

Kindness Cookies Event 24 December 2021

THE KINDNESS COOKIES STORY

In 1998, a group of teachers from SMK Bandar Sunway and parents of the school students with Learning-Disabilities (LD) volunteered to dedicate their time and resources to help strengthen the school's Special Education Programme (SEP) for special needs students.

However, the dedicated teachers and parents had limited funding to carry out their intended activities to strengthen the student's program but their vision and mission for these special students motivated them to push ahead. Hence the idea for "generating opportunities for the learning disabled" or in short GOLD, came about. This happened in the year 2000 where GOLD began as a network of volunteers working together for a good cause.

GOLD was very driven by their vision and mission from the conception of this programme which is "To promote economic empowerment for the learning disabled" and laid down 3 phases namely; Phase 1: Gold & Kiwanis, Phase 2: Bakery & Café and Phase 3: Economic empowerment.



In 2012, GOLD embarked on a program, to provide the graduating students from the Special Classes, SMK Bandar Sunway a Supported / Rehabilitative Employment known as Economic Empowerment Program (EEP) at the 3C MPSJ. Two full time facilitators were taken in to oversee the activities of the Learning-Disabled Trainees (LDs) that has been accepted into the programme, which runs from Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. Trainees are paid nominal remunerations and contribute to EPF and SOCSO.

The EEP was a precursor to Social Enterprise (SE) and in 2015 GOLD became a full-fledged Non-profit Social Enterprise, providing supported employment.

These youth with learning disabilities are taught how to bake the cookies and feel empowered through the expression of their customers who shows joy in the delicious cookies that they purchase and through the support that is earned from their own hard work in baking and packing the cookies for their customers. By allowing the members of the public to reach out to express their kindness to these special youth allows GOLD to sustain the training and economic empowerment of their youth with learning disabilities.



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