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# Raising funds unites lecturers and students



A student volunteer releasing a dove at the launch to the delight of Prof Siti Salbiah (in light blue) and fellow volunteers.

A GROUP of 26 lecturers and 60 students from College of Foundation and Diploma Studies (CFDS) of Universiti Tenaga Nasional (Uniten) organised the Arts and Culture Fundraising Carnival at The Loop, in front of Uniten's library.

This programme was held to raise funds for National Cancer Council Malaysia (Makna) towards the treatment and care of cancer patients in Malaysia.

Programme director Lavanyah Prabu said CFDS' students and lecturers were committed to serving the community besides lecturing and learning.

The students spent five months preparing for this event with their lecturers' help.

Among the activities conducted were workshops that exposed the students and the public to different types of art, including glass painting, sketching, doodling, grooming, acting and even sign language.

There were stage performances

and food booths, too. In addition, Makna had an information booth at the event, aimed at creating awareness and teaching visitors about early cancer detection.

The opening ceremony was attended by Uniten deputy vice-chancellor (Management and Development) Prof Dr Siti Salbiah Mohamed Shariff, who released a dove that symbolised the spirit of love and kindness at the carnival.

The ceremony was witnessed by a representative from Makna and Rhonda Kortum from the Society of Welfare and Human Capital Development, Selangor.

Besides volunteering, lecturers and students also had fun and used the opportunity to build closer ties.

One of the committee members, Aqilah Mohd Zamri, said the event had enabled her to build a closer bond with her peers and lecturers as they spent quality time together throughout the planning and execution of the carnival, bringing them together as a team.

Eszleen Sies and Aniza Mohamed Nor, who had lost a family member to cancer, said they were touched by the carnival because at the end of the event, the organisers lit up luminary bags with candles to pay tribute to all cancer warriors who perished in their battle with cancer.

Overall, the organisers said the Arts and Culture Fundraising Carnival achieved its main objective to raise funds for cancer patients and develop the spirit of volunteerism among youths.

Programme adviser Alicia Philip said there would be more volunteering programmes.

She believed serving the community is important to add value to oneself, which could help students develop as a wholesome individual while being role models for their peers.

She also said the programme could be a platform for more volunteering programmes at Uniten.