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## September fundraising for the autistic

BY RYANNESH PANICKER



The young and talented autistic choir group performing their beautiful version of We are the World.

SURIA KLCC group which consists of Alamanda, Mesra Mall and Suria KLCC has launched the Sunshine September 2015 programme at Suria KLCC.

The programme is aimed at increasing awareness on autism among Malaysians and to also raise funds for the National Autism Society of Malaysia (Nasom).

Sunshine September is currently in its sixth year after it was started back in 2010.

The programme was launched by Suria KLCC chief executive and managing director Andrew Brien.



Brien (right), Bistamam (second left) and Suria KLCC chief operating officer Francis Tanat the launch of the sixth Sunshine September.

Also present were Nasom chairman Bistamam Siru Abdul Rahman and local celebrities such as Adibah Noor, Daphne Iking and Deborah Henry.

Adibah performed two songs at the event including her hit song *Terlalu Istimewa* which suited the theme of the event.

Guests were also treated to a special performance of *We are the World* by the very first autistic choir group in Malaysia which consisted of young and talented autistic children and teenagers.

Umar Hasfizal, 17, a talented autistic singer also performed his solo rendition of *You Raise Me Up* by Josh Groban and received a standing ovation from the guests.



Brien talking to Iking and Deborah (right)

Their amazing performances proved that people with autism especially kids can live a meaningful life if they have the proper support and guidance.

In his speech, Brien said that over the last six years they have raised more than RM1.4mil to assist Nasom in their educational programmes which include mainstream school programme and early intervention programme.

“With better intervention and support programmes, those affected by autism will have better outcomes in all spheres of life,” he added.

Bistamam thanked Suria KLCC for its continuous effort to create awareness on autism and to help raise funds for Nasom.



Adibah entertaining guests with her hit song 'Terlalu Istimewa'.

“It is necessary to accept people with autism to be part of the community and into our lives,” he said.

Visitors to Suria KLCC, Alamanda and Mesra Mall can participate in fun activities throughout the programme.

They can also contribute to the fund by buying merchandises such as T-shirt, stationery sets and art works by the kids of Nasom from now until Sept 30.

All proceeds from the sales will be channelled to the Sunshine September fund.



Umar Hasfizar singing ' You Raise me Up' which got him a standing ovation.

Retail and business partners from the three malls will also contribute to the fund in a form of cash donation or by donating part of their sales collection from selected products.

For more information on Sunshine September, visit [www.sunshineseptember.com](http://www.sunshineseptember.com) or call Suria KLCC (03-23822828), Alamanda Putrajaya (03-88855468), Mesra Mall Terengganu (09-8649000).

Parents and the public that would like to know more about autism and Nasom may visit [www.nasom.org.my](http://www.nasom.org.my)