

FEEL-GOOD MONDAY

STORIES TO CHASE AWAY THE MONDAY BLUES

3,000 origami hearts for charity

VICTORIA BARKER

THEY have constructed Singapore's largest national flag. Better still, they have done it for a good cause.

Made of origami hearts, the 6m by 4m flag was put together by four students from the National University of Singapore (NUS) as part of an effort to raise funds for the Canossaville Children's Home.

The students – all foreigners – are part of Uni-Y, an organisation promoting social entrepreneurship under the NUS School of Business. They are also finalists for Citibank-YMCA Youth For Causes 2008.

Each of the 3,000 hearts – folded by volunteers and the home's children – contains well wishes from members of the public who pledged a minimum donation of \$2.

In keeping with their team's

moniker – Ice-Scream Love – they also sold ice cream to their schoolmates, and to businesses. Ben and Jerry's donated 2,000 mini tubs of ice cream to the cause.

So far, more than \$10,000 has been raised for the home at Sallim Road, which supports children from single-parent or underprivileged families. It houses 13 children, with another 70 in the student-care programme.

Mrs Anne Low, 51, its executive director, said the children are thrilled to be involved.

"Besides being an innovative way of raising funds, they are excited to be a part of this record-breaking event," she said.

Said Ms Wang Ying Ying, 20, a second-year accounting undergraduate: "We chose children as our beneficiaries because they are the future of the nation.

"It is our way of giving back to society and repaying the kindness we have been shown here."

Ice-Scream Love is made up of Ms Wang and Mr Wang Zizi, 22 – both from China – as well as Malaysian Ng Mei Feng, 20, and Indonesian Melinda Leonie Soedjiono, 21.

They will raise money through the sale of ice cream until the end of the month. The flag will be displayed at the HDB Hub in Toa Payoh until Saturday.

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To purchase ice-cream for a good cause, send an e-mail to ying@nus.edu.sg



WITH LOVE: Students (front row, left to right) Wang Ying Ying, Ng Mei Feng and Wang Zizi made a flag out of origami hearts to raise funds for Canossaville Children's Home. (PHOTO: JAMIE KOH)

HELPDESK 我的字典

Origami: 折纸艺术
zhé zhǐ yì shù

Moniker: 绰号 chuò hào