

Graduates pay it forward



Zaidatul at her convocation ceremony before the MCO. With her are her mother Faridah Othman and Liew.

TANG Kok Meng and his wife, both of whom are deaf and mute, will settle for nothing less than the best for their children.

With their determination, foresight and a little help from a charitable organisation, they saw their son Tang Zi Sheng complete his engineering degree at a local university.

Their daughter had graduated earlier, also with a degree in engineering.

Zi Sheng, who is now waiting to receive his scroll in mechatronic engineering from Tunku Abdul Rahman University College, said life was hard for his parents as they could not get any permanent job because of their disability.

He attributes his education success to two factors – his parents' unwavering support and encouragement, and a benefactor that has been giving him financial and moral support from his days in primary school all the way through university.

"I am eternally grateful to Eco World Foundation for believing in me and giving me so much support and encouragement all these years," he said.



Eco World Foundation had financed, supported, encouraged and followed Zi Sheng's progress right from primary school all the way to university. And they have not stopped caring for his welfare.

Zi Sheng recalled that, as he progressed in school, he could not afford extra tuition, uniforms, school bags and other essentials had it not been for the foundation, which staff he described as "exceptional" in terms of their commitment and abiding concern.

He does not know when he will receive his scroll because the convocation date will only be fixed when Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed.

Meanwhile, he has already found a job as an electrical engineer.

His connection to Eco World Foundation did not end after attaining his degree.



Zi Sheng (right) speaking to other recipients of Students Aid Programme during Eco World Foundation's session on careers.

Zi Sheng is a regular motivational speaker at meetings that the foundation organises for their other sponsored children throughout the length and breadth of the country.

"Just as how the foundation has helped me, I too want to give back to society which is one of my major aims in life," he added.

Another recipient of aid from Eco World Foundation is Zaidatul Nur Hidayah from Pekan, Pahang, who graduated recently from Universiti Tun Hussein Onn in Batu Pahat, Johor.

Her mother is a single parent from the B40 group who cannot, on her own, afford to send her four children for higher education.

Here again, Eco World Foundation stepped in to offer help through its Students Aid



Programme (SAP).

Zaidatul, who works as assistant chief cashier at a leading retail store, attributes her positive outlook and determination to her mother, who advises her to accept all challenges in life with an open heart and to deal with them with wisdom and patience.

“Although I am not from an affluent family, I managed to graduate with a university degree thanks to Eco World Foundation, ” she said.

Her two biggest challenges were money management and time management, in both of which she is grateful to the staff of Eco World Foundation, especially its chief executive officer Datuk Liew Siong Sing and his staff.

“Their holistic approach to helping people like me is admirable.

“Not only do they offer financial help, they are also interested in my welfare, my motivation and counselling me and my parents.

“Even after I graduated, the foundation still contacted me to ask how I had been doing, “ she added.

That has motivated Zaidatul to want to give back to society.

She has been a volunteer in biodiversity conservation activities.

Currently, she is planning to join her local community services club which focuses on meeting the needs of the less fortunate.

