

RUNNING FOR BONE MARROW DONOR PROGRAMME AGAIN

Gerrard Lin will finish two treadmill marathons to raise awareness for charity

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SINGAPORE – He drew stares at last year’s Standard Chartered Marathon when he ran the full 42.195km distance while dragging a 17-inch, 14kg car tyre on a rope that was tied around his waist.

Martial arts instructor Gerrard Lin — who calls himself Ah Siao (which means crazy in Hokkien) — did it to raise awareness for the Bone Marrow Donor Programme (BMDP), a charity he supports.

Yesterday, after a 10-month hiatus, Lin, 30, appeared outside Chevron House at Raffles Place at noon to participate in another distance running feat for the BMDP - running a marathon a day on a treadmill for two days.



Lin (in vest) running on a treadmill with the Young Lions at Chevron House yesterday. PHOTO: DON WONG

As he ran, BMDP staff and volunteers invited curious onlookers to sign up as bone marrow donors, donate to the charity, or run with Lin on two other treadmills adjacent to his to reduce Lin’s distance. Every kilometre they clocked would mean one less for him to run.

Before the run, Lin told TODAY

● Find out more about the Bone Marrow Donor Programme at bmdp.org

that he started supporting the BMDP last year. The non-profit organisation builds and manages Singapore’s only register of volunteer donors who are willing to donate their bone marrow to patients with leukaemia and other blood diseases who need a transplant to survive.

“Everyone has someone in his or her life with illnesses that may require a bone marrow match,” said Lin. “Yet, the chances of finding a perfect match outside one’s family is one in 20,000. I decided to help reduce the odds by getting more people to sign up for the BMDP’s register.”

The BMDP currently has 4,500 donors, just over half of its 7,000 target.

Lin said he chose to run at Raffles Place to catch the lunchtime crowd and reach out to more people. “The human traffic here is high. I also know that while office workers are usually busy and pressured for time, some people would be willing to take some time out from their lunch break and join me in running for a good cause.”

He was right — seven people came forward to run a total of 11km on the treadmills.

Members from the Singapore Management University running team and the Citibank corporate team, and two players from the Courts Young Lions S-League squad, also volunteered to run, and clocked 12km, 8km, and 3km respectively.

That meant a total volunteered distance of 34km. Lin ran 13km himself, which brought the final distance covered to 47km.

Meanwhile, 60 people signed up as donors.

Lin will run his second marathon at noon again today at the same venue.

“People who read or heard about us today might just come tomorrow,” he said.