

# Singapore Kindness Month (SKM) 2009

*Co-written by Koh Chinyee and Tan Huiwen, interns*

The Kindness Month was held in the month of April, with participation of over 80 volunteers aged 15 to 24 years from across 13 schools. A series of flash mob activities was lined up by the Singapore Kindness Movement (SKM) who partnered with Heartware Network.

Through the flash mob activities, SKM endeavored to remind Singaporeans that they can engage in simple acts of kindness everyday. Volunteers, identified as Kindness Troupers, played an important role in communicating this message by:

- 1. Saying “Hello” to fellow Singaporeans**
- 2. Encouraging bus passengers to be gracious to one another**
- 3. Promoting gracious MRT ethics**



The “Hello” Campaign marked the beginning of the month-long event, which was launched at Jurong IMM on the 4th April 2009. Volunteers were broken up into teams, each led by tertiary students, for a short ice-breaking session. The groups then set off to various locations with placards and greeting passers-by. At the end of the event, volunteers were



invited to participate and to have a photo shoot with Mr. Lim Boon Heng (Minister, Prime Minister’s Office) who launched the Singapore Kindness Month.

*>>> continued on page 2*



*... if it is not from the heart, it is not worth doing ...*

## Singapore Kindness Month (SKM) 2009

Following the success of the first Kindness Troupers activity, volunteers returned the following week with anticipation and excitement. They were split into groups and stationed at eight bus stops along Orchard Road, carrying signs to encourage passengers to move to the rear of the buses and greeting bus drivers.

On the 18th April, 60 volunteers including a class of students from Tanglin Secondary School, participated in the first ever flash mob activities to be carried out in the North East Line (NEL) Trains from Punggol to Dhoby Ghaut.



Some of these activities include:

### 1. “Give up your seat”

- All volunteers to board at Punggol station and occupied all the seats in the train
- As the train enters another station and doors open for passengers to board, all Flash Mobbers gave up their seats and greet passengers

### 2. “Move to the centre of the cabin”

- Volunteers to spread across the platform of the station
- Each volunteer to hold a kindness message asking people to move to the centre of the cabin
- Additional action could be to encourage passengers to wait for other passengers to alight before boarding

>>> continued on page 3

hello!



... if it is not from the heart, it is not worth doing ...

# Singapore Kindness Month (SKM) 2009

Volunteers were also tasked to approach the passengers upon completing their act for their support and pledging of hours towards SKM. Initially they were shy to approach the passengers. However, as they repeated the act at different stations, the volunteers came out of their shells and became very excited and enthusiastic.



**We would like to thank all volunteers for making this event a success!**

*It costs close to S\$900,000, about \$6 an hour, to run our youth development programmes for one year but almost priceless to see friendships being forged and lives transformed. Your consideration to generously support us will enable our charity to develop more youths through our youth development, youth leadership and youth enterprise programs both locally and globally, and develop a community spirit that seeks to give and not receive.*

*Heartware Network has an institution of Public Character status under the Commissioner of Charities and is currently heading towards achieving higher transparency by translating all transactions online to allow donors like you to track your donations.*

Information is correct as of 19 June 2009

Tan Hui Wen is currently an intern with Heartware Network



Koh Chinyee is currently an intern for Youth Bank

Organised by



In Partnership with



**“The best portion of a man’s life is his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and love.”**  
- William Wordsworth

*... if it is not from the heart, it is not worth doing ...*