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Annual clean-up for cemetery

GOTONG-ROYONG: PT Foundation volunteers from different backgrounds and religions come together to spruce up the Karak Highway Muslim Cemetery in conjunction with the International AIDS Memorial Day

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OVER 73 volunteers from the PT Foundation (formerly known as Pink Triangle) gathered to clean up the Karak Highway Muslim Cemetery recently.

The annual *gotong-royong* was organised in conjunction with the International AIDS Memorial Day. Most of the volunteers came from various religious and racial backgrounds.

Foundation chairman Hisham Hussein said the non-governmental organisation helps HIV-positive people, drugs users, the homeless, sex workers, and those with AIDS, among others.

"We have been operating for 25 years now," said Hisham.

The foundation, which is headquartered in Jalan Ipoh Kecil, off Jalan Raja Laut, has several shelters, including in Chow Kit.

"Most who came to the shelters were those who have been rejected by their families," Hisham said.

Former drug user Donna Vassana, 61, said events like the clean-up helped to foster ties among volunteers.

Another volunteer who wanted to be known as Nora said she found out she was HIV-positive nine years ago and that she was infected by her husband.

"The foundation helps us to form a support group for marginalised people like us," said Nora.

The presence of singer Francissca Peter at the clean-up added cheer to the event.

The singer will also be performing at PT Foundation's 25th Anniversary fund-raising concert to be held at ECOBA, Menara Bata (Tower B), PJ Trade Centre, in Damansara Perdana, this Saturday.

To purchase tickets, call 03-2697 0655 or visit their website www.ptf-malaysia.org



Volunteers cleaning up the Karak Highway Muslim Cemetery in the **annual gotong-royong** organised by the PT Foundation. Pic by Nurul Syazana Rose Razman