

Youths give goods to the elderly

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HE'S only 12, but he refused his mother's offer to buy him items to give to charity.

So Adrian Foo forked out \$11.20 from his weekly allowance of about \$20 to pay for a bag of sugar, packets of Milo, some boxes of biscuits, five packets of instant noodles and two cans of tuna.

The Naval Base Primary School student prefect joined his schoolmates in donating necessities to senior citizens at the Lions Befrienders Service Association (LBSA) last Friday.

The students carried bags of groceries and toiletries to their school canteen during their morning recess.

The food and toiletries drive was the brainchild of a group of teachers at Anderson Junior College (AJC).

To kickstart AJC's 25th anniversary celebrations, the college organised a newspaper collection and food and toiletries drive.

The drive was also to commemorate Total Defence Day on Monday.

The food and toiletries drive involved two primary schools in the same cluster of schools as AJC - Naval Base and Mayflower.

That was how Adrian got to do his part for charity. He said: "I'm very happy that we can help these lonely senior citizens. It's a meaningful cause, especially in difficult times like these."

His school mates brought bags of goodies and necessities like toilet paper and dry food products.

But it wasn't all basic stuff. Spotted among the donated items were cans of abalone and boxes of chicken essence.

The majority of AJC students and teachers were deployed to 270 HDB blocks in the Ang Mo Kio estate to collect old newspapers.



HELPING HANDS: Adrian (in spectacles) brings the goodies he bought for the donation drive.

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Student Tiong On Zhen, 18, said: "The response was very good. Some of the residents even offered to help us carry the piles of newspapers to the lift."

A waste management company picked up the newspapers for free, and will be donating the money from the recycling efforts to the charity.

Back at the school, the amount of donated items from the food and toiletries drive surprised LBSA representative Alwyn Chia.

A spokesman for the voluntary welfare organisation, which runs befriending and outreach programmes for lonely senior citizens, said: "The items collected can easily benefit several hundred senior citizens."

"It's helpful because the prices of these necessities keep rising. We are very grateful."

AJC principal Susan Leong said that she was very happy to see the college's teachers, students and alumni working well together.

Mr Kwan Qi Xiang, 21, a member of the alumni's exec, summed up the day, saying: "It's all about giving back to our immediate community."



HAPPY HAUL: AJC Principal Ms Susan Leong (left) and Mr Alwyn Chia from the Lions Befrienders with the food and toiletries collected during the charity drive.