

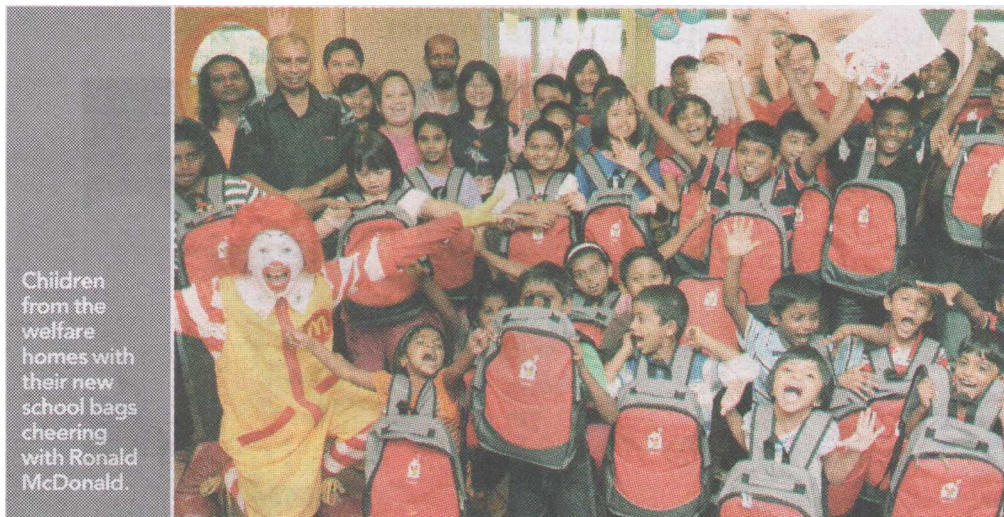
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McDonald's treats

> Underprivileged children get Christmas party and back-to-school goodies



Children from the welfare homes with their new school bags cheering with Ronald McDonald.

C. KARUNAAGARAN

RONALD MCDONALD House Charities Malaysia (RMHC Malaysia) recently hosted 30 children from Divine Mercy Home and Trinity Children Centre to a Christmas do at McDonald's drive-thru in Bandar Sri Damansara.

Among other things, the children received new school bags complete with stationery, as well as various paper products and educational story books.

RMHC Malaysia president Chan Chee Chin said children from these welfare homes come from very unfortunate backgrounds and do not enjoy the financial support they ought to have.

"We learnt about the children's urgent request for back-to-school materials for the 2011 school year," Chan said.

"Just as Christmas is all about giving and true to the saying 'It is more blessed to give than to receive', we at RMHC Malaysia are glad to give back to the community and we will indeed continue our efforts to contribute to local communities."

RMHC Malaysia also offers scholarship to secondary students.

It was a dream come true for the children when they met McDonald's "Chief Happiness Officer" Ronald McDonald for the first time.

They also took part in various games organised by McDonald's friendly Store Activities Representatives (STARs) where they had to form alphabets using their bodies followed by a humorous storytelling session of the well-beloved *Pied Piper of Hamelin* told by Ronald himself.

The children also had the opportunity to savour McDonald's meals. For some, it was their first.

Trinity Children Centre manager Wendy Hew was grateful the children were invited to the event.

"I feel grateful that the children are able to have the opportunity to take a break from the reality they are in," Hew said.

Peter Moses, who runs the Divine Mercy Home said: "I am sure this is something the children will cherish forever, for that I am eternally grateful," said.

RMHC Malaysia also donated RM2,000 to each of the welfare homes to help in their upkeep.