

Bull Charge - Chinese New Year Outreach to AWWA Seniors

23 January marked the first Bull Charge beneficiary outreach of 2014, as we organized a half day trip to Chinatown for the elderly from the Asian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

The event started off with cheerful greetings from the seniors at the AWWA Elderly Services Centre when the staff volunteers arrived. While waiting for the bus to arrive, the volunteers mingled with the seniors to get to know them and understand their daily activities at the AWWA Centre. The seniors enthusiastically explained to us their handicrafts programme and their excitement about the imminent trip to Chinatown.



Before long, we were on our way! Our first stop was to a Chinese restaurant along Pagoda Street in the heart of Chinatown for a simple but delicious lunch. While waiting for lunch to be served, the volunteers prepared the lo-hei (a Chinese tradition meaning 'prosperity toss' or 'tossing up good fortune') with the help from some seniors chiming in with the auspicious phrases. When all was ready, everybody did the lo-hei with ingredients being tossed up high in the air for good health and good fortune. We could see that the seniors enjoyed the lo-hei and lunch immensely.



After a satisfying lunch, the seniors were led to the Chinatown Heritage Centre for a tour of the era of our forefathers in Singapore. A step into the museum and one was transported to Chinatown in the budding years of Singapore's establishment as a seaport. It was like everybody travelled back in time to the 1950s. During the tour in the museum, the seniors shared their stories with the volunteers, from the use of the various exhibited items to the events that happened during that era to the types of shops along the different streets of Chinatown. All the seniors who visited the museum had a great time reminiscing about their younger days.



While most seniors visited the Chinatown Heritage Centre, there were some who preferred to shop along the Pagoda Street, with the company of the volunteers, for Chinese New Year items such as decorations and food items. When it was time to leave for the Centre, they all came back smiling. It was a fruitful trip for them.



Back at the AWWA Centre, the volunteers handed out goodie bags of mandarin oranges and other Chinese New Year treats to all the participating seniors and they were delighted when they received the presents. This was a rewarding trip for the seniors as well as the volunteers and we're already looking forward to the next event!

