

Building Awareness

Acceptance and Inclusion

(Photo credits: Emelly Richard)



“This inaugural Community Fun Day is a significant milestone in Miri.”

Somewhere in the heart of Miri, almost 300 people from all walks of life gathered at the Sunflower Centre community rehabilitation centre, Miri. The inaugural Special Needs Community Fun Day was organised by Pusat CARE Miri on 13th October 2018, in collaboration with KADZ Education and Sunflower Centre and sponsored by Fajar College and Allianz Insurance. The main aim of the event was to gather the community, have a day of fun while showcasing local service providers, and to connect persons with special needs with the community.

During the weeks leading up to this event, the organising team prepared for the worst as the rainy season started but the clouds opened up and gave us a sunshine-filled day. As the day progressed, the crowd came in droves, some because of the promotional materials through our social media and partners while others came out of curiosity to check out what was happening on that Saturday morning.

The programme included information and sales booths by local service providers, therapists and

representatives from the hospital; therapy info sessions on various topics by local experts; games booths for children of all abilities and food stalls. It was definitely a day for the adults, who took the opportunity to find out more about special needs and local services, as well as for the children, who were entertained with the various activities. One highlight of the event was parents meeting various therapists and obtaining referrals for further assessments—without having to queue!

As Dr Diana Wee, a local clinical psychologist put it, “This inaugural Community Fun Day is a significant milestone in Miri. It is incredibly heartwarming to see the community come together for the purpose of increasing inclusion and acceptance of individuals with special needs as well as to increase their support and care so they too can flourish and achieve their true potential!”

Together with the community, we hope to raise more awareness on special needs in Miri and beyond through community events such as this where all could gather to eat, have fun and learn together. ■

[Sharon is a Community Development Leader. She aspires to be positive and find inspirations each day to try and make the world a better place for the future generation.