

EDUCATION FOR ALL HELLO! JOINS HANDS WITH DEBORAH HENRY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR FUGEE SCHOOL



Top: Fugee School founders Deborah Henry and Shikleen Halibullah with emcee of the night Andrea Fonseka, who helps create a fun atmosphere during the live auction (above). Below: klpac-trained students from Fugee School present a winning performance to guests such as Hans Isaac, Elaine Daly, Kavita Sidhu, Amarjit Chhina, Lina Teoh and Joanne de Rozario (right), as well as Dian Lee and Joseph Teoh (below right)

It was an evening of glamour, shopping and art channelled towards a noble cause as some of the biggest names in Malaysian entertainment and high society gathered at Bistro 42 in Bangsar Village II to raise funds in aid of Fugee School.

Founded by Miss Universe Malaysia 2011 Deborah Henry and Shikleen Halibullah, Fugee School provides refugee children with free and unrestricted access to education. The 'Send Me to School' fundraiser saw a collaboration between Deborah, Shikleen and HELLO! Malaysia, who echoed the sentiments of education for all.

Upon arrival, guests were greeted with booths set up by renowned home-grown jewellery brand Suhara Jewel Art, who created limited-edition bangles, as well as by the globally-celebrated Malaysian accessories label

KLutched, who designed Somali-themed bags. The proceeds from the sales of the bangles and bags went towards the funds raised for Fugee School.

The event was hosted by Andrea Fonseka, and saw local celebrities such as Hans Isaac, Stephanie Chai, Serena Choong and Vanessa Chong stamp their mark of advocacy by participating in the evening's activities. Kuala Lumpur's high society also attended the fundraiser, which included the Ambassador of Italy, His Excellency Folco de Luca Gabrielli, José Ramón and Ana García de Barañano, as well as Andrew and Chris Abhishegam.

Enveloping the air was the scent of Diptyque's aromatic candles, while a steady flow of assorted canapés and wine made their rounds throughout the evening.

The evening opened with a speech by Deborah, who expressed her views on education.



"Education is a necessity and the right of every child, regardless of age, ethnicity and status. All children should be entitled to unrestricted access to the world of knowledge," said Deborah.

HELLO! Malaysia expressed delight in its role in the charity initiative, and Group Editor Christine Leong added, "The Fugee School does not only provide these young refugees with a means of education, but also with experiences that will prepare them for future challenges that they may face as they go through life."

The evening went on with a short video presentation by journalist and photographer Zan Azlee, and a performance by klpac-trained Fugee School students won the hearts of guests. Up-and-coming singer Sharifah Zamaera also entertained the audience with her soothing voice and piano-playing.

The party was taken up a notch with a silent auction, in which art collectors put down their best bids on acrylic art pieces and watercolour paintings produced by the Fugee School children with help from Marini Ramlan and Hannah Lo. Also up for bids was a collection of works by Gregers Reimann and Suchen with the children, a retreat at the scenic Sri Panwa Phuket courtesy of The Luxe Nomad, and a range of experience gifts by RedRibbon Days.

A sign of generosity in the name of charity was proven with the sum of more than RM100,000 raised, twice the initial target of RM50,000. The proceeds from the auction and sales will go towards the improvement and betterment of the students at Fugee School and its future.

On behalf of Fugee School, we applaud the people who made the fundraiser a phenomenal success by contributing to and supporting the charity, as well as upholding the belief in education. A big thank you goes out to Bistro 42, Asia Euro Wines Sdn Bhd, Rodial, Diptyque, RedRibbon Days, Luxe Nomad, KLutched, and Suhara

REPORT: JESSICA LIEW
PHOTOS: THE PHOTOZ



Above: HELLO! Malaysia's Social Editor Ana García de Barañano enjoys a fabulous time shopping for a good cause with the guests, who include Gilda Bejani and Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir, checking out the limited-edition bangles created by Suhara Jewel Art (above right), and the Abhishegam family (right). Top left: KLutched founder Ung Yiu Lin shares a tender moment with designer Melinda Looi and her daughter. Guests also shop for experience gifts by RedRibbon Days and participate in a silent auction for artwork (below)

