

A sweet success story

IT WAS an achievement for Suseela Vellasami, 23, a girl from a welfare home, when she completed her diploma in Computer Studies from Sunway University College (SyUC).

Some of her favourite leisure activities on campus was having a game of carrom or "congak" at the Student Services Department and chatting with friends.

Suseela was brought to Rumah Keluarga Kami, a children's home in Kajang, at the age of nine. She sees her father a few times a year and met her mother, who is very ill, for the first time recently.

Her guardians at the welfare home have been the anchors in her life. They have taken full responsibility for Suseela's day-to-day needs and even her future.

They sent her to school with the support of the home.

Suseela was first told about the Tun Dato Seri Omar Ong Community Scholarship offered by SyUC, by one of the guardians at the home.

The scholarship is only open to students in welfare homes and other non-governmental organisation-run institutions.

"I had a choice of many courses but I am glad to pursue the computer science course," said Suseela.

The scholarship provided full tuition fees, book vouchers and accommodation at the Sunway apartment hostel. Suseela has gone on to pursue the Bachelor of Science in Business Information Systems also at SyUC.

The one thing that is evident when Suseela talks about her life, is the love and warmth she received at the home. "Christmas is always a joyful occasion. We are all close and the guardians did a good job in taking care of all of us.

"Although I had a scholarship, the home made sure I had a monthly allowance for food, and other personal expenses while at SyUC," she said.



Suseela (left), seen here with Lee at Sunway University College, plans to help the home once she graduates.

"I have worked hard at SyUC and will miss life here once I graduate. I have friends from the Maldives, Indonesia and Sri Lanka," she said.

All community scholars like Suseela are given special attention by the Student

Services Department (SSD) at SyUC.

A counselling unit within the department looks after the welfare and development of the community scholars by maintaining contact and providing opportunity for personal development.

A programme known as the Group Dynamics Programme is a support programme that deals with issues such as leadership and self-esteem.

"I found it very useful and it helped us throughout our time at SyUC," she added.

When asked what advice she would give to others like her, she said: "One should not feel that one is neglected by others and one should be self-confident and motivated. Remember to look forward and not backwards."

"Suseela has plans to help the home and will stay there until she is financially independent.

"I wish to always stay in touch with the home even when I am no longer staying there.

"I will visit during weekends as I want to help others like me," said Suseela.

SyUC SSD director Lee Siok Ping said: "We certainly wish Suseela a bright future and hope she continues to be an inspiration to others like her.

For further information on the scholarship, contact the SyUC-appointed co-ordinator, Malaysian CARE at (603) 90582102.

For information on other scholarships and courses, call 74918622.

Those who wish to make a donation to the home, may contact Rajoo at the Rumah Keluarga Kami, No139 Taman Bukit, 43000 Kajang, Selangor, or call 03-87367877.

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