



GEARED UP FOR CHARITY: *The Befriending Walk event attracted 1,200 participants. (PHOTO: LBSA SINGAPORE)*

Keep on giving, urges charity

CHERYL LIM

ONE charity organisation is urging Singaporeans to continue showing their generosity towards the less fortunate despite the economic downturn.

The Lions Befrienders Service Association (LBSA) Singapore held its second Befriending Walk event, which attracted 1,200 participants, yesterday morning at Bishan Park One. The goal was to raise \$200,000 for the operations costs of three day-care centres for seniors.

But the charity managed to raise just \$100,000.

Regarding the shortfall, Ms Jennifer Yee, executive director of LBSA, said that it was “disappointing”.

The charity also faced many rejections from corporations when they sent in donation pleas in the last two to three months, she added.

The funds raised from this year’s event included a \$40,000 grant from the Council for Third Age, while the sum raised from last year’s event came mostly from the public and corporate sponsors, said Ms Yee.

The funds will benefit 1,850 seniors in the Ang Mo Kio, Bendemeer and Mei Ling districts.

“We hope that Singaporeans will realise that the needs of charities’ beneficiaries do not diminish during economic downturns,” she said. “We hope they will continue to be generous in their giving towards the needy.”

LBSA donor Linda Tan, 55, agrees.

“You don’t need to donate huge sums to charity. Even a small amount counts,” she said.

cheryll@sph.com.sg

HELPDESK 我的字典

Generous:
慷慨 kāng kǎi

Shortfall: 差额 chā é

The Lions Befrienders Service Association (Singapore) is still taking donations. Call 1800-375-8600 or visit www.lionsbefrienders.org.sg. Donations are eligible for double tax deduction.