

Dear Team

6th May was International Blowing Bubbles Day and we thought that it would be a good opportunity to spread a little joy and care in the 5 neighbourhoods we serve. Also as examinations in school had begun the same day, we felt it would be a nice little distraction that would put a smile on children's faces. While we are not sure where the event originated, we thought that the gesture of blowing a bubble "*in memory of someone, world peace or some other personal reason*" could be a meaningful gesture for children and anyone else who cared to join us. For us, we wanted the bubbles to be blown for **friendship, family, community, joy and care**.

In one neighbourhood, volunteers from the Nanyang Technological University created and donned sandwich boards to publicise the event. They walked around the neighbourhood and soon it was not just children who came by but several grandmothers who wanted the bubble solution for their grandchildren. Also, a group of youths put aside the guitars they were strumming to join in the fun. One of them even asked for an extra bottle of bubble solution for his younger brother at home because he was missing out on the fun. In a sense, the grandmothers and this elder brother made the beauty and strength of **family** visible for all of us.

At another neighbourhood, publicity flyers were distributed and the teachers from a child development centre brought out all their children to join the event. Parents who came by to pick up their children were directed to the event and they too **joyfully** had a go at blowing bubbles. Yet at another neighbourhood, youths thought that it was a wonderful ice-breaker. With a bottle of bubble solution they reached out to children and neighbours that they had never spoken to before. As such there were fewer strangers among neighbours and neighbours experienced **community**.

When our home-made bubble solutions did not turn out as well as we wanted it, volunteers pitched in to buy the bubble solution. We are grateful that **friends** in need are really **friends** indeed. Volunteers played a big role and those from United World College involved the children in creating publicity posters a week before and commemorated the day with this video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCbPfqHimQQ>

Each neighbourhood brought about **joy and care** in their own way. One had a biggest bubble competition while another stuck numbers below the bottles of bubble solution and conducted a lucky draw at the end of the day. International Blowing Bubbles Day was our gift to the community with no strings attached. It was simply a way of sharing a little joy and care.

Enjoy your weekend.

Gerard

We have stopped for a moment to encounter each other, to meet, to love, to share. This is a precious moment, but it is transient. It is a little parenthesis in eternity. If we share with caring, lightheartedness, and love, we will create abundance and joy for each other. And then this moment will have been worthwhile. - Deepak Chopra