

# Small cupcakes raise big sum

## Fundraiser brings in RM18,000 to benefit poor dialysis patients

**Opinion: Penang**

**E**ASY to eat and enjoyed by almost anyone, colourful and eye-catching cupcakes are all the rage nowadays. Besides being great gifts for all occasions, they are also great tools for charity.

The "1,001 Cupcakes in 1,001 Hours" project in Penang organised by the National Kidney Foundation (NKF), northern branch, proved just that — raising RM18,000 to benefit poor dialysis patients.

Starting on Nov 1, local online bakery EvaDis Cupcakes began making the treats. Although initial response was slow, by the closing date of Dec 12, there was overwhelming response from the public as well as major corporations.

In all, the total number of cupcakes rolling off the ovens after 1,001 hours, or 41 days and 17 hours, was almost double the initial target of 1,001 cupcakes.

Glazed with red and white icing, they were all arranged in the shape of NKF's logo and unveiled by state Local Government

and Traffic Management Committee chairman Chow Koo Yeow during the project's closing ceremony at New World Park in George Town.

The cupcakes were later given away to a dozen charitable homes and organisations.

NKF northern region assistant manager Lim Ailin said the foundation served about 1,400 needy patients monthly across its 25 dialysis centres in Malaysia, with treatment done at a subsidised rate.

"A person who has just been diagnosed with end stage kidney failure will need to make a huge adjustment in lifestyle to manage the condition.

"Family members also play an important part in providing emotional and financial support for patients to cope," Lim said.

Unless kidney transplantation is performed, those at the end stage will need life-long dialysis, which also requires patients to have jobs with flexible working hours as each dialysis treatment takes up to four hours, she



**For charity:** EvaDis Cupcakes owner Evon Koay putting the finishing touches on the cupcakes that form the logo of the National Kidney Foundation.

added.

The event also featured an Xmas Cupcakes Decorating Competition, which saw 15 groups of families and friends taking part.

Among them were couple David Chua, 34, and Wendy Chin, 33, along with their children Xin Yee, nine and Zhen Yan, five.

"We came all the way from Butterworth. We thought this would be a good way for the whole family to partake in something fun," Chua said.

Another group, Peter Ting, 34, and Wendy Tay, 32, with two-year-old Charles in tow, were busy decorating their allocation of six miniature cupcakes with green, orange and white icing sugar.

"My wife said that since I am rather creative, why not give the contest a try," Ting said.

The contest was followed by Christmas caroling by the International Women's Association, music and dance performances, Santa Claus appearance and Cupcake Eating Competition.



**Family affair:** Ting engrossed in the task at hand while supporting him are his wife Tay and son Charles.



**Mum's little helper:** Wendy Chin (right) and her five-year-old son Chua Zhen Yan working on their cupcakes during the Xmas Cupcakes Decorating Competition.

*See only on website  
to view photo  
of event and  
to view full  
report.*