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Creating awareness on colon cancer



Helping the community: Dr Ng (right) congratulating cancer survivor Tan.

THE Cancer Advocacy Society of Malaysia (Empowered), a non-profit organisation established in 2009, continues its outreach programme by working closely with low-income communities to bring structured educational programmes directly to their doorstep.

Today, low-income communities in Taman Setapak Indah Jaya and Teratai Mewah Apartments will have access to information and support on cancer.

The target residents include those in the high-risk group, aged 50 and above.

“We recognise that the low-income communities’ focus is on pressing survival needs and often health and wellness are given the least priority,” said society president and consultant medical oncologist, Dr Christina Ng.

“Through our previous colorectal cancer screening campaigns held in the Klang Valley in the last three years, we have identified the many myths and accompanying fears the residents living in such communities have about cancer and its treatments,” Dr Ng added.

Empowered responded to the health needs of these communities through its tailored workshop by bringing the latest scientific information about colorectal cancer and its curability when detected earlier, and by equipping them with the necessary support needed to make important lifestyle changes.

The society’s next colorectal cancer screening campaign will take place in March next year.

Empowered offers a one-on-one counselling and support for residents found to have blood in their stool and

suffering from cancer.

Tan Chu Tea, a 53-year-old colorectal cancer survivor and beneficiary of Empowered's screening campaign in Selayang in November last year said, "I am very thankful to Empowered for holding this programme.

"I have not come across a charitable organisation that is dedicated to helping the poor by providing colon cancer screening and making the necessary arrangements for colonoscopy and further treatment."

Dr Ng said they would work closely with the heads of the target communities to ensure that their local and cultural needs were respected.

"We hope that through this initiative, we will see a very positive uptake by the residents in our next fully-sponsored colon cancer-screening programme in early 2013," she said.

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