

School helps out dialysis patients with RM16,000 collection

STELLA Maris International School (SMIS) in Damansara, Kuala Lumpur, held true to its commitment to the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) despite having to close during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The school managed to collect RM16,000, which was over and above last year's collection of RM13,406.

Year after year, SMIS has never lost sight of its annual Kidney Awareness Day charity drive among its pupils and their parents, teachers, administrative staff as well as well-wishers.

However, this year's programme was subdued due to the closure of schools.

Students and teachers had to forgo the usual school presentations that contextual-

ise the issue of poor health outcomes experienced globally by millions of renal patients.

They reminisced on past years when everyone showed up in red, in solidarity with NKF to commemorate World Kidney Day.

Although this year's charity drive was facilitated merely through a passing of the hat, the outcome was impressive with parents, teachers and staff giving their unstinting support.

A large donation was soon collected.

SMIS Damansara president Dr BC Tan thanked everyone who generously supported the cause.

In the past six years, the school has raised over RM85,000 for NKFM.

"It is heartening to see the generosity of the SMIS family and others recognised in a cheque presentation of RM16,000 made to the NKF this year despite the challenges of the pandemic," said Tan.

"Taking a leaf from Mahatma Gandhi, 'Whatever you do may seem insignificant to you but it is most important that you do it'.

"Hence, this is Stella Maris' way of saying we care and we are here to help," he added.



(From left) SMIS school administration manager Kenneth Yap, IB/Pre U principal Madhu Singh, NKF chief executive officer Chua Hong Wee, Tan, SMIS Board of Governors chairman Dr Tarcisius Chin, Primary Wing principal Belevin Scully and Sports & ECA coordinator S. Arunandy at the cheque presentation ceremony.