

STUDENT-INITIATED CIP

On 15th March 2010, a group of students from class 201 accompanied by Mr Eddie Lau participated in a self-organized CIP event at Lions Befrienders (Ang Mo Kio) Neighbourhood Link, an elderly day-care centre, as part of the general school effort for every class to initiate a CIP event themselves during the March holidays. With the intent of helping out at the centre and bringing about some joy into the lives of the elderly, we set forth for the elderly day-care centre, the early sunshine fuelling our burning passion to serve.



While it might not have been a spectacular success, we certainly did our best there at the day-care centre. We started off with a performance session for the elderly. First we started off with several entertaining magic tricks, from handkerchiefs with magical properties, to the classic card tricks, not to mention little balls that could seemingly pass through space with the swishes and flicks of a wand. The elderly audience was actively engaged throughout the entire magic performance and thoroughly enjoyed themselves; with several of them being invited to act as volunteers in some of the performance. Next we had scheduled a Chinese martial arts display by two of our Wushu members. However, we were informed that due to space constraints, it would not have been possible to put up those performances without potentially risking injuring members of the audience. While we were disappointed that we eventually had to forsake the Wushu performance, that did not deter us from continuing.



Our finale, taking note of the tastes of our elderly audience, was a rousing rendition of two Chinese songs, 恰是你的温柔 and 月亮代表我的心. With one united voice, all of us who were there sang our hearts out, while the elderly clapped their hands to the beat of our songs.

Following the climax of our performance

and upon receiving instructions, we started on the second part of our trip there – to help out with the cleaning and organizing of the home. We helped out with the rearranging of the stockroom, carrying heavy boxes filled with packaged and canned food as well as toiletries in and out. Then we helped out with wiping the windows and generally cleaning up the area. We also gave out food which we had previously bought to the elderly. Some of us were also interacting with the elderly, listening patiently to them and engaging in active conversations.

Despite the immense fatigue and exhaustion we felt after the entire event, we took great joy and pleasure in the fact that we have managed to cheer up the lives of the elderly, if only for a short moment. The greatest reward lies not in some material form of return, and not just the joy of helping others, but also the invaluable experience of interacting with the older, wiser generation who has much knowledge to share. As we all left the elderly home with smiles on our faces, we will be sure to look back upon this memory one day, and remember that while we might not have been the best helpers or performers, we certainly were good learners of compassion and giving back to the community.

Contributed by Tan Hui Ming (201)