

Malaysia report 2017

Yayasan Chow Kit is a foundation that works with wide variety of children who live in the inner city of Kuala Lumpur. They provide education to stateless and undocumented children and shelter to children who need a safe place. We trained a team of 12 volunteers for this project who worked with 10 children. They children were invited to join the program by the social worker at the centre, as they were high risk. The social worker was doubtful if they would even show up for the sessions each week. To her surprise throughout the 12-week project we had almost 100% attendance. One child told us the sandbox was like magic because it could do anything he wanted. At the end of the project the parents and caregivers reported positive changes they had seen in the children, from being more creative to improved relationships in the family.

HumanAid is a non-profit organization that provides education and care to Rohingya refugees. The school is a safe space for the children to receive some basic education. We trained a team of 6 new volunteers; 2 senior volunteers from the 2016 team led this project. The team of 8 provides sandwork to 7 children at the center. The children were identified because of behavioral problems by the school principal. They are acting out or are very depressed. In the past when working with refugee group we had difficulty getting the parents to come and to get the children to commit to regular attendance. To date we have had 100% attendance. The parents have been very cooperative and committed to bringing their children and the children look forward to the sessions each week.