

# A BIG HEART LIES IN THESE HEROES



### Celebrating changemakers who make Malaysia a better place

For the eighth year running, Star Golden Hearts Award shows us time and time again that Malaysians are a big hearted bunch. Selected from over 700 nominations, these ten winners each have their own unique stories, motivations and aspirations for the causes they're championing.

🥙 Turn the pages to learn more about their inspiring work.



## **KINDNESS TAKES CENTRE STAGE**

### **Star Golden Hearts Award celebrates** selfless social changemakers

10 individuals and organisations have been hard at work in making Malaysia a better place, and they have been named the winners of this year's Star Golden Hearts Award.

The annual award is a joint initiative by The Star and Yayasan Gamuda celebrating everyday Malaysians who demonstrate extraordinary commitment to social work and promoting unity among Malaysians.

Nominated by the general public, these winners were selected from a tough pool of 770 nominations, all making a positive difference in their own ways. Three winners under the individual category each received a RM8,000 prize, while seven winners under the organisation category were each awarded RM15,000 on top of publicity support to help further their good work. At the start of the campaign, the prize money for the organisation category was RM10,000 per winner. However, given the outstanding pool of nominations this year, Yayasan Gamuda increased the prize money to boost the winners' financial capabilities in tackling pressing social issues.

This year, the coveted Gamuda Inspiration Award that comes with a RM120,000 grant from Yayasan Gamuda was awarded to Iskul Sama diLaut Omadal, a community-run school on the coast of Omadal Island, Sabah.



solutions.

Whatever they do, these nominees and winners have one thing in common – a kind and sincere heart to support and uplift fellow Malaysians, irrespective of their backgrounds.

Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye **Chief Judge** 

After two years of virtual announcements, this year's winners were honoured at a heartwarming ceremony attended by current and past award recipients, together with those from the social good sector.

Star Golden Hearts Award is in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. For more information about the award, visit sgha.com.my.

EDWIN NATHANIEL 🖉



## **2022 PANEL OF JUDGES**

innovative programmes to provide long-term



Ts. Lim Hui Yan Head, Yayasan Gamuda



**Esther Ng** Chief Content Officer, Star Media Group



**Ong Jee Lian** Group Chief Sustainability Officer, Gamuda Berhad



**Datin Paduka Che Asmah Ibrahim** CEO, OrphanCare Foundation and former CEO, Yayasan Kebajikan Negara



**Professor Dato'** Dr. Adeeba Kamarulzaman **Professor of Medicine** and Infectious Diseases, Universiti Malaya



Noor Hanis Harun Former Assistant Manager Impact Innovation, Malaysian Research Accelerator for Technology and Innovation (MRANTI)





Syed Azmi Alhabshi Prominent social advocate



Vijayakumari Pillai Child protection consultant and former assistant director, Social Welfare Department



## Making education accessible



#### By JUNAID IBRAHIM newsdesk@thestar.com.my

**SEMPORNA:** It was a scorching and breezy afternoon when a plea for help took the production team of *The Star* who were shooting videos at Pulau Omadal here by surprise.

videos at Pulau Omadal here by surprise. "Can you guys give us a lift to the mainland? An aunty hurt herself," said Jefry Musa, 28, a teacher at Iskul Sama diLaut Omadal – a school for the stateless children at the eastern Sabah waters.

The team was speechless while witnessing Jefry pressing the head of a woman with gauze cloth from the first-aid kit and a handkerchief to stop the bleeding.

The incident was just one of the unfortunate events that the Bajau Laut or "sea gypsies" have to face on a daily basis. They were cut off from access to basic

They were cut off from access to basic necessities such as healthcare, education and clean water for lacking proper documentation.

The island, about 18km southeast of Semporna, is only accessible via sea route which could take some 40 minutes by boat.

For this case, trained first aiders are crucial to avoid further complications to the patient.

Realising the struggles of the community, Iskul co-founder Chuah Ee Chia decided to help them uplift themselves.

She was here during a diving trip to a neighbouring island – Mabul – when she was approached by a young girl on a sampan. "I saw this little girl with a beautiful smile, asking for money.

"At the time, I couldn't believe that there are still people who live on a boat," she said, recounting her experience in 2013.

Chuah said she returned to the island two years later for an internship and fieldwork with WWF-Malaysia Semporna after doing her Master's degree in Public Administration at Central European University.

It was during her postgraduate studies that she had learned a lot about the community.

"I saw a group of children playing and one of them named Sakinah can speak Malay. I told her to ask the children there if they wanted to go to school. But they said no. When I proposed for Sakinah to teach them, they all agreed " she said in an interview

they all agreed," she said in an interview. It was then Chuah got the idea of creating a school where children who were educated become teachers to teach their peers.

They started small, teaching basic ABC and numbers at a verandah of a house.

"I was driven by the motivation to be able to communicate with these children," Chuah said, who continued to operate the school remotely.

After a few years, some of the children graduated and decided to return the favour by becoming teachers themselves known as Mastal Arikik or little teachers in Bajau.

Jefry said some former students were chosen as Mastal Arikik based on their own interest and capabilities of teaching younger students.

"The little teachers were selected from the first batch of students who had graduated in 2020. We called some of them back based on their commitment and interest to teach," he said, adding that to date, there were three Mastal Arikik joined by one full-time teacher and a coordinator.

Currently, the makeshift school teaches 35 students, aged seven to 13.

Aside from teaching basic literacy and mathematics, the school also educates students about the environment and basic sanitation.

As there is no access to basic healthcare facilities on the island for stateless communities, the school also provides a mini clinic to carry out first aid.



Yayasan Gamuda head Ts. Lim Hui Yan (right) awarded an additional RM120,000 grant to Iskul Sama diLaut Omadal (Iskul) as they emerged as this year's Gamuda Inspiration Award winner. Aside from basic literacy and mathematics, the school also educates students about the environment and basic sanitation. After a few years, some of the children graduated and decided to return the favour by becoming teachers themselves.



Aside from basic literacy and mathematics, the school also educates students about the environment and basic sanitation.

Jefry said the kids were exposed to the risks of contagious skin diseases such as ringworms due to fungal infection.

"We would provide treatment after the school session to stop the disease from spreading," he said, adding that they also collaborated with the district's health authori-

ties. To ensure sustainability of the school, Chuah said it was paramount that the children who had graduated be able to run it in

the future. The school is also providing training in future-proof skills such as filmmaking and content creation, funded by the United Nations Development Programme's Small

Grants Programme. "Through these skills, we hope the children and youth can create their own content and upload it to Iskul's YouTube channel. This way, they can share their stories with more people besides earning extra income," she said.

Iskul also collaborated with other organisations including grants from Yayasan Hasanah of Khazanah Nasional.

The grant enabled Iskul to expand their humanitarian efforts beyond education such as providing water tanks for the community

to harvest rainwater. They also started a mini farm using hydroponic methods with help from

Universiti Putra Malaysia. Mastal Arikik Bilkuin Jimi Salih, 18, said he wanted to be a full time teacher and help

more children to achieve their dreams. "I want more children to be educated, so

we can uplift ourselves," he said. Another little teacher, Shima Manan, 16, said her passion in teaching would drive more children to have better quality of life through education.

Jefry expressed hope that the future of the stateless community could be improved by receiving recognition from the government.



The team posing with their award. – SAMUEL ONG/The Star



After a few years, some of the children graduated and decided to return the favour by becoming teachers themselves.

"I could only hope that they will be able to achieve their dreams by securing proper jobs and education.

"It will not be as easy because these stateless communities exist but no one is protecting them. They are also not recorded in the census," he said.

Chuah said their future plan includes training 10 community first aiders to provide early treatment for the community. "The first-aiders will be on standby in case

"The first-aiders will be on standby in case anyone needs medical attention. "We are also planning to work with the Malaysian Mental Health Association by hav-

Malaysian Mental Health Association by having one of our members to provide a mental health first-aid and resilience workshop," she said.

For their noble efforts, Iskul is recognised as one of the 10 winners of Star Golden Hearts Award 2022 (SGHA) under the education category. Iskul is also judged as this year's Gamuda Inspiration Award winner by Yayasan Gamuda with an additional grant worth RM120,000.

Chuah thanked Star Media Group and Yayasan Gamuda for recognising their efforts and that more could be done to improve the lives of the stateless children with the prize money.

"The award really means a lot to us. More people will know about the struggles of the children, as well as their efforts to study and improve themselves to be young leaders.

"We already have a few plans such as expanding on the mini clinic initiative and training more community members to be first-aiders.

"We also plan to train our advanced students to become assistant teachers and increase the number of students in the school," she said.





## Helping the autism community



Serena guiding two autistic individuals to bead jewellery at the booth set up at the British International School of Kuala Lumpur, Petaling Jaya. - AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star

**By GERARD GIMINO** gerard.gimino@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Most teenagers have their minds set on school, spending time with family and friends or doing their favourite hobbies.

For Serena Zara Taufiq, there was a much greater calling and even bigger ambitions for the 14-year-old from here.

Unlike her peers, Serena's sights were firmly set on raising awareness on autism. Stemming from her own experience in

caring for her autistic younger sister Sharleez Zara Taufiq, 11, – she made it a point to educate fellow Malaysians on the misconceptions and to appreciate these individuals for their abilities.

"I was seven when Sharleez was diagnosed with autism. I saw how my parents sought various ways to assist her.

"I knew then how supporting a family member with autism required immense physical and emotional strength," she said in an interview.

Serena recalled they were shunned in public areas, shopping malls and restaurants whenever her sister had an outburst.

"It was very challenging for us as we tried our best in caring for Sharleez.

"After going through these experiences, I knew I had to do something," she said. Filled with a burning passion, Serena began her own initiative dubbed – Serena's

Secret – which was a jewellery business to help raise funds for her sister's treatment. The astonishing part was how she started

the initiative at the tender age of eight. "I always had a passion in creating jewellery and thought to myself why not do it to

give back to others. "So I pitched the idea to my parents and with their support, was able to make this a reality

"I also roped in Sharleez and her twin (Sofieya Zara) into my project with the funds being channelled to autism-focused non-governmental organisations (NGO)," she said.

Serena said many families with autism children are struggling to cope with the high costs of therapy.

"I have a strong desire to teach autistic individuals to develop their talents so that they can secure their own jobs in the future," she said.

As Serena began selling her products at bazaars across the Klang Valley to raise awareness and funds for the autistic community, she began receiving messages from families with autistic members.

"They requested help to teach jewellery beading to their (autistic) family members. "This saw my family opening up our home to welcome these individuals for such les-

sons. "Over time, we also paid these individuals to help man our stalls to further train them

in adapting to a working environment," she added.



Serena (first from right) together with (from left) her mother Wan Himratul Azleeza Wan Harun, 46, and sisters Sofieya Zara Taufiq, 11 and Sharleez Zara Taufiq, 11.



Prior to the movement control order, at least six students attended her beading lessons

They were from all ages, from six to 48. Despite having to juggle between school work, Serene still found time to lend a hand

in helping the autistic community. "The key is time management," she said.

When asked whether there were any standout moments from her initiatives,

Serena recalled how her efforts saw several autistic community members make a living on their own.

There was a man who came to learn beading lessons. Over time, he grew more proficient and later opened his own store selling cakes and other goods.

"Another autistic boy who gradually learned basic beading skills went on to help his father to run a cafe with other autism



Serena: 'I have a strong desire to teach autistic individuals to develop their talents so that they can secure their own jobs in the future.' - SAMUEL ONG/The Star

> Serena busy manning the booth set up at the British International School of Kuala Lumpur.

staff members," she said.

Despite her cheerful demeanour, Serena said her journey was not without challenges. "People underestimated me due to my age.

"They have this perception that only adults can do what I did.

"For me, age is not a factor as having a strong passion for doing good will always drive you forward," she said. On her future plans, Serena said she

would embark on a hydroponic initiative which would see her training members of the autistic community in the agricultural field.

"My passion will always be to help them adapt and develop their talents.

"No matter how hard, I will never give up in order to make things better for them," she said

On Sept 15, while celebrating Sharleez and Sofieya's birthday at home along with members of the autistic community, Serena received a surprise call.

"It was from Star Foundation, informing

me that I had won an award. "Shortly after, I shared the good news and hugged Sharleez, telling her that she had

won. "It was truly a win for the autistic commu-nity as a whole."

For her noble efforts, Serena is recognised as one of the 10 winners of Star Golden Hearts Award 2022 (SGHA) under the individual category.



potential.

autistic community, before subsequently training them to fulfil their



## 'Gibbon Whisperer' on a mission

#### By ALLISON LAI allison@thestar.com.my

**RAUB:** Having received death threats and had gibbons under her care taken away, Mariani Ramli is only more determined to rescue and rehabilitate the critically endangered species.

Her decade-long effort is finally seeing results with the expected first release of a gibbon couple into the wild next year.

"We have two potential couples to be released. We are just waiting for them to have a baby.

"It's going to be a new chapter to have the first ever properly rehabilitated gibbons released into the wild," she said in an interview.

Mariani's Gibbon Rehabilitation Project (GReP) sanctuary is deep in the jungle of Raub in Pahang, and these gibbons had come a long way before ending up there.

"Gibbons are monogamous animals. So when a baby gibbon is poached, it means the whole family of at least 20 gibbons were killed."

Having lost their families, Mariani said the young gibbons also lost the connection to their instincts and habitat, which led to them having zoochosis – showing deviant and abnormal behaviour due to captivity.

"For example, when Ebony, now six, first arrived in 2018, she yearned for human attention. Having gone through the rehabilitation, she now wants her own space," she said, adding that Ebony was later paired with Coley, seven, and the couple has since shown positive progress.

"They have been living in the same enclosure for a while and now protect each other. They also showed signs of wanting to be together without human interaction and ready to start a family." she said

ready to start a family," she said. For another couple – Darling and Dexter, Mariani said they also showed positive interaction.

"They share food and place to sleep. Now we're just waiting for a baby before they can be released," she said.

The 36-year-old also founded and led the Gibbon Conservation Society (GCS) – an NGO dedicated to supporting the sanctuary's work and raising the alarm on the need to stop gibbons from the illegal exotic pet trade.

Although her effort is the first of its kind, it has made her unpopular with wildlife poachers and traders.

The "Gibbon Whisperer" began her work in 2007, when at 20, she moved from Sabah to the peninsular and joined the Wildlife Department as a ranger, tracking down poachers.

"I had my gibbon as a pet and didn't know much about conservation then. I thought it was enough with me living and sharing food with it until I realised I was wrong after doing some research."

Mariani then travelled to Thailand and Cambodia to learn proper caring techniques for these mammals.

She decided to leave city life, sold most of

her belongings and rented a 0.3ha abandoned rubber plantation as her gibbon enclosure – the humble beginnings of Grep where she also learnt how to build enclosures using recycled scaffolding.

"We rehabilitated 10 gibbons in Raub, consisting of adults and juveniles," she said.

Mariani's rehabilitation efforts strictly follow the International Union Conservation for Nature (IUCN) guidelines.

"This is to ensure their survival chance is more than 90%. They need to know how to sing, swing by the arm, socialise with other gibbons, have a regular biological clock and be free of zoochotic behaviour. They also must have offspring as this means they can create a new population in the wild," she said.

Mariani said her toughest hurdle was when the authorities confiscated six gibbons in her pilot rehabilitation project two years ago.

ago. "They were good candidates for release with proper rehabilitation. But maybe rehabilitation was not really understood well back then," she said.

After burying herself in sorrow for two months, Mariani said she decided to return stronger.

"I knew there were many other gibbons out there. So I got up and continued," she said, adding that she had no regrets and would take it in her stride any future challenges.

From malnourishment to weak muscles, injuries and wounds, Mariani said each little progress shown by a gibbon was what kept her and the team going.

"More needs to be done in gibbon rehabilitation.

"More academicians, NGO and students need to get involved, including governmental support, to ensure our gibbons will not go extinct in the wild."

Mariani noted that gibbons are only a step behind the critically endangered Malayan tiger as the last population record was from the 80s.

"After decades and bouts of deforestation and poaching, we don't know how many gibbons are left."

Mariani also said the government should strengthen the Wildlife Conservation Act to cover crimes against traders selling wildlife online.

She called on pet owners not to buy and have gibbons as pets. "Gibbons will have little chance of survival

"Gibbons will have little chance of survival in hard release without proper rehabilita-

tion. Pet owners can surrender the gibbon to GCS or wildlife authorities," she said. For her noble efforts, Mariani is recog-

nised as one of the 10 winners of the Star Golden Hearts Award 2022 (SGHA) under the individual category.





Mariani also founded the Gibbon Conservation Society, focusing on gibbon sanctuary and raising awareness of the wildlife trade and the need to stop having gibbons as pets.



Mariani runs the Gibbon Rehabilitation Project (Grep), a sanctuary in the jungle of Raub, Pahang, that rescues and rehabilitates gibbons from poachers and pet owners. — ONG SOON HIN/The Star



From malnourishment to weak muscles and wounds, Mariani said each little progress shown by a gibbon was what kept her and the team going. - SAMUEL ONG/The Star



Gibbons are only a step behind the critically endangered Malayan tiger as the last population record was from the 80s.





## Changing lives, a beat at a time



Wan Zareef (left) and Nathaniel demonstrating the drum circle activity that is a part of the music therapy for special needs children.



Nathaniel said one needs to have love and patience when teaching special needs children the music instrument.



Nathaniel: 'I want to give more opportunities to special children to explore their talents.' – SAMUEL ONG/The Star

#### By JUNAID IBRAHIM newsdesk@thestar.com.my

**PETALING JAYA:** A volunteering experience over two decades ago had paved the way for musician Edwin Nathaniel to kickstart a lifelong philanthropic effort for special needs children.

Passionately driven by love and patience, the 62-year-old musician started a music school here to teach children on the autism spectrum disorder and with cerebral palsy.

"I started teaching in the year 2000 when I went to Spastic Children's Association of Selangor and Federal Territory in Petaling Jaya with my band members called Aseana Percussion Unit.

"At first, we went there just to share our knowledge in music. And 22 years later, I'm still teaching the kids until today," he said in an interview.

Nathaniel continued to show up at the association every Thursday, conducting free music therapy for the special children.

The idea to use percussion instruments as a part of a music therapy for special needs children came when he met famous American percussionist Arthur Hull some time ago.

"I was mesmerised by the way Hull taught the drum circle participants to play together. "I asked him, can anybody play the drum?

His reply was 'Yes'. "So I brought the drums to the spastic centre and tried it out with the children there," Nathaniel recalled.

The music therapy that Nathaniel has been conducting and practising was formulated by himself which he called the Rhythm Interactive Special Enabler (Rise) project. He then founded a school called Music

Mart, located in Jalan Bukit here, where around 200 students (abled and special needs) had benefitted since its establishment

in 2006. His belief in the strength of inclusivity and no child should be left behind, regardless of their conditions, has become his main motivation for setting up the school.

The therapy uses percussion instruments to enable special needs children to strengthen their motor skills, instill discipline and improve their self-esteem.

Nathaniel said he had a special needs student, who initially could not communicate orally, but then started to say simple words during the class.

"The four-year-old boy could not really speak but during our classes and the therapy, he started reading random words he saw in the studio.

"I told his mother and she was surprised too!" he recounted the experience. The boy, who just turned 10 this year, has

enrolled in a piano class recently and is doing great.

He added that the key to ensuring the success of the therapy was by repeating the rou-



Wan Zareef, who joined Nathaniel's classes for the past few years, has now become an instructor himself, teaching drum circles.

tine and teaching with patience.

"We need to repeat many times every week and we need to have patience as well.

"Those were the principles I told the teachers in my school. We need to have patience and love. Thank God, the teachers can adapt to it," he said.

During some teaching sessions, Nathaniel occasionally combined the classes for abled kids and the special needs children.

He said it was to ensure that the abled children were aware of such conditions and to be more sensitive when they encounter those with special needs outside of their classes.

Nathaniel also recounted a touching moment when one of his students thanked him for his efforts of bringing the children together without prejudice.

Some of the other students went on to pursue music studies in colleges and have also become music teachers.

Wan Zareef Nuqman, 24, who joined Nathaniel's classes for the past few years, has now become an instructor himself, teaching drum circles.

He said through the classes, he managed to build his confidence when meeting other people aside from picking up music skills.

"I'm happy to learn from him," said the assistant music teacher with a wide smile when asked about his experience at Music Mart.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, Nathaniel

organised over 50 free workshops, travelling across Malaysia to train special education teachers on running the Rise project.

As travelling was restricted during the pandemic, he then launched an instruction book to enable teachers to gain access to their training methods.

In the long run, Nathaniel aimed to expand the music therapy he formulated to every corner of the country.

He said he wanted to train more teachers so that they could help in raising awareness about the special needs children and their endless capabilities.

"I want to reach out to more schools and let people know what Rise is all about. I also want to give more opportunities to these special children to explore their talents," he said.

cial children to explore their talents," he said. Despite facing a challenge in raising funds, Nathaniel said he would make sure his

efforts would never stop from reaching more people.

He has been running the school using his own expenses and generating income through the sales of his Rise project book.

For his noble efforts, Nathaniel is recognised as one of the 10 winners of Star Golden Hearts Award 2022 (SGHA) under the individual category.





## **Empowering the Orang Asli**



Native Discovery supports the livelihoods of Orang Asli communities by co-creating and curating meaningful business ventures to create economic value that recognise their culture and preserve their heritage. Pics taken at Kg Orang Asli Serendah on Oct 2. - AZMAN GHANI/The Star

**By JUNAID IBRAHIM** newsdesk@thestar.com.my

SERENDAH: Feeling empowered and getting more confidence are among the key takeaways for a member of the Orang Ásli

community after joining Native Discovery. Anissa Kassim from the Jakun community in Pahang said the social enterprise has allowed her to explore her talents in cooking and calling for other members of the indigenous groups to follow her footsteps.

The 38-year-old married an Orang Asli of Temuan tribe in Serendah, Selangor, which the family then partnered with Native – a community-led tourism business.

"I was a housewife before joining Native as a cook. I love cooking and seeing people enjoying my dishes, it makes me happy.

"Since then, I have become more confident and found it easier to interact with people from different cultures," said Kak Anissa.

Kak Anissa's experience echoed the main objective of Native that was founded by a young social entrepreneur, Daniel Teoh. Teoh, 28, said the goal of the enterprise

was to build business together with the Orang Asli while empowering and transforming the communities positively.

To date, there are 10 to 20 community partners from at least two Orang Asli villages working closely with him.

"Native runs a community-based tourism which is more sustainable for the community.

"The whole idea is to create ownership for the Orang Asli to utilise their strength as the host or steward of the land.

"It also serves a unique perspective through guided walks and the money that tourists paid will leave an impact for the community," he said.

Teoh shared that his journey with the indigenous community started back in 2015 when he volunteered with an organisation to build houses for them.

He admitted that he did not know much about the community prior to actively being involved as his source of information about them was only through limited knowledge from school.

'I first discovered the concept of social enterprise while joining an organisation to build homes for the Orang Asli. "That was my starting point, which back then, I didn't know much about the commu-

nity, except through text books or newspapers.

"But when I visited an Orang Asli village, the villagers there were different from what I knew – they're unique in their own cultural way," he said.

Teoh added that the public narrative about the community was not doing justice to the uniqueness and richness of culture of the Orang Asli.

It was then a lightbulb moment struck him when he pitched an idea to the community to share their knowledge and culture through social entrepreneurship.



Teoh: 'The goal of Native Discovery was to build business together with the Orang Asli while empowering and transforming the communities positively. SAMUEL ONG/The Star



Native Discovery runs a community-based tourism which is more sustainable for the Orang Asli community.

However, he said it was not easy to exe-

cute the plan. "Having an idea is a happy moment, exe-cuting it however, comes with difficulty.

"To progress, we must gain their trust such as showing up in their villages and walking

the talk," he said. After a few years, the impact could be

seen when Native channelled a total of RM75,000 of income to the Orang Asli community.

"We run a profit-sharing model with the community partners by dividing the profit equally after deducting costs. "They worked for it (the income) and that

was the most tangible impact.

"In addition, we had provided a platform for the Orang Asli to share their culture themselves, which is quite special," Teoh said.

To date, Native had worked with various organisations and the latest project was building a homestay in Kampung Serendah to accommodate more tourists and expand the business.

Among the organisations were Epic Collective that assisted to build the homestay while landscaping services were provided by Free Tree Society.

"We appreciate partnership as it allows us to do what we are best at relative to us learning construction experts or becoming farmers. Partnership especially win-win ones also allow us to leverage other people's expertise," he said.

Teoh also said the homestay located near a river at the Orang Asli village in Serendah was built at an estimated cost of RM40,000, which was mainly supported by their partners.



Kak Anissa said she feels happy when tourists from other countries enjoy her dishes



It was constructed entirely by sustainable materials such as bamboos while the root was made from leaves that was weaved using traditional methods.

Other than villages in Serendah, Native is also working with community partners in Kampung Orang Asli Sungai Lalang, Kampung Orang Asli Batu 12 and Kampung Orang Asli Gurney.

For their noble efforts, Native is recog-nised as one of the 10 winners of Star Golden Hearts Award 2022 (SGHA) under the organisation (community empowerment) category.





A passion project by The Star and Yayasan Gamuda, the annual Star Golden Hearts Award celebrates selfless everyday Malaysians who light the way for others through their extraordinary social efforts.

> Of the ten winners, this year the coveted **Gamuda** Inspiration Award goes to Iskul Sama diLaut Omadal in recognition and support of their unwavering commitment in community-building efforts.

With a genuine heart and the tenacity to improve lives, these selfless Malaysians are leaving a trail of meaningful impact across Malaysia.





### GAMUDA INSPIRATION AWARD WINNER

### **ISKUL SAMA** DILAUT **OMADAL**

Builds young leaders amongst stateless children through holistic education and skills development to find solutions to issues faced by their communities in Pulau Omadal.



## **EXPLORE GAIA**

#### **SEAD INDUSTRIES**

Champions bamboo as a sustainable solution for restoration of degraded land and preservation of the environment, while working hand-in-hand with rural communities.

### TONIBUNG

Empowers off-grid indigenous communities to install and manage their own micro-hydroelectric dams to improve their quality of life.



**PROMOTING UNITY** 



### **MARIANI 'BAM'** RAMLI

Dedicates her life to run sanctuaries to rescue, rehabilitate and release endangered gibbons.

### **BRIDGING GAPS**

### NATIVE DISCOVERY

Supports the livelihoods of Orang Asli communities by co-creating meaningful community-based ventures such as tourism work and sale of local products, while revitalising the indigenous culture.



Brings about therapeutic benefits to neurodivergent children through the use of percussion instruments



and music.

### GAMUDA **INSPIRATION AWARD**



### HEARTS OF GOLD

EIR HOPE



### **DIGNITY FOR CHILDREN FOUNDATION** Provides holistic care, transformative education and

entrepreneurial opportunities for marginalised children to help them become productive members of society.

Conserves and saves Malaysia's iconic hornbills through science, innovation, engagement and creativity.

### **EDWIN NATHANIEL**



### SERENA ZARA **TAUFIQ**

A teenager championing autism through awareness building, fundraising and empowering adolescents with autism with skills development and job opportunities.

### SHINING THE LIGHT

### DRSFORALL

A group of doctors empowering the Orang Asli to be self-reliant for their communities' medical needs through a combination of basic medical training and telemedicine which enables medical access in remote areas.



Watch the in action





Lighting up villages in Sabah

Local operators in Kampung Long, Tanid, Sarawak, manning the micro hydro system.



Villagers installing micro hydro pipes in their area.



Lasimbang (right) says the impact of electricity is that it not only gives light but it also creates these small industries that add to the value of the economy and livelihood of the villagers. - SAMUEL ONG/The Star

#### **By IYLIA MARSYA ISKANDAR** iyliamarsya@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: A whopping RM300 for a few hours of electricity per day. This is the sum some villagers in rural Sabah had to fork out for electricity in a month.

Their livelihoods are centred around natural resources and the lack of such brings about struggles.

Back in 1998, there was a long drought. Adrian Lasimbang, who was embarking on a project on water supply realised the only reason a village had water then was that the villagers protected the watershed.

"It only started out as an experiment. "I was thinking of how we can scale up the

protection of these forests. "If we ask the communities to just protect without providing any incentive, it's very hard to mobilise them, so I thought maybe we can use micro hydro as a motivation," said the co-founder and technical adviser of Tonibung, a social enterprise that develops sustainable alternatives for rural electrification.

Lasimbang then embarked on an empowering journey along with the support of NGOs such as Pacos Trust and Green Empowerment and others to design and

install a micro hydro system for the villagers. But they didn't move alone as the villagers were also involved to install and maintain the system.

When the community connects the electricity they are receiving to the watershed, we knew they will do all they can to protect the resource.

"Right from the start, it is our model to ensure sustainability by getting the commu-

nity to be involved. We try to make sure we design the sys tem as robust and foolproof as possible and we also train and empower our local MacGyvers to know how to operate and maintain it," he said.

For this purpose, they have a training centre named Centre for Renewable Energy and Appropriate Technology (CREATE Borneo) for research and development as well as to train operators on the micro hydro system.

As of this year, Tonibung – which is short for Friends of Village Development - successfully helped 42 villages all over Malaysia.

Now with the help of the system, families only pay about RM50 to RM60 a month for 24 hours of electricity.

The more than RM20,000 project is mostly funded by organisations through corporate social responsibility initiatives such as CIMB,

Tonibung members training the micro hydro operators at their CREATE Borneo Centre in Penampang, Sabah.

PETRONAS, Shell and AirAsia Foundation, among others.

Their work doesn't stop there as Tonibung is also researching and designing appropriate technology that can improve the villagers' livelihoods and empower women such as a solar dryer for food processing.

"Most of these kampung are quite remote so going there with heavy agricultural products is quite impossible and expensive, so we try to introduce them to the drying method

to add value to the products. An example is to make ginger powder and dried ginger out of the raw vegetable so that it can last longer and not be auctioned off at the market when it is nearing the rotting period, Lasimbang said.

"With appropriate technology such as solar drying and constant electricity supply, we can use a dehydrator and operate blenders and make powder from it.

"There is also vacuum packing so it lasts longer," he added.

Tonibung is currently looking into expanding its area of service for its turbines and controllers to places such as Kalimantan, Indonesia as it is near Penampang, Sabah, and Peninsular Malaysia.

"A lot of communities are interested in how they can use renewable energy as more people are concerned about fossil fuel usage due to climate change," he said.

To better improve its turbines, Tonibung is also looking into eco-friendly alternatives such as using recyclable materials in its design.

"Our main goal is to make electricity and clean energy affordable because we also subscribe to sustainable development goals.

"We want to see how we can further reduce the cost by trying to utilise locally available materials and enhance the fabrica tion technique for our turbine," he said.

The impact of electricity is that it not only gives light but it also creates these small industries that add to the value of the economy and livelihood of the villagers, Lasimbang added.

For their noble efforts. Tonibung is recognised as one of the 10 winners of the Star Golden Hearts Award 2022 (SGHA) under the organisation (community empowerment) category.





## **Empowering underprivileged kids**



Workers at the bake X dignity enterprise preparing food in the kitchen. The produce is then sold at the eat X dignity enterprise. - ONG SOON HIN/The Star

#### **By GERARD GIMINO** gerard.gimino@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: More than 25 years ago, Reverend Elisha Satvinder and his wife Petrina Shee Shiang Fei were furthering their studies in Portland, Oregon in the United States, when they experienced a "special calling", telling them to return to Malaysia.

"It was an unexplained feeling. Making the sudden decision to come home was also rather challenging as we were in the final stages of our education there," he said.

What happened next changed the course of their lives forever.

Elisha said his wife was driving around Kuala Lumpur when she made a wrong turn and ended up at a squatters area in Sentul.

"She then experienced another strong feeling. Later that day, she told me about this, so we decided to go there again," he said in an interview.

This was where Elisha, 57, met the poor which made him realise why he needed to come home

"I was walking into a block of flats and saw a man injecting himself with drugs at midday," he said.

"There were also young girls walking around which got me thinking, are they safe growing up amid the social challenges around them?"

Following this, Elisha founded the Dignity for Children Foundation, an NGO that provides holistic care and education for marginalised and urban poor children in the Klang Valley.

From its humble beginnings in 1998, when they rented only several floors at Sentul Raya Boulevard, it now encompasses several blocks in the same area.

"It began with formative years of education but today, we also provide primary and secondary education.

"The formative years are based on the Montessori curriculum, whereas the secondary students are groomed for the O-level examinations with non-academically inclined students focusing on trade skills," he said.

During its initial stages, the children mainly came from Sentul areas but they are now coming from Pudu and Kajang where buses are chartered to fetch them.

"We also have students from Cambodia, Syria, Myanmar and Pakistan," he said.

Today, at least 12,000 students have come through the Dignity for Children Foundation's doors with close to 2,000 students in its current session.

The teachers, he said, comprised qualified professionals with some alumni also being employed to teach the students.

"The teachers also stay in a class for several years and take up the role of mentors, counsellors and friends.

"The bond becomes so strong that the students trust the teacher so much and tell them everything. This allows the teachers to



Elisha posing with several of the children from the **Dignity for Children** Foundation. - ONG SOON HIN/ The Star

intervene and better transform the students," he said.

He added that the teachers were not volunteers as the children needed constant

attention to enable meaningful learning. Elisha also shared how the Faisal Cup,

organised by the Dignity for Children Foundation, came about.

It resulted from a tragedy, where one of their students named Faisal slipped and drowned in the river while retrieving a ball that he and his friends owned. "It was over a RM20 ball. All this hap-

pened during the World Cup 16 years ago. "On a Friday, I was messing around with

Faisal and the next day, I was opening up his body bag," he recalled. As we left the mortuary, Elisha said his

wife told him that they must do something to remember him. So we started the Faisal Cup, which has

since taken on a carnival atmosphere, with more than 100 teams now playing in it. "Even teams like Barcelona and

Manchester City have partnered with us, with some of our boys even having the opportunity to meet Lionel Messi," he said.

Elisha also noted how the various transformational enterprises were carried out. "Initially, we had to go out and speak to

professionals from various business fields, requesting their help in teaching our students practical skills.

"Over time, some of them began coming to us, expressing their interests in contributing to our purpose.

"This has seen those from the food and



Elisha and his wife Shee, posing with their award. - SAMUEL ONG/The Star

beverage, hairdressing, baking and sewing fields coming forward to teach the children," he said, adding that they also had support from corporate businesses.

As a result, there are now four of such enterprises at the Dignity for Children Foundation namely eat X dignity; bake X dignity; sew X dignity; and cut X dignity, with a woodwork initiative coming soon.

Elisha said all the children would have to go through at least three of these enterprises during their final schooling years before choosing one where they can finish their school year.

He added that there were also alumni who

were currently employed at these enterprises with many also helming positions at established businesses nationwide.

For their noble efforts, the Dignity for Children Foundation is recognised as one of the 10 winners of the Star Golden Hearts Award 2022 (SGHA) under the organisation (education) category.





# Transforming ecosystems

#### By GERARD GIMINO gerard.gimino@thestar.com.my

**PETALING JAYA:** Eight years ago, Lucas Loo Ze Xian had his hands full in the tourism industry where he was actively involved in developing a sustainable tourism resort.

During this period, there were suggestions among his peers to utilise bamboo as part of the projects' structure but he did not pay much heed to the idea.

Today, the 34-year-old is helming his own environmentally-focused impact enterprise – SEAD Industries – which champions bamboo as an integral part of restoring the ecosystem alongside

empowering local communities. "Previously, the idea was something obscure to me.

"However, over time, I began learning more about what bamboo does and how it can be both a creative architectural element while also functioning as a climate solution. "I came to realise that if I didn't commit to

"I came to realise that if I didn't commit to it (bamboo), I would deeply regret it," he said in an interview.

Since then, Loo's journey has seen him setting up SEAD which specialises in the utilisation of bamboo as a sustainable solution for the built environment, land restoration and community empowerment.

He also noted how SEAD took a twopronged approach towards championing new sustainable methods of property namely SEAD Plant and SEAD Build.

SEAD Plant focuses on a bamboo supply chain that facilitates the development of a restoration economy based on forestcommunity empowerment alongside restorative bamboo while SEAD Build essentially turns bamboo into durable materials.

This also saw Loo working closely with the Orang Asli communities in Perak, teaching them how to sustainably harvest bamboo for SEAD.

"We upskill the communities with an in-depth knowledge of forestry management to ensure they can harvest the bamboo from their own backyards, in the most optimised and sustainable manner.

"This allows their efficiency and productivity to increase so that they can earn a better income," he said.

Loo said the bamboo harvesting initiative has enabled the Orang Asli communities to double their income from RM60 daily to more than RM120.

He said all bamboo harvesting activities in secondary forests were done by the Orang Asli themselves, noting that all profits went to the community.

"Essentially, we train them to be selfsufficient and in tandem, empower the rural communities," he said.

SEAD had partnered with Perak State Parks Corporation to acquire four plots of land amounting to almost 100ha for a land regeneration project at the Kinta Nature Park in Batu Gajah.

"We intend to plant asper species of bamboo and engage with the local communities to help harvest the plants and manage the ecosystem.

"SEAD will then buy the bamboo back and turn them into durable materials, which essentially locks the carbon into construction materials," he said, adding that communities in the area could sign up as holders in the land at no cost.

Loo said the only requirement is they must commit to SEAD's methodologies and ecosystem restoration alongside harvesting bamboo sustainably.

He said the first bamboo seedlings were planted at the one of acquired plots sometime in August.

On the current workers at the plots, Loo said they were recruited upon recommendation from each community's village head.

"Here, we dub them as restoration stewards where they come from the local B40 communities and essentially, become caretakers of the land.

"They are responsible for making sure the bamboo is growing well, given the hostile environment," he said, pointing out that the plots were former tin mining sites.

"We also have on-the-ground partners



Loo harvesting bamboo together with several Orang Asli men in Kampung Lalang, Perak. SEAD upskills Orang Asli communities in Perak with an in-depth knowledge of forestry management to ensure they can harvest the bamboo in the most optimised and sustainable manner. - ART CHEN/The Star



Loo's passion for bamboo saw him founding SEAD Industries, which champions bamboo as an integral part of restoring the ecosystem alongside empowering local communities. – ART CHEN/The Star

including academics from Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman who perform soil sampling and ensure our projects improve with time," he added.

Apart from bamboo, Loo said vetivers and cadamba were also planted, given their resilience to grow in harsh land conditions.

Separately, Loo also shared how SEAD had undertaken the 1,000 Bamboo Village initiative, which was founded by the

Environmental Bamboo Foundation.

"This initiative aims to restore two million hectares of degraded lands globally, and we are merely signing up as one bamboo village.

"One bamboo village equates to 2,000ha of degraded lands restored, 210 families impacted through this restoration economy, and 100,000 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide sequestered annually." he said.

sequestered annually," he said. On SEAD's future plans, Loo said they were looking to place bamboo as a mainstream construction material with strategies in place to make this a reality.

"Our main goal would be to regenerate 1,000ha of degraded lands by 2030 and by



Loo planting bamboo at one of the plots acquired at the Kinta Nature Park in Batu Gajah, Perak. With him are bamboo stewards recruited from the local communities here. - ART CHEN/The Star



Loo: We train the Orang Asli to be self-sufficient and in tandem, empower the rural communities. — SAMUEL ONG/The Star

2050, we will be able to hit 2,000ha," he said. For their noble efforts, SEAD Industries is recognised as one of the 10 winners of the Star Golden Hearts Award 2022 (SGHA) under the organisation (environment and wildlife) category.





## **Protecting Malaysian hornbills**



Dr Ravinder and her husband Sanjitpaal set up Explore Gaia in 2015 to protect hornbills as Malaysia is home to over 10 species. - SAMUEL **ONG/The Star** 



Dr Ravinder sharing her hornbill conservation efforts in Sabah and some states in Peninsular Malaysia. -AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star



Explore Gaia and Hutan spent around RM30,000 to install the latest Currently, the team have been searching for natural nesting sites of endangered hornbills, monitoring and nest boxes by hiring climbers, botanists and carpenters in Terengganu. protecting active nests and innovating artificial nest boxes alongside Hutan. - Photo from Sanjitpaal Singh / Jitpics.com

#### **By IYLIA MARSYA ISKANDAR** iyliamarsya@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: In September 2019, a female helmeted hornbill named Halley went missing after having chicks in a tree cavity in Kundasang, Sabah, and was never seen again.

Photo from Sanjitpaal Singh /Jitpics.com

Her mate Max was left as a single father and had to raise and feed two chicks which caused the offspring to exit their cavity and live independently a month later.

As a result, the chicks lacked nutrition which stunted their development.

"She vanished without a trace. Knowing her behaviour, she's very protective over her young ones. Every time she leaves the cavity, she would perch nearby the nest. "I suspect that her disappearance had

something to do with poachers," said Dr Ravinder Kaur, scientific director of Explore Gaia, a social enterprise that conducts research and conservation work to help save endangered hornbills.

Around the time when Halley went missing, Dr Ravinder recalled that they were not alone in the forest.

There was a lingering smell of cigarettes. "While we were on their way to observe the chicks, a poacher fired a warning shot to her group to steer clear of their way," she

said in an interview. Dr Ravinder said they then reported the matter to the local authorities but no one

was caught. "This is one of the hindrances the

hornbills have to face in the forest, besides

the lack of tree cavities to nest," she added. Hornbills, a unique species, nest in tree cavities that are formed naturally due to fungal infections or holes that were created by woodpeckers or sun bears.

They require a selected type of natural tree cavity to nest and reproduce and this is

a hindrance to their population. Realising this, Dr Ravinder and her husband Sanjitpaal Singh set up Explore Gaia in 2015 to conserve the hornbills as

Malaysia is home to over 10 species. The helmeted hornbill, which they are very keen to observe, is a critically endangered species and little is known about

them. "I remember going to the Companies Commission of Malaysia to register Explore

Gaia. I was doubtful if I should do it but I'm glad l did. "One of the biggest challenges was

funding. Conservation was a hobby. We spent most of our time on conservation and doing this out of sheer passion," she said. When asked why she specifically chose

hornbills. Dr Ravinder said it was hornbills that chose her. "When I started out at the Malaysian Nature Society, I was assigned to a hornbill

project.

"If it were up to me, I would have chosen

frogs or orangutans. But the more I learnt about hornbills, the more I was fascinated by them.

"Hornbills are nature's gardeners. They consume big seeds and regurgitate them, usually undamaged and deposit them far from the parent tree. They help grow more trees in the forest," she said.

Currently, the team have been searching for natural nesting sites of endangered hornbills, monitoring and protecting active nests and innovating artificial nest boxes alongside Hutan, an NGO, based in Kinabatangan.

Explore Gaia and Hutan are the only entities providing nesting opportunities for endangered hornbills in Malaysia.

They spent around RM30,000 to install the latest nest boxes by hiring climbers, botanists and carpenters in Terengganu.

"In the beginning, we piggybacked these established NGO. We didn't have much money but together, we could do more.

"Eventually, with collaborative efforts. more funders were willing to assist. That's when in 2021, we got a big funding from Yayasan Sime Darby," she said.

To date, over 30 artificial nests were built and installed in the Kinabatangan Wildlife Reserve with the help of Chester Zoo and Beauval Zoo.

Dr Ravinder said six cavities of hornbills were restored through basic carpentry works which led to more breeding

opportunities, including nine Oriental Pied Hornbill chicks fledging.

Not only Explore Gaia restore cavities, but they also list out food lists for forestation projects so that hornbills can find food in the forest.

"When we travel, we always find trees with cavities and lock down their locations. "We are doing work not only in Sabah but

in Datai, Langkawi and Terengganu. We have three sites now," she said. They also sell handmade key chains,

pendants, earrings, bezels, paper weight, rings and colouring books on the hornbills of Malaysia.

"All of these are to support wildlife conservation and educate children on hornbills.

"To create a safe environment for the hornbills, we conduct talks, outreach campaigns with locals and activities with children so that they will see the type of hornbills and get excited about it," she said. For their noble efforts, Explore Gaia is

recognised as one of the 10 winners of the Star Golden Hearts Award 2022 (SGHA) under the organisation (environment and wildlife) category.





# Equipping Orang Asli with medical skills



To ensure sustainability and empower the community, DRsforALL trained the Orang Asli youths in first responder treatment and basic first aid to treat medical emergencies such as chest pain, choking and fever. – IZZRAFIQ ALIAS/The Star

#### By ALLISON LAI allison@thestar.com.my

**LIPIS:** After witnessing the lack of medical care and accessibility in remote areas, a team of doctors stepped in and set up Malaysia's first Orang Asli (OA) medical post in Kampung Dayok, Pos Lenjang, here. Known as DRsforALL, the initiative began

Known as DRsforALL, the initiative began in 2018 and has been serving more than 4,000 residents from scattered villages only accessible by 4x4 pickup trucks.

accessible by 4x4 pickup trucks. Dr Steven Chow Kim Weng, who founded the initiative, said the nearest hospital is a three-hour drive away.

"We started offering our medical service to the outreach work in Sabah, Sarawak and peninsular Malaysia," he said in an interview.

However, Dr Chow said some people told him such efforts were not comprehensive.

"We do outreach work in one place but won't be there for long. So I thought perhaps we should do more than just 'touch and go.' "We should build something, stay and

ensure that we can sustain. That's why we mooted DRsforALL," he added.

To empower the Orang Asli community, the team took a step further by training the youths to become Medik OA, equipping them with knowledge in first responder treatment and basic life-saving skills to treat medical emergencies, including basic dispensing and inventory work for clinics.

The ultimate aim is for these young and budding Medik OA to become qualified paramedics.

"We trained the Orang Asli from young, designed the programme and taught them basic medical skills and knowledge.

"We also put them through a life-saving course," he said, adding that the course was a collaboration with Pahang St John's Ambulance.

Besides the training, Dr Chow, 71, said youths were also given jobs.

"We did a rotation system so they could come to town and spend a fortnight. "Over the years and after the pandemic, they have been slowly able to stay longer up

they have been slowly able to stay longer up to a few months," he said, adding that the youths have progressed to training the trainers.

The whole idea is to build up a self-reliant,



To empower the Orang Asli community, the team took a step further by training the youths to become Medik OA, equipping them with knowledge in first responder treatment and basic life-saving skills to treat medical emergencies, including basic dispensing and inventory work for clinics.

IZZRAFIQ ALIAS/The Star

sustainable group empowered to look after themselves, he said.

"We also want to produce a vocational programme where they can find work outside of the village and live normal lives," he said.

Said. Out of the core of more than 33 pioneering Medik OA, there are 17 who are currently

doing full-time. "They are now bringing their own recruits

under a buddy system.



Owing to the lack of accessibility and healthcare awareness among the Orang Asli community, the DRSforALL team set up the nation's first Orang Asli Medical Post in Kampung Dayok of Pos Lejang, which is deep in the jungle of Raub, Pahang. – IZZRAFIQ ALIAS/The Star



Dr Chow said DRsforALL meant a lot to its team of doctors by prioritising 'service over self.' – SAMUEL ONG/The Star

"We will provide the vocational framework for them to advance to the next level," he said. Dr Chow also said the Medik OA are all

now "a changed person" compared to when they first joined. "Over three years, we find that they learnt

very fast. Now they can converse in English. They have matured," he said.

Dr Chow said the DRsforALL initiative managed to pull off during the height of the pandemic, thanks to the Orang Asli Development Department for arranging internet access in the village.

"We developed our teleconsultation and telemedicine programme for the Medik OA team so that any patient who requires immediate attention can be referred to one of our doctors, who can then take over the management and follow-up remotely.

"We have saved the lives of patients with asthma and children with pneumonia," he said.

"In the past, these children have no chance of survival."

Moving forward, Dr Chow said the Medik OA should be self-reliant and sustainable in the future.

"We feel that they should be able to look after themselves administratively and as an organisation. For that, we have got the Medik OA into a registered society – Persatuan Medik OA Lipis.

"They will now be able to arrange the entire programme by themselves, including logistics," he said, adding that the team of doctors would still assist with all the necessary support. Dr Chow noted that DRsforALL also wants to upgrade the existing programme to formal training with a university's para-professional or para-healthcare programmes.

"We have obtained five scholarships for the youths ready to be sent for such programmes at the Asian Institute of Medicine, Science and Technology University.

Dr Chow said the entire programme had nothing to lose even if any of the Medik OA decided to remain or return to their remote village as the skills and knowledge they learnt were still of value to their community.

"Even if they fall out of the programme, it is of no loss to the community," he said.

Dr Chow said DRsforALL meant a lot to its team of doctors by prioritising "service over self."

Sen. Stressing the importance of leaving behind a legacy and a framework for the younger doctors to continue, he said DRsforALL also aims to replicate the success in other Orang Asli settlements lacking access to healthcare, clean water and electricity, which could lead to an increased risk of infectious diseases.

For their noble efforts, DRsforALL is recognised as one of the 10 winners of the Star Golden Hearts Award 2022 (SGHA) under the organisation (social welfare) category.

























## THE HOPE OF TOMORROW

Every day new heroes arise to solve community challenges in the most inspiring and innovative ways. Since 2016, the **Gamuda Inspiration Award** through Yayasan Gamuda has been celebrating these community heroes who lead by example. For it is in giving that we receive – a standing ovation from us to them for creating a better tomorrow.