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Supermum to needy children

Mother of seven adopts 36 kids and gets daughter to follow in her footsteps



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KUALA LUMPUR: When Norlina Alawi got pregnant 10 years ago for the sixth time, there was also another baby on her mind.

She planned to provide breast milk to a soon-to-be born child of a 23-year-old woman who was HIV positive.

Norlina had taken in the unwed woman after she was kicked out from her home in Kluang, Johor.

"I knew the baby would need to strengthen his immune system. And mother's milk is the best remedy," said Norlina, 40.

The boy, now 10, was born healthy. He still lives with Norlina and her husband Lt-Kol Roslan Zakaria.

Soon after helping the unwed mother, Norlina said she began to care even more deeply for the destitute and needy children.

She has since adopted 36 children who now live in the same house with her, Roslan and their seven biological children in Kg Cheras Baru near here.

Their eldest daughter, UiTM accounting student Noor Emylia Erna Roslan, 20, has also been made the "mother" of two of the adopted children.

"I want my children to continue helping needy kids. That is why I have made my daughter the 'mother' to these two children even though she is only 20," Norlina said.

Noor Emylia said she loved caring for the children.

"I see it as a responsibility and not a burden," she added.

Norlina said the children were orphans while some were abandoned kids.

The orphans had lost their parents to AIDS.

"Of all the children, only four had AIDS and two of them have died," said Norlina, who wept as she spoke about their passing in 2009 and earlier this year.

Her friends and relatives, she said, had also been supportive of her.

Not wanting to depend on charity, Norlina has embarked on several businesses to help fund her household expenses of about RM30,000 every month.

Besides running a shop selling jubah and headscarves, Norlina also has a cosmetics company called Norlina Visages.

Norlina also helms the Nurul Iman Welfare Society for Children of HIV/AIDS Patients Malaysia (Pernim) and non-profit company called Keluarga Besar Norlina Alawi Berhad.



Doting young mum:

Noor Emylia Erna and the two children she is caring for, Muhd Ashraf and Nurul Syifa.