

## NEWS CLIPPING

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### A positive influence

**EMBARKING** on its latest CSR initiative, 7-Eleven Malaysia collaborated with NGOHub Asia to bring "positive" energy to Positive Living Community (PLC) in Batu Arang, Selangor.

Founded in 1997, PLC is home primarily to "society's castaways" or those who have become homeless due to contracting AIDS and are HIV positive. PLC also provides shelter and support to homeless patients recently discharged from hospitals with no where to stay, as well as individuals who are working towards overcoming their drug or alcohol addictions.

"We were the first to establish a shelter home for people with AIDS. Back then, most welfare homes were unwilling to accept them (AIDS sufferers) as they were afraid of touching them," said PLC founder Alex Arokiam.

"It is difficult to get treatment for AIDS and HIV. However, free treatment is provided if patients have a place of residence, as they require support to help them adhere to the treatment regimen. In some cases, families will refer the patient to us due to their inability to provide support, due to their living and lifestyle conditions," Alex added.

The visit to PLC began with a clean-up session, where 7-Eleven and NGOHub Asia were seen clearing out old, expired supplies and other miscellaneous items from the community's storage room. Other volunteers were seen outdoors weeding and tending to the soil in preparation for vegetable farming.

Once cleaning and clearing works were completed, volunteers spent time with the residents. Goodie bags containing provisions of sorts were handed out before the volunteers made their way out.

7-Eleven Malaysia general manager of marketing Ronan Lee, shared his delight in being part of his team, in serving the community.

"Spending quality time with the residents would have made them feel appreciated; knowing that they have not been forgotten by society and that there are people who are still looking out for them.

"At 7-Eleven Malaysia, we always believe in giving back to society and uplifting the lives of those who need us.

"Knowing the positive impact we make encourages us to continue our endeavour of being 'Always There For You'," shared Lee.

