

**A WORTHY CAUSE**

# Cupcakes with a heart

What started as a birthday party turned into a meaningful project to help raise funds

**SINGAPORE** – Most people mark their child's first birthday with a party. But Ms Jacqueline Chong and Mr Low Chee Sang decided to have a birthday celebration with a difference for their daughter Antoinette.

Ms Chong said: "We had a fun karaoke party for our elder daughter Mirabelle's first birthday. This time, we wanted to do something different and make a difference. We are blessed to have what we need. We decided to make Antoinette's birthday party a meaningful one by spreading the important values of sharing and giving."

The couple had seen the OCBC-TODAY Children's Fund advertisements in TODAY and wanted to contribute to the fund, which helps children from distressed families rebuild their lives through counselling, mentoring and therapy.

Ms Chong said: "It ties in perfectly with what we wanted to do. Through the celebration, we could also help create awareness about the OCBC-TODAY Children's Fund and encourage others to help the children."

They roped in family and friends to help with the celebrations and fund-raising. Former MediaCorp artiste Colin Chee hosted the event, while Ms Chong's brother Rick, who runs Big Fun Kitchen, organised and sponsored all the cupcake materials. The chefs at Big Fun Kitchen also baked the cupcakes for the party.

The event was held at their friends Cat and Alan's Mexican restaurant Muchos at Clark Quay. Antoinette had a Disney-themed party with many fun activities, but the highlight was the cupcake-decorating workshop. Guests pledged donations for the children's decorated cupcakes and the plan was to hold a bidding for the five



From left: Mirabelle and Antoinette Low having fun decorating cupcakes . PHOTOS: KOH MUI FONG

prettiest cupcakes.

"The children decorated such lovely cupcakes that we could not pick just five so Antoinette bid for them all. We used half of the hongbao money she received for her birthday to donate to the fund. We matched every dollar of the hongbao money she donated as well as the amount that was pledged from family and friends," said Ms Chong.

At the end of the party, the couple raised S\$3,988 for the OCBC-TODAY Children's Fund. With OCBC pledging S\$1 for every S\$2 contributed, the total amount raised is S\$5,982.



Read more about the OCBC-TODAY Children's Fund at [www.ocbctodayfund.sg](http://www.ocbctodayfund.sg).  
**PRODUCED BY THE TODAY SPECIAL PROJECTS TEAM**



## 9-year-old Sarah has suffered for years

\*posed picture

The OCBC-TODAY Children's Fund focuses on the emotional needs of children from distressed homes. Donations go towards Singapore Children's Society and its beneficiaries. It supports the cost of counselling and therapy to build up the children's self-esteem and empower them to strive towards a better future.

## DONATE TODAY

Sarah was physically abused by her father. Now fearful of anyone who approaches her, Sarah shies away from people and has trouble interacting with her teachers and classmates. Vital therapy sessions to help build her confidence and improve her social and communication skills cost up to S\$38,000 for a five-year programme. You can help Sarah and the 1,300 children from distressed families assisted by the Singapore Children's Society.

Visit [www.ocbctodayfund.sg](http://www.ocbctodayfund.sg) to read more true stories about the children we help and make a donation, or call **62732010**. Donations start from as little as S\$25. OCBC Bank will contribute S\$1 for every S\$2 raised.

\*Sarah's name has been changed to protect her identity

**You can make a difference. Help these children rebuild their lives.**