

Feel The Love

By **Arezou** (Volunteer)

From my first visit to the children's homes in Marymount Centre in 2016, I always feel the love. Not just the kids, but everyone who has the privilege of passing through their gates feels the love!

The staff are super friendly to the kids, listen to them patiently, help them with their education, arts and crafts, and support them unconditionally to make sure they feel loved. Simply amazing.

My group of friends and I volunteer regularly. In the last 2 years, we always complied with safe management measures but were determined to continue to connect with the staff and the children. Before the pandemic we were able to accompany them on outings and run outdoor games and programmes. Now we could only conduct craft activities for only one home, IPAC. We hope that we can resume activities with all the children from the 3 homes soon. We miss their friendly chatter and warm smiles.

We have seen many girls from the homes improve over time, feel visibly happier and keener to join our sessions. There were girls who were shy and not eager to participate in the beginning, but gradually started to talk and join in, thanks to the warm atmosphere of the homes and their compassionate staff.

Two of my best memories include seeing a girl run the fastest and win all the games at one of our past Christmas parties at Turf City Jungle. This girl originally used to throw tantrums and was not happy to participate in any activities before. The other memory involves a girl who used to write very sad messages in her notebook implying her lack of desire to live. But this later changed to notes such as "there will always be a rainbow after rain".

We are so happy that we can partner Marymount Centre in their generous work of caring for the children who are facing difficulties in their lives.

