



OUR SOCIAL MISSION

BY CARITAS SINGAPORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL



The first "Big Day Out" was held in 2008. This year, the organisers hope to treat more than 2,500 people at the July event.

Time for A Big Day Out: Can you join in?

Fun event for the less fortunate needs volunteers, sponsors

A FOOD and fun fair with a wide range of stalls and food, entertainment and games is always perfect for a fun day out with family and friends.

This July, 2,500 or more beneficiaries served by parish groups and Catholic charities can look forward to a day of fun with their families.

The event, "A Big Day Out 2010", is being planned to treat the poor and needy to a day of food and games with many prizes. Participants will include families in need, children and youth from homes, as well as migrant workers and the lonely elderly.

"A Big Day Out" was first organised by Caritas Singapore in 2008 and it was made possible with the support of parishes and member organisations. About 400 Catholics helped, contributing their time, creative

talents and culinary skills to host and man the stalls. It was an event remembered by not only the 2,000 beneficiaries but also the helpers themselves.

"We spent a lot of time and effort preparing the food for the event. By the end of the day, we were totally exhausted, but the many smiles and the joy on the faces of the beneficiaries made it all worthwhile. I look forward to being part of the upcoming Big Day Out," said Madam Lucy Ng, who baked 250 chicken pies for the 2008 event.

The organising committee for this year's "Big Day Out" is planning to line up more stalls and fun activities for those who come. It needs help and is looking to the Catholic community to come forward again and make the day a success.

The committee hopes that Catholics will get together to set up food or game stalls or offer their creative talents to liven the atmosphere. The committee also welcomes donations in kind, prizes and gifts.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Set up and run a Food or Game stall
- Sponsor / Donate items for:
 - Lucky Draw / Game Stall prizes
 - Goodie Bags
 - Food / Beverage / Other items (for consumption / use at the event)
- Share your skills and talents (entertainment, decoration, etc)
- Cash / Cheque donations (to purchase prizes and to help offset the event cost).

For more information, contact Stefanie at 63373711 email stefanie@caritas-singapore.org or visit www.caritas-singapore.org/abdo2010.



Help for refugees, wherever they are

Jesuit Refugee Service Singapore is working with Caritas Nepal to support seven Child Play Centres for Bhutanese refugee children living in camps. JRS is looking for help from Singapore parishes with some of its projects.

REFUGEES lead forgotten lives, living in uncertainty and stripped of their basic human rights. Stateless and homeless, they are people who flee to foreign lands for safety from civil wars and violence in their homeland.

There are about 45 million refugees all over the world today, and 80 per cent of them are women and children.

The international Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) works with these forcibly displaced individuals to serve and defend the cause of refugees and alleviate their suffering.

JRS was established in 1980 by Jesuit Father General Pedro Arrupe, SJ, who was moved by the plight of the thousands of Vietnamese boat people. This year, JRS will be 30 years old and

active in more than 50 countries.

JRS Singapore has about 50 volunteers, and it provides pastoral care, education for children and adults, social services and counselling, and healthcare for refugees.

Some of its past projects include providing emergency relief to 3,000 families displaced after the end of the civil war in Sri Lanka.

Country coordinator Mr Cheong Cheng Guan, 56, said: "These people have since been released from the displacement camps, but still require help to rebuild their shattered lives."

JRS is in collaboration with the Church of the Risen Christ to support numerous projects over three years to aid the Shan refugees in Northern Thailand.

Since 2005, JRS has been working with Caritas Nepal to support seven Child Play Centres for Bhutanese refugee children living in camps. JRS provides for the funding for school uniforms, bags and toys, as well as training of teachers and facilitators. Aimed at children aged three to five years old, the programme hopes to develop the social and cognitive skills of the children with activities such as games, singing and dancing.

JRS has a number of upcoming projects and it is seeking Singapore parishes to work with on them.

It wants to help Mon migrant workers in Ranong, a border town in Southern Thailand. Many of the migrant workers fled economic hardship in Myanmar to seek jobs across the border.

JRS Thailand provides community-based schools for the children of these migrant workers who have no access to Thai schools. It also provides assistance to needy Myanmar families. JRS Singapore hopes to work with a local parish to support the projects in Ranong, said Mr Cheong.

Another ongoing project is to help Sri Lankan refugees to rebuild their lives after the end of the civil war in their own country as well as those who had fled to India and are now living in camps in Tamil Nadu.

Mr Cheong, who joined JRS five years ago, said: "I have always wanted to serve the community. This is a way to do God's work, it's very enriching and meaningful to be able to help these people."



Who's Who at JRS Singapore

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