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Good hair day!

Cutathon 8 raises RM15,000 for AIDS Foundation

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PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian public showed their caring sides over the weekend, contributing over RM15,000 to Cutathon 8, a fund-raising event organised by A Cut Above Academy in collaboration with *The Malay Mail* Care Fund and the Malaysian AIDS Foundation.

Students and educators of the academy were kept busy through three days, between 11am and 7pm, at the Sunway Pyramid Orange Concourse and all the participants were especially glad the proceeds topped last year's RM14,000 tally, which was donated to the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation.

"This haircut marathon was tiring, but I am happy as my work has contributed to the betterment of the unfortunate and I would certainly join next year's Cutathon without a second thought," said student stylist Mark Julian Ling Kah Hwon, 21.

"It was a win-win situation. We raise money for the needy and, in return, we gain experience as professional hairdressers to better hone our skills. It felt good to be able to help people," said another student stylist Ng Hui Chen, 23.

Though he had been with the academy for only two months, usher Edison Yong Jing Han, 17, said: "This is my first event and I have to say it was exciting. We're helping people, you know? My effort may seem small but every bit of help counts in a major event like this."

Vivian Ngui Pui Yin, 19, also an Academy student who was an usher for the event, enthused: "Nothing beats the feeling you get when you make other people feel better, especially the discriminated AIDS sufferers."

Those who received the RM10 haircuts were also positive about

the event. Teenager Sofiah Al-Yafii, a Form Four student from SMK Sultan Abdul Samad, heard about the event from her friend and went to Sunway Pyramid for a haircut at the Cutathon.

"Who wouldn't want to get a professional haircut for a cheap price? And by paying for that, I'm also helping people who are infected with HIV and AIDS. This event also helps by increasing public awareness on the issues surrounding HIV and AIDS. I hope the next Cutathon will attract more people."

Housewife Raja Normah Raja Badri Shah, 57, had gone to Sunway Pyramid for a haircut at a salon when her young niece directed her to the Cutathon event instead. "I am grateful someone is doing something to assist the unfortunate, and I am happy I can be a part of the effort."

Patrons also got to enjoy promotional freebies of RM35 for a haircut with a free hairstyling product. A makeover promotion which included a haircut, make-up and a photoshoot, was also available for RM60.

