

BY DENISSA GOH

EVERY year, Suria KLCC Group – which consists of Suria KLCC Mall, Alamanda Shopping Centre and Mesra Mall – holds the Sunshine September programme to help raise awareness of autism among Malaysians and to raise funds for The National Autism Society of Malaysia (Nasom).

This year, apart from raising awareness, Sunshine September will also showcase various talents in Nasom.

The 2015 programme, the group's sixth, was launched on Sept 3 in Suria KLCC Mall by Suria KLCC's chief executive officer Andrew Brien and chief operating officer Francis Tan as well as Nasom chairman Bistaman Siru Abdul Rahman.

Local celebrities such as Deborah Henry, Daphne Iking, and Adibah Noor were also on hand to lend their support to the cause.

The children of Nasom proved they were not short of talent when the Nasom Maestro, Malaysia's first autistic choir group, showed off its singing and dancing skills with a performance of *We are the World*.

Autistic youth Umar Hasfizal stepped out of his shell to enthral guests with a captivating solo rendition of Josh Groban's *You Raise Me Up*.

The performances served to demonstrate that individuals with autism could have meaningful and fulfilling lives when they were given proper support and early intervention programmes.

Brien said that Sunshine September was initiated for the purpose of helping Malaysian individuals living with autism to seek assistance, and for others to understand autism and accept those living with it.

"Knowing how much Nasom relies on individual and corporate donations, we have raised more than RM1.4 million for Nasom over the last six years with support from our retail partners, visitors and shoppers," he said.



(clockwise, from left) The Nasom Maestro in action; Umar; and Brien telling Daphne (centre) and Deborah about the paintings done by the children.



Let the Sunshine in

> Suria KLCC Group annual campaign not only raises awareness on autism but also funds for The National Autism Society Malaysia

"Proceeds donated to Nasom in the past have been used for its educational programmes which include mainstream school programme, early intervention and early intensive intervention programmes.

"This year, again with everyone's support and help, we hope to raise more awareness and funds for Nasom to assist more people affected by autism."

Brien added that this year, Suria KLCC Group is working together with the Lite FM radio station.

The video of Umar's rendition of *You Raise Me Up* has been uploaded on Life FM's Facebook page until Sept 30 for members of the public to view and 'Like' the video, with Suria KLCC Group promising to donate RM1 for each Like.

Currently the target is 50,000 Likes, for a donation of RM50,000 to Nasom once it is reached. To date, the video has just over 30,000 Likes.



Sunshine September 2015 campaign is being held at all three malls under the Suria KLCC Group throughout this month.

There are exciting game activities and sale of merchandise such as T-shirts, stationery sets, cutlery sets as well as arts and crafts made by the children in Nasom.

Paintings done by the children are also on sale, with all the proceeds going to the organisation.

Retail partners of the three malls are also contributing to the Sunshine September fund either through cash donations or partial sales proceeds from selected merchandise.

Members of the public can also look forward to shows by Nasom Maestro as the choir are scheduled to perform at all three malls.

For more on the Sunshine September programme or the society, visit the Sunshine September and Nasom websites.