

SGX Bull Charge Cares: Art Jamming in Red & White



On 1st August, 20 SGX volunteers, together with 18 children and 6 teachers from Eden Children's Centre of the Autism Association (Singapore) spent an afternoon of artistic exploration at Arteastiq, Mandarin Gallery. The outreach activity coupled the celebration of SG50 and hoped to uncover and develop artistic talent among pre-school children with autism learning needs.

Our volunteers were greeted with unreserved smiles from the children, where they were all buzzing with excitement for a day of painting their hearts out. On the journey to the art jamming studio, the children were entertained with magic tricks.



Upon arrival, the teachers organized the group clad in red and white to their blank canvases and easels. As each pair set out to paint their SG50 vision, the studio was filled with eager chattering from the children and measured, guiding tones from the volunteers and teachers.



To describe the whole two hours of sketching and painting as smooth-sailing would depend on the relatives we were used to. While some volunteers happily assisted the younger children with handling their pencils and paintbrushes, others only needed to provide basic guidance and support to the more autonomous children. Yet another group had to come up with ways in containing their restless children within the confines of the studio. Nonetheless, Christy, the head of children's centre, complimented our volunteers for their patience and attentiveness to the children.



After the last art piece was completed, everyone gathered for a packed lunch in the studio. The children ended the event with a sweet 'Goodbye' song that undoubtedly pulled at many of the volunteers' heartstrings.



While each child brought home a masterpiece of their own creation, the volunteers left with something more priceless – an experience to make a difference in a child's life and a wealth of understanding on caring for their new friends.