



## **Tesco amplifies collaboration with NGOs to feed the need**

**KUALA LUMPUR, 07 APRIL 2020:** In ensuring that the most vulnerable among us are not left behind during the government-mandated Movement Control Order (MCO), Tesco Stores (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd has been busy collaborating with multiple non-government organizations (NGOs) to reach further to those in need.

Tesco, which has since 2016 worked with soup kitchens, namely Food Aid Foundation (FAF) and Kechara Soup Kitchen in donating its surplus food to the underprivileged, is now amplifying that undertaking with the help of two more NGOs namely Kembara Kitchen and RumahKita. These two new collaborations were conceived organically due to the need that came on the back of the implementation of the MCO.

“At Tesco, we are always looking at ways to contribute positively to the communities that we are in. This could not be truer now, especially during the MCO where livelihoods may have been impacted,” said Tesco Corporate Services Director, Azliza Azmel.

“We are conscious of this and have been working together with our food bank partners to ensure a continuous supply of food, including fruits, vegetables and bakery for the most vulnerable in the communities where we operate. As a retailer, we can provide the food products, but it is our NGO partners that go on that final mile to ensure those who need it the most receive the help,” added Azliza.

While some were able to stockpile during the MCO, there are many out there who cannot. Cognizant of this, Tesco in collaboration with FAF have since the beginning of the MCO, provided food essentials such as rice, cooking oil and canned foods to many charity homes across the country.

“Coupled with their already existing financial hardships, those who have been dependant on daily pay or are temporarily out of work are struggling even more. It is times like this that food banks operations see a huge surge of demand,” said FAF Operations Director, Afraz Said.

“As a non-profit organisation, we need a variety of support to meet this increase in demand for food supply among our underprivileged communities. Partnerships such as the one we have with Tesco have proven to be a boon in times of crisis like this and we are hopeful that other corporates can also join Tesco’s initiatives,” she said.

The charity homes which are receiving help and donations from Tesco and FAF are Rumah Anak Yatim Shifa, Rumah Anak Yatim At-Taqwa, Elshaddai Refugee Learning Center, Persatuan Rumah Kebajikan Rita, Rumah Amal Limpahan Kasih, Rumah Perlindungan Sosial NCWO-YWCA,

Pusat Jagaan Kanak-Kanak Ekliptik Klang, Persatuan Kebajikan Rumah Victory Malaysia, Pusat Jagaan Ebenezer Home, Persatuan Kebajikan Rumah Grace Klang and many more.

As a thank you to the many frontliners that are ensuring the safety and health of the nation, Tesco has and is still is providing equipment and food items to many hospitals across the country. Its store colleagues meanwhile, have been organizing cooked food distribution for the police and military so they won't go hungry while serving the nation.

"It has also come to our attention that not just humans but animals are also left vulnerable during the MCO and needed help. Because of that, we have now started a food surplus donation programme to Zoo Negara, in collaboration with Kembara Kitchen where we donate our surplus meats, chicken and seafood twice a week to ensure the animals will not go hungry and at the same time prevent the food from going to waste," said Azliza.

Kembara Kitchen founder, William Cheah said that NGOs are in dire need of support from corporates who will go that extra mile in helping the underprivileged, especially during times of crisis.

"The partnership between corporations such as Tesco and NGOs creates a synergy that enables us collectively to address critical gaps that are otherwise left exposed. Tesco, being a major retailer can provide critical resources such as food products which are then distributed to those in need by the NGOs. Each can only do so much on their own, but together we can reach out to more," said Cheah.

"Tesco's food surplus to Zoo Negara is certainly welcomed as during times of crisis, it is easy to overlook the animals while prioritizing people. We are pleased to collaborate with Tesco in supporting Zoo Negara as this project will not just ensure that the animals are taken care of during these uncertain times, but also help Tesco manage its food wastages."

**ENDS**

#### **About Tesco Stores (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd**

Tesco Malaysia was established in May 2002 through its first store in Puchong, Selangor. Today, it employs over 7,000 employees across 60 stores and two distribution centres throughout Peninsular Malaysia. In 2013, Tesco paved the way in online grocery shopping through the launch of Tesco Online which started in Klang Valley before expanding to Penang, Johor Bahru, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan and Ipoh.