



**Generous donation:** Dhamma Thero (center) handing over the check (value for RM15,000) to representatives of the National Kidney Foundation, with temple president Leslie Tio (second from left) and Sister Patricia Chew Mei Fan (far right) present.

# Caring and sharing on Wesak Day

## Welfare homes not forgotten in celebration

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Photos by SAMUEL ONG

**M**ORE than a thousand children and old folks were treated to fun activities at the Buddhist Maha Vihara Temple in Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur, in conjunction with Wesak Day recently.

The children were from 22 homes as well as non-governmental organisations. Temple chief monk Viro Dharmak K, Sri Dhammaratana said the annual event, which virtually started as a simple children's party, had grown over the years. "We organised the first event in 1996," he said.

Themed the "Caring and Sharing" event, guests were treated to breakfast and lunch as well as performances.

They also received free health checks, medicine bags as well as ang pow.

Dhammaratana, who is also the National Welfare Society founder and advisor, said such organisations or home also received RM1,000 and a water heater while the National Kidney Foundation received RM45,000 from the K, Sri Dhammaratana Trust Fund.

Dhammaratana said this year's Wesak Day celebrations were on a smaller scale with only about 40 floats taking part in the procession on Wesak Day last Friday.

"Wesak Day is a celebration of the birth, enlightenment and death of Buddha and as such, good deeds should be carried out," he said.

During the event, Sri Lanka float makers were seen busy putting some final touches to the temple float.

Lemayana Kalapriya, 66, who has been designing and building floats for the last 25 years, said he started work on the float about two months ago.

"This is a simple design using mostly plywood and Styrofoam. The more elaborate ones take much longer to complete," he said.

His design this time centred on an extra large golden crown, a symbol of peace, placed in front of a statue of Buddha adorned with coloured lights.



**Jump:** A student performing by his students during the event at the temple.



**Good job:** The golden crown being completed by Sri Lanka float makers, one of the floats in the Wesak Day procession.