



**SANDY CHEW HWEI CHENG, 49,**  
sales representative

Participation: First time

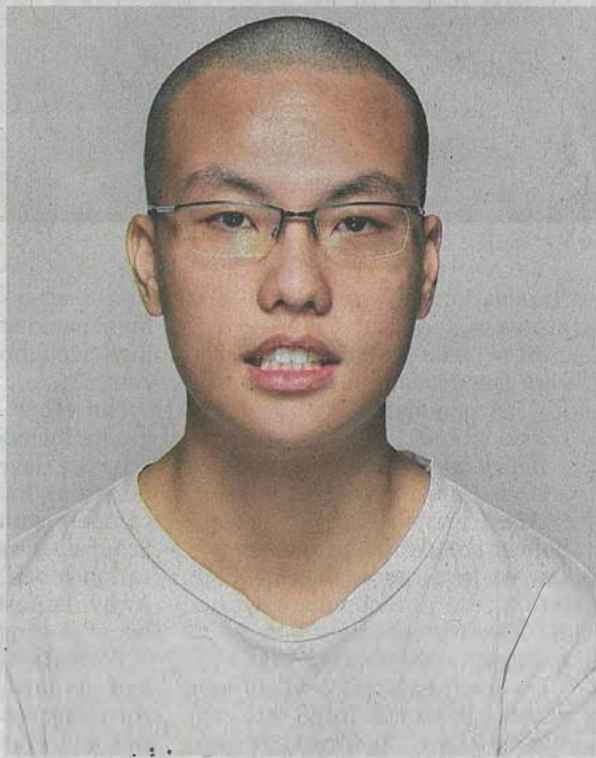
Why are you doing this? Last year, my mum died suddenly; it was really painful. In March, I came across Hair for Hope on Facebook. I am taking part to tell everyone that we may lose loved ones at any time. Please support children with cancer. They are suffering more than us.



**TAN YI JUN, 21, student**

Participation: Eighth time

Why are you doing this? I had stage 4 germ cell tumour when I was 12. After six cycles of chemotherapy, I was cured. What motivates me is being happy and staying strong. I want to let children with cancer know that we are all in this together and they are not alone, and that there is someone out there who has survived the ordeal.



# NO HAIR, GOT HOPE



**Ong Wee Jin**  
Executive photojournalist

No matter how much hair is lost at this event, there is never any shortage of hope. More than 1,000 people in Singapore have shaved their heads this year for Hair for Hope, an annual event to raise funds in support of children with cancer and their families.

Organised by the Children's Cancer Foundation, the event, which is now in its 15th year, aims to encourage at least 6,500 people to shave their heads and raise \$3.6 million.

Those who want to make a pledge

to shave their heads can do so on Hair for Hope's website. Others can also support the efforts by making a donation. The funds raised are used for programmes and services for children with cancer and their caregivers. The donations benefited about 2,000 beneficiaries last year.

Last year, 138 children received new diagnoses of cancer. About half were below five years old. The most common cancer is leukaemia. Some cancer treatments lead to hair loss, so going bald is a show of solidarity with the children.

Portraits of the Hair for Hope participants were taken at Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery on April 30 and at Edgefield Primary School on May 17. The main event, which is open to the public, is on July 29 and 30 at VivoCity.

Donations can be made at [www.hairforhope.org.sg/](http://www.hairforhope.org.sg/)

[weejin@sph.com.sg](mailto:weejin@sph.com.sg)





**AMY LOW WAI MENG**, 53, optician  
Participation: Fifth time  
Why are you doing this? Every year, I raise more than \$8,000. Sometimes customers compliment me on my hair. Now, I will tell them why I am doing this and ask if they would want to donate to children with cancer and their families.



**LIM MEI XIA**, 34, childcare teacher  
Participation: Fifth time  
Why are you doing this? I had lung cancer when I was 17 and underwent chemotherapy. I know the suffering, pain and worry. I want to give moral support to children with cancer, to tell them to stay strong and look forward to a healthy body and happy life. If I can do it, you can do it too!



Bald is beautiful  
More stories at [straitstimes.com](http://straitstimes.com)



**VIDEO:** Victor Kuik, 48, tells why he took part in Hair for Hope  
[str.sg/hairhope](http://str.sg/hairhope)

**MICROSITE:** See the transformations at [str.sg/bravesouls](http://str.sg/bravesouls)

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**LERH HWEE LERN**, 36, full-time student  
Participation: Third time for Mrs Lerh, sixth time for Mr Lerh.  
Why are you doing this?  
Rina: I was inspired by my husband's participation. I'd like to help create awareness and cheer patients on.  
Hwee Lern: To create awareness and support those fighting cancer.



(from top left clockwise, ending in centre)  
**FOO TIANG WENG**, teacher, 50, first time  
**ONG WAI LIT**, teacher, 41, first time  
**KOH LEE LEE**, clerk, 47, first time  
**CHIA CHEE GUAN**, school attendant, 45, first time  
**MICHELLE CHIA**, allied educator, 34, second time  
**KOH HWEE KOON**, teacher assistant, 52, fourth time  
**SOON MIN WAH**, teacher, 36, second time  
**ALEEZA DWI ARTHA**, teacher, 32, first time  
All, except for Mr Ong, are staff at Mee Toh School.

Why are you doing this?

Michelle: I feel blessed that I have hair. By donating my hair, I want to give hope to children who need the additional boost in their confidence.







**ATHINA TANG**, eight, pupil at Edgefield Primary School  
Participation: First time  
Why are you doing this? I want to support people who have cancer.



**MUID RUSYAIMI SUKAIMI**, seven  
Participation: First time  
Why are you doing this? I want to support people with cancer who really need the support.



**XAVIEN HOON**, six  
Participation: First time  
Why are you doing this? I want to show I care about cancer patients.



(from left)  
**HIMANSHA CHALITH**, eight,  
**CAELYN CHAN**, seven  
**KAN ZHE RUI**, seven  
Participation: Second time for Himansha, first time for Caelyn, second time for Zhe Rui  
Why are you doing this?  
Himansha: To support people who have cancer.  
Caelyn and Zhe Rui: To tell cancer patients that it is okay to be bald.





**TAN SHER LI, 38,**  
talent development facilitator  
**MAYA KO, eight**  
Participation: First time for Maya  
Why are you doing this?  
Maya: I want to help people with cancer and show my friends that being bald is nothing to be afraid of.



**DING KONG CHONG, 45,** scanner  
**DING MENG JIE, nine**  
Participation: First time for Mr Ding,  
third time for Meng Jie  
Why are you doing this?  
Meng Jie: To let people with cancer know that they are not alone.



**JAVIER LIM JUN HUI, 10**  
Participation: Fourth time  
Why are you doing this? I had brain tumours when I was six years old and I am still strong. I want to show kids with cancer that they can be whatever they want to be. Be strong and keep fighting on. You can be like other kids even if you have cancer.



**PUA YEE TYNG, 38,** teacher  
Participation: Second time  
Why are you doing this?  
I want to support children with cancer and to help raise funds for them.





**JOSHUA FAURE**, seven  
 Participation: First time  
 Why are you doing this? I wanted to participate last year but I wasn't able to. My grandfather died of cancer so I know it's a serious disease. And especially because this event is about children, I want to support them.



**NORMAN TAN**, 36, civil servant  
 Participation: Fifth time  
 Why are you doing this? My dad Henry died from colon cancer in 2003 and I saw how much he suffered. I would like to say to kids with cancer: Do not give up, you are not alone, we are bald too. Hang in there.