

Topic: Charity

Pictures given: A donation tin, Children organising a food drive, A car wash

“Sarah, you are going to collect donations outside Hougang MRT station.”

It was during the June holidays. Sarah was helping the near-by old folk’s home to raise funds. She had just been told where to stand for flag day. Sarah thought, “This is going to be easy-peasy!” She collected her tin and put it in her knapsack. As the old folks home was in Upper Serangoon, she had to take a bus to the train station.

When she reached the station, she took out her tin and then placed her bag on the ground. Filled with confidence, she walked towards a man. She tapped the man on the shoulder and he turned around. She wanted to ask the man if he could donate to the old folks home, but instead, the words that came out from her mouth were, “C-c-could... y-y-you... ple-please...”

The man just stared at her and raised an eyebrow. Then he walked away.

“This is harder than I thought!” Sarah muttered to herself.

She went up to another passer-by. The same thing happened to her. She tried again and again, but every time she found herself tongue-tied.

Hours flew by. Before Sarah knew it, it was already three o’clock in the afternoon. She had only two more hours to go and she still did not have a single cent in the tin.

She said to herself, “You have to do this for the sake of the old folk’s home!”

She mustered all her courage as she walked towards a kind-looking man.

“S-s-s-sir, w-w-would you mind d-d-dona-donating some... m-m-money?” she stuttered, trying her best to look confident.

She did not want to make a fool of herself yet again. The man put his hand in his pocket. He found some loose change. He took it out, and put it into the tin. The clinking of coins could be heard. Sarah smiled at the man. She then went towards a lady and did the same thing. The lady too, donated the money.

As minutes went by, the tin got heavier and heavier. She needed to hold it with both hands now.

Two hours went by. Sarah took a taxi back to the old folk’s home. The lady smiled at her and took the tin. She poured out all the coins and notes on a table.

She said, “Go play with the rest while I count. I will tell you the total amount later.”

Sarah went to find her friends and they played “Snap”.

After a while the lady came in and said, "Children, I have good news. Sarah, you've got more than \$200! Alex, you have..." she continued to tell all of them what they had got.

"We have raised a total of \$10,000!" she announced happily.

Everyone started clapping. They were so excited. Sarah went home and told her mother the good news. Her mother praised her. Sarah felt a sense of accomplishment that day. She vowed to take part in as many charity events in the future.

By Ying Xuan, Primary 5