



For Red Cross Youth members Charmaine Seah, 11, and Tang Chun Tuck, 59, its longest-serving member, being with the group has provided valuable learning experiences. ST PHOTO: NURIA LING

Red Cross Youth celebrates 60 years of ‘steadfast service’

By **LESLIE KAY LIM**

FOR 47 years, Mr Tang Chun Tuck has donned the crisp white uniform of the Red Cross Youth (RCY) division.

Rising from lowly cadet to senior adviser, the 59-year-old retired civil servant is its longest-serving member.

The wiry, energetic father of two joined the ranks of RCY when he was a secondary school student at Gan Eng Seng School.

His father said that it would be good to have a first-aider in the family, and his mother supported the Red Cross voluntary service.

“It gave me new perspectives,” said Mr Tang, who recalled experiences working with Vietnamese refugees in Singapore in the 1970s and providing first aid at the scene of the Hotel New World collapse in 1986.

He joined more than 450 other past and present RCY members at

a dinner last night celebrating the group’s 60th anniversary.

Established in 1952 as the Junior Red Cross, the RCY now has more than 5,000 members. They comprise members of uniformed groups at primary and secondary school levels, student volunteers at post-secondary levels and volunteers.

The night’s guest of honour, Ms Sim Ann, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Communications and Information as well as Education, described the RCY and its activities as “powerful learning opportunities for our students”.

For current member Charmaine Seah, 11, the RCY is where she learnt first aid and bonded with seniors at an elderly home.

“I used to scream for my mum when my brother got hurt while playing,” said the Primary 6 pupil at Holy Innocents’ Primary School.

“Now I can wash the wound,

“

CONSTANT THROUGH THE YEARS

Many things have changed in 60 years, but the one thing that has remained constant through all this time is that we are still serving humanity.

– Red Cross Youth director Ling Khoon Chow

”

apply antiseptic and bandage the cut.”

There are multiple badges for first aid, service and fund-raising pinned proudly on her uniform.

At the dinner, RCY director Ling Khoon Chow noted that even as times changed, its mission remained steadfast.

“Many things have changed in 60 years, but the one thing that has remained constant through all this time is that we are still serving humanity.”

✉ llim@sph.com.sg