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Charity drive by kids for kids

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FOLLOWING the footsteps of their high-profile mothers in raising money for charity are 20 children aged between three and 12 years old.

The children of Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir, Tengku Puteri Mariam Sultan Ahmad Shah, Anita Sofi, Faridah Stephens and others were tutored by artist Louis Wah to produce paintings for charity.

The fund-raising event, called Abstract Expressions: By Kids for Kids, is intended to raise funds in aid of two schools for children with mental and developmental disabilities: the Centre for the Achievement of Human Potential (CAHP) and the Future Minds Centre (FMC).

Project chairperson Farah Khan, who is executive director of the Melium Group, says: "My son Karim has been working with Louis before the start of the project.

"It happened rather curiously. One day, Louis said to me that a client of the gallery was admiring Karim's work and wanted to purchase it. I thought that it would be interesting to sell the works for charity."

She adds that the benefits to the participating child-artist are obvious.

"It's an opportunity for them to be in professional gallery workshops. It's also a rare opportunity to work with a highly-acclaimed artist."

Farah notes that her main cause is to promote the concept of children helping children.

"Children from well-supported backgrounds could learn at an early age to do something for others, providing their own personal time and effort."

According to her, Wah conducted a series of art workshops for the young artists and is currently in the process of selecting 60 of the best works.

The art exhibition will be held at 4pm on June 27 at Gallerie Taksu, Kuala Lumpur, and the works will be displayed till July 12.

The event is sponsored by American children's wear OshKosh B'Gosh who incidentally has new spokesmodels to represent its clothing range. And they're not toothy boys and girls but the funky all-girl group Elite.

Said to be Malaysia's answer to the Spice Girls, Elite - comprising Azza, Watie, Sasha and Linda - will perform on July 4 at Suria KLCC to celebrate the opening of OshKosh's new store at Parkson KLCC.

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