

## Charity event for needy kids a top draw



CHIJ (Kellock) pupils yesterday filling boxes with snacks, which will be among the items in goodie bags for about 1,100 needy children visiting Underwater World on Oct 1. -- PHOTO: THE BUSINESS TIMES

FUND-RAISING event Children for Children received such an enthusiastic response this year that the organisers had to stop sending out invitations two months earlier than planned.

The three-year-old programme by The Arts House, The Business Times (BT) and CHIJ (Kellock) takes 1,000 children from needy families to local attractions on Children's Day, which falls on Oct 1. This year, about 1,100 children will be invited to visit Sentosa's Underwater World to take part in an adventure quest, with a theme of environmentalism and protecting marine life.

Underwater World will waive its entrance fees for these young visitors, and organisations and individuals will sponsor each child with about \$250 cash. BT editor and chairman of the Budding Artists Fund, Mr Alvin Tay, said this has kept costs low to allow more money to go to charity. The fund-raising target this year is \$250,000. These funds will go towards Child Aid, a charity concert organised by The Straits Times (ST) and BT since 2005.

The concert supports the ST School Pocket Money Fund, which helps children with school expenses, and the BT Budding Artists Fund for developing children who show artistic talent. CHIJ (Kellock) staff and pupils spent yesterday packing goodie bags for the needy children with stationery and snacks.

Principal Clara Lim-Tan said her pupils' contributions to a mini-concert at Underwater World for the needy children will teach them about empathy and the less privileged in society. Pupil Lauren Ho, 11, said: 'I hope to provide for children who are less fortunate than me, and put a smile on their faces by playing my part.'

By Cheryl Ong Publication paper: The Straits Times 23 September 2010