

Arranging orchids in aid of breast cancer patients

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KUALA LUMPUR: In conjunction with International Women's Day, Prince Court Medical Centre, here, celebrated Orchid Day by organising an orchid arrangement competition.

The staff participated in the competition using flowers and recyclable material.

The medical centre purchased orchids and pink ribbon pins in support of the Breast Cancer Welfare Association's (BCWA) aim of improving the quality of life of those with breast cancer.

Visitors walking in through the front door were given a bouquet of purple orchids each to take home.

The BCWA chose the orchid because it is said to have healing and protective qualities. The alluring flower also has a special meaning for breast cancer survivors as it is known for its resilience and durability.

The medical centre presented a RM10,000 cheque to BCWA to support its outreach activities such as public education programmes and breast self-examination (BSE) workshops for individuals, organisations and educational institutions.

The competition which had 25 entries was judged by Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz, Breast Cancer Welfare Association (BCWA)

president Ranjit Kaur and the medical centre's acting chief corporate officer Edda Fischer.

The first prize winner received RM1,000 cash and a hamper worth RM350. The second prize winner received RM700 cash and a hamper worth RM250. The third, fourth and fifth winners also received cash prizes and hampers.

"Our team consists of four members and we named our bouquet Purple Rain. The arrangement was made with fresh flowers and recyclable items such as coconut shells, egg shells, rope and a broken vase," said Kalsom Zakaria who belonged to the team which won the first prize.

She said it took them almost a day and a half to complete the arrangement and didn't think they would win after seeing the other arrangements on display.

Teresa Indra and Zehan Chong Abdullah who were the second prize winners were delighted with the results as they were attempting to go with a simple and minimalist design.

"We took approximately three hours to complete it using a wooden box which we covered in velvet and wooden branches. The arrangement symbolises most cancer patients' struggles and how with the right support they can beat the disease and begin living a healthier lifestyle," said Teresa.

(From left) BCWA president Ranjit Kaur and Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz receiving the RM10,000 cheque from Prince Court Medical Centre CEO Stuart Rowley.



(From left) Prince Court Medical Centre staff Premala Nair Palyanair, Pua Ai Leng, Punithavthy Kaness and Siti Rashidah Hamzah admiring one of the orchid arrangements. — Pictures by Supian Ahmad