



Ms Isabel Phua, 20, was the first female to get her head shaved for Hair for Hope. PHOTO BY SYAFIQAH HAMID

Shaving for a good cause

SINGAPORE — His hair had just grown back after 15 months of chemotherapy, but 14-year-old cancer survivor Jarenn insisted on having his hair shaved off for Hair for Hope (HfH), the annual affair which raises funds and offers moral support for children with cancer and their families.

"I'm here today because I want to show love and encourage my friends who are battling with cancer," said Jarenn, who was diagnosed with leukaemia at 12, and returned to school in March after 22 months of treatment.

The initiative, organised by the Children's Cancer Foundation (CCF), hopes to see 3,000 volunteers coming forward between now and August, and raise S\$1.8 million through

donation pledge cards to individuals who shed their locks.

Since it started in 1996, it has helped more than 1,980 families.

CCF chairperson Dr Tay Miah Hiang said: "Generally, medical treatment cost is rising due to more expensive research and cost of medication. A bone marrow transplant (for leukaemia treatment) can be as costly as S\$150,000 per patient. This excludes the cost of the long-term follow-up and medication to prevent rejection."

Apart from providing financial aid, CCF also helps children with cancer reintegrate back into school by preparing their teachers and school-mates.

HfH's main events will be held at VivoCity on July 23 and July 24. LEONG WAI KIT

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