

World Kidney Day 2015 celebrations

Hundreds of Malaysians gather to dance for better health at the culmination of the World Kidney Day 2015 celebrations.



Hundreds of Malaysians gathered as early as 7am to put on their dancing shoes and groove to dance styles such as Zumba at the World Kidney Day 2015 closing ceremony. Photos: NKF

THE World Kidney Day 2015 celebrations by National Kidney Foundation Malaysia (NKF) ended successfully as hundreds of Malaysians came together to dance in support of better kidney health.

After the success of last year's Dance Marathon, this year's edition saw more than 600 people of all ages gathering as early as 7am to put on their dancing shoes and dance to popular dance styles such as Zumba and Sh'bam for more than three hours, led by Celebrity Fitness Malaysia's instructors – Sunny Cheong, Deno Au, David Thoong and Vidal Gomez.

Aside from the Dance Marathon, the World Kidney Day 2015 Spot & Ride campaign ended on an exciting note as Suhaila Jalil @ Selamat walked away with the grand prize of a Perodua Axia worth RM33,400.

The month-long campaign took centre-stage at various Petaling Jaya, Selangor, locations like Sunway Pyramid, The Summit USJ, Paradigm Mall and Encorp Strand Mall last Sunday.

Members of the public had the chance to participate in the Spot & Ride game by donating a fee of RM10 to search for prizes in a Perodua Axia. Their names were then collected over the month and entered into the drawing for the grand prize.

Present at the closing ceremony was Datuk Aminar Rashid Salleh, president and CEO of Perodua, who commented about the rising need to spotlight kidney disease among Malaysians.

"One in 10 Malaysian adults is diagnosed with kidney failure, and this alarming statistic is rising every year. It is clear that Malaysians should work towards a better awareness of their health. We at Perodua Malaysia believe that every Malaysian has the right to a healthier lifestyle. We are honoured to work with the National Kidney Foundation to advocate about the importance of exercise and take part in the fight against kidney disease," he said.

Participants at the roadshow enjoyed other activities like free health checks, health exhibitions, performances by Limkokwing University of Creative Technology students, a family colouring contest, and more.

The World Kidney Day charity celebrations by NKF raised a total of RM35,000.



Dr Zaki: 'Chronic kidney disease could have a serious impact on your quality of life as it means a lifetime of support on dialysis treatments.'

Funds raised will be channelled towards providing underprivileged kidney patients access to dialysis treatments.

In reference to the need for awareness regarding kidney health, NKF chairman Datuk Dr Zaki Morad Mohd Zahed said, "Kidney disease is one of the most prevalent health issues affecting Malaysians, especially with the increasingly affluent lifestyles enjoyed by many Malaysians.

"Chronic kidney disease could have a serious impact on your quality of life as it means a lifetime of support on dialysis treatments. However, kidney disease is preventable with a healthier lifestyle and early detection through health screenings."

Dr Zaki added, "NKF is largely reliant on the support of the public to continue providing treatment for disadvantaged kidney patients. The success of the World Kidney Day 2015 roadshows reflects the generosity of Malaysians and the rising awareness of kidney-related diseases among the community.

"The large turnout for the roadshows is a warm reminder of the network of support in the community and that everyone plays a part in dealing with kidney disease."

NKF Malaysia is a non-profit charitable organisation dedicated to helping Malaysians suffering from end-stage kidney failure who lack access to, or cannot afford, dialysis treatment. NKF currently has over 1,600 dialysis patients receiving subsidized dialysis treatment in their 28 dialysis centres nationwide.

For more information, visit <http://www.nkf.org.my> or call 03-7954 9048.