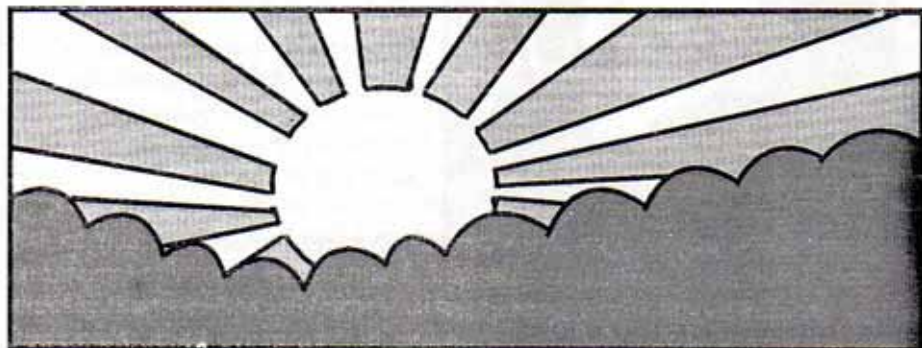

PUSAT

DAYBREAK

CENTRE



Disabled Adults & Youth Being Rewarded, Encouraged & Accepted in Kinta

Aug. - Nov. 1995

For Private Circulation Only

A Gutsy Woman Who Earns An Income Working From The House

Choo Kim Lan, chief smocker and also supervisor at the Daybreak Centre in Gopeng, is truly a gutsy woman whose life has been changed since 1992 when she came to Daybreak Centre in Ipoh for training.

Today, she is earning a living doing smocking pieces from the home. Every Friday and Saturday, she goes to the Daybreak Centre in Gopeng where she teaches other people with disabilities how to smock.

She said that before learning how to smock she had no skill at all and had earned some pocket money from carrying out packing work from the home

"I find life more meaningful now. I have many friends from Church who visit me regularly since I got baptised last Christmas.

"But life in the initial stage of my disability was really miserable. I could not cope with the loss of freedom because, until the day of the unfortunate accident at the age of 16, I was free to go any where I wanted.



Kim Lan

"On that fateful day, I had gone with some friends to gather firewood for use in the house. Being young, I was unaware of the dangers of tree-climbing.

"So I climbed up this tree to try and break some branches. I slipped and fell down. The next thing I knew I was not able to walk anymore."

If Kim Lan had felt the frustrations and the bitterness of being laid up in bed, it was understandable.

Worse, the community she lived in did not have much knowledge on how to help young people like her in her predicament. There was no counselling or support of any kind.

When she related how she was mostly confined to her room most of the time during the early days of her disability because her family did not know of the existence of something called a wheelchair, it really saddened the heart.

But Kim Lan is a gutsy woman. Today, she has broken off the bondages of fear -- fear of being stared at and talked about if she went out of the house.

She could now wheel herself in and around the housing area she lives in. She travels to Penang, Kuala Lumpur and other places for outings.

"For almost 30 years, I could not even bring myself to go out of the house even though later I was given a wheelchair. I was afraid of getting stared at...of what people would say about me being a cripple.

"I finally got the exposure when I was sent to Daybreak Centre in Ipoh for training. The Centre was in the heart of the city and quite often we could wheel ourselves to shops nearby to look at things or just to buy some food.

"I was trained to do smocking and today, armed with this skill, I am able to earn a decent income from my home. I am much happier and relationships with members of my family have also improved."

Kim Lan would like to encourage people with disabilities not to give up easily and not to let their disability stop them from going to places or doing things.



Family Day On May 20

The Daybreak Family Day on May 20 was a reunion of sorts in that trainees who had been placed out for work, staff, volunteers, committee members, trainees and friends were able to come together for a day of fun.

It was truly a "family" gathering as many of the trainees who had been placed out for work for the last six

months were glad to have the opportunity to meet and catch up with old friends.

And that set the mood for the party which kicked off with a spread of sumptuous lunch followed by sing-along, fellowship and games and ended with fond farewells to meet again soon.

Judging from the laughter and hilarity during the games, it was apparent that all those present had enjoyed tremendously the games members of St Peter's Church so carefully planned for the Family Day.

But it was the tie-your-hair-with-rubber bands game, where one partner was required to tie the hair of her companion in bunches, that drew the most laughter.



Having fun..... new hairstyles in the making

Certainly, it was a hair-raising time to see different "beautiful" and also "not-so-beautiful" hair-styles from that 15-minute session.

Of course, the end result had everybody in stitches and it also called for some impromptu

photographing to capture these funny moments.

All too soon it was time to call it a day and, after much goodbyes, every body went home happy and loaded with presents and gifts.



How Can You Help?

Our store has a full range of gifts ranging from hand-towels, aprons, stuffed toys, cushion covers, basket ware, framed pictures, vases, mugs, canisters, soap dishes, towels, smocked dresses, hand-painted t-shirts and shoes for adults and children, hand-crafted cards, quilts, smocked cushions, placemats and wall hangings.

When you buy any item from Daybreak Centre you will be buying with meaning too, because, besides acquiring something that is beautiful and meaningful and of use, you will also be helping us to meet our escalating expenses.

Alternatively, you could send us a donation. Any amount is acceptable because every bit of financial support we receive counts. Cheques should be crossed and made payable to Daybreak Centre.



We're at:-

DAYBREAK CENTRE
64, Jalan Bandar Timah (Leech Street),
30000 Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia.
Tel.: 05-2558951

Our Opening Hours Are:-

9 AM - 5 PM (Mon - Fri)
9 AM - 4 PM (Saturday)