noticed a man on a wheel-chair coming into our premises, they rushed forward to thank him for coming with his family and made sure he was feeling right at home. Another mother brought a cake to surprise a friend who once mentioned that it has been a while since she has had a birthday celebration. The "birthday girl" was visibly touched when she was asked to cut her cake and immediately she asked all who were born in May to join her. Without hesitation, others stepped forward and after a rousing "Happy Birthday" sung by more than 200 people, we heard these mothers thanking the "birthday girl" for sharing the occasion. They shared that they always did their best to celebrate their children's birthdays and it certainly felt good to be celebrating their own birthday for a change.

2 twelve year olds certainly understood what a little appreciation could do for their mothers and all the others present. Fighting the butterflies in their tummies, they stood in front of all to recite a poem they had written. One recited it in Malay and the other in English and they did not realise the significance of the standing ovation they received as they only felt relief after delivering their lines.

The joy was infectious and volunteer Zumba instructors had no difficulty getting everyone up on their feet. These instructors brought along some of their students who were children to help show the steps and it was quite a sight seeing young and old move in unison. When the event finally drew to a close after lunch, one mother suggested that they should continue to honour Mothers' Day by supporting their children who were at the Inter-Neighbourhood Football League we were organising in the afternoon. One busload of family members including the father on a wheelchair packed all the surplus food and instructed the bus driver to drive them to the football field instead of their homes.

Over at the ITE Central College field that afternoon, 200 children and youths ran their hearts out as their parents cheered them on. These mothers knew that the best way to honour Mothers' Day was to give their children the best of their love.

Enjoy your weekend.

Gerard