Scholars who beat the odds

By JESWANT KAUR

SUNWAY College, through its Community Scholarship, is offering eight scholarships worth RM208,200 to deserving individuals from underprivileged backgrounds. The scholarships will enable those from orphanages and poor communities, aged between 18 and 25 years, the opportunity to further their studies.

College president Elizabeth Lee said the scholarship includes full tuition fees at Sunway and accommodation at Sunway Hostel as well as a special book voucher courtesy of Sunway College Tun Hussein Onn Library's book vendors.

"We believe that everyone deserves a fair chance to study and achieve their full potential and for children who do not have parental support or the means to finance their own higher education, this scholarship will be of help."

Lee added that to assist in the nominations and short-listing of candidates, the college has appointed Malaysian CARE, a non-governmental organisation as the coordinator. The final selection however is determined by the college.

Malaysian CARE executive director Lee Chee Loi hoped the Sunway College scholarship effort would inspire other private colleges and universities to follow suit.

"That way many more students from the poor and marginalised communities will be able to reap the benefits. This programme has a special feature in that the college's student services department has initiated a monthly counselling session for the recipient. A qualified counsellor from Malaysian CARE will help with the students' initial adjustment. "In addition, the sessions will give all parties an opportunity to communicate effectively and this has been helpful especially for the student," said Lee.

Sunway School of Hospitality and Tourism Management student and Community Scholarship holder for 2002, Kelvin Lim said he was glad to have been given an opportunity to further his knowledge and pursue his dream of being a hotelier in France.

The Community Scholarship recipients may choose their field of study from a list of courses offered by the college's School of Information Technology and Multimedia, School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, professional and financial courses.

Applicants will need to have a Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) or Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia (STPM) qualification and also meet the minimum requirement for the course applied.

Applications need to be supported and recommended by a "guardian" or supervisor, who will also monitor the student's progress and offer moral support.

Application for the January 2003 intake is now open. Those interested may apply using their SPM forecast results. For more details on the scholarships, call Jan or Wan Peng of Malaysian CARE at (03) 4256-8715.