



### Visit to Lovely Nursing Centre by Sumathi Subramaniam

Sumathi Subramaniam is currently a committee member of Women Engineers Section.

On 18 December 2016 the Women Engineers Section (WE) organised a visit to Lovely Nursing Centre which is situated at No.7 Jalan SS3/80, 47300 Taman University, Selangor. The main objective of this project is to raise awareness and build the heart of passion towards the senior citizens, abandon's and disabled people among the members. WE members who participated in the visit arrived at the home around 7.30am.

#### About Lovely Nursing Centre

Lovely Nursing Centre was established in July 1999 by Mr Gopinath and his mother, Madam Thanalechumy. Initially, there was only a small group of old folks housed in an existing bungalow, which is rented. Since then, some renovation had been carried out to expand the usable area of the compound-putting up a covered area in the garden and extending the back portion for a wet kitchen. Currently, the centre has 46 residents and most of them had been abandoned and were referred by the Police, Welfare services and hospitals. They are being cared for by the full-time staffs that are supported by a group of volunteers. The Directors who manage the centre are not remunerated in any form.



The centre is entirely dependent on public generosity for its operational expenditures. People from all walks of life have made contributions in cash and in kind and also give time to keep the residents company. As far as possible, various activities are carried out to stimulate the residents and make

each day meaningful. The centre is open to those who need shelter, regardless of race and religion. The spirit of togetherness is fostered through the celebration of all the major Malaysian festivities. Occasionally, the residents have been invited to outside events by various organizations and companies.

### **Getting to Know Them**

Most of members felt a little awkward at first but as one by one approached the elderly, the group loosened up and sat down to chat with them. Some seemed happy with our presence, while the rest continued to rest or preferred to keep to themselves. I wouldn't blame them for such behaviour as they may have lost trust for human kind after being abandoned by people whom they trusted most.

### **Simple Breakfast with Residents**



With contribution and donation by some good hearts of WE manage to arrange a simple breakfast for the staff and residence of lovely nursing centre. The residence lined up to get their foods. The immobile ones helped by the members and staff to get their food. Some said the breakfast were so delicious. Members had had breakfast with the senior citizens. After breakfast, we had some performances to entertain them. We sang some evergreen songs to them and told them some interesting stories. They were so happy and clapped enthusiastically / cheerfully. Goody bags distributed to all residents. They residents received it happily.



### **A place Called Home**



The WE members take a walk around the centre. The living condition was nowhere near comfortable at home but to the residents, they are probably grateful for a roof above their heads. Medical beds were placed closely next to each other in rooms and living hall. The rooms are very neat and clean plus accommodate with fans and television. It shows how well the residents were cared with great hospitality. Each resident provided with one medical bed and one plastic storage container to place their belongings. There were curtains to shield them from the strong sun and some bed with separators for individual privacy.

## Time to Say Goodbye



It was time to leave around 12.30pm, after take few snapshot all said goodbye to the residents they seem so sad that we were going back so soon. Before leaving, we promised them that we will pay them another visit soon. It was a memorable and ecstatic trip/vist. It was my first-time getting really up close and personal with these abandoned elderly but I'm glad to be there to show them that there are still people who care about them.



*As we drove home that afternoon, I couldn't stop pondering, "What has gone so badly or seemed so impossible that their children and relatives resorted to leaving them behind?" I'm still seeking for an answer....*