

PROVIDING CHEER

LIKE other schools, no classes are conducted at any of the School-In-Hospital (SIH) during school holidays.

Therefore, there is a need for a volunteer programme to fill in the gap and make sure there are continued activities for young patients.

That is where the Hati Nurani SIH Volunteer Programme comes in, said Yayasan Nurul Yaqeen (YNY) director Nor Zanah Jamarl. YNY is coordinator of the Hati Nurani SIH project.

The objectives of the volunteer programme is to organise educational activities for patients in the paediatric ward — to continue where the teachers left off. To motivate patients, volunteers are required to understand their emotional, psychological and physical aspects," said Nor Zanah.

She added that it is important that there is routine and consistency in the volunteer programme, especially from the emotional aspects.

Last year, YNY kicked off the volunteer programme with participants from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, the National University of Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (Skudai). Comprising students and lecturers



Nor Zanah Jamarl

mainly from the area of counselling, the volunteers visited paediatric wards in Hospital Kuala Lumpur and Ampang and Serdang Hospitals, and were very well-received.

"Each visit saw a group of 15 volunteers participating. Prior to the visit, YNY and the hospital involved had briefed them on the dos and don'ts. A programme was drawn up. Post-visit, there was reflection on the day's activities and a wrap-up session as to what could be done better the next time."

YNY hopes to create volunteer groups in every public university so



Second-year medical students from USM engaging SIH students at Hospital USM, Kubang Krian in Kelantan.

that they can service the nearest SIH in every state.

"In each university, the faculties involved will screen volunteer candidates to be trained for the programme. There can be no cancellation of programmes or not

having enough people to carry out the activities. Volunteerism needs to be a culture among Malaysians."

Last year there were about 150 volunteers under Hati Nurani SIH Volunteer Programme. Nor Zanah is targeting to increase the number to

500 so that they can be mobilised to cover all SIHs in the country.

"It is important to build a system into the programme. We hope one day we can have a SIH volunteer group in each university, polytechnic and Institute of Teacher Education."