



Muhammad Farid Fakhruddin (second from right) visiting a patient at Universiti Sains Malaysia Hospital in Kubang Kerian, Kelantan, yesterday. PIC BY NIK ABDULLAH NIK OMAR

NEW STRAITS TIMES ms 32 01/08/2019

HELPING HAND

# AUTISTIC BAKER CHEERS UP KIDS AT HOSPITAL

Bakery owner  
distributes bread  
and muffins  
to children at hospital

SYAHERAH MUSTAFA  
KOTA BARU  
news@nst.com.my

**B**EING diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder has never stopped Muhammad Farid Fakhruddin, 21, from living his life to the fullest and spreading cheer to underprivileged children.

The owner of the Farids Trading bakery visited Universiti Sains Malaysia Hospital in Kubang Krian yesterday to distribute bread and muffins to children at 6 Utara ward.

Farid, who holds a Culinary Skills certificate from Selayang Community College, said he received assistance from the community and the hospital in preparing the treat.

"I've always wanted to do charity work and get close to children diagnosed with illnesses, like leukaemia and cancer. Nat-

urally, I was excited when the opportunity came.

"I am sad to look at the patients' condition. When I was at the hospital, I realised that my condition is nothing compared with the pain that these little children have to endure every day.

"I hope the bread and muffins that I distributed would bring cheer to them.

"I want to prove to people that those with disabilities can help the community.

"I baked the bread and muffins with the help of my mother, Roselina Mohamad Mahidin, 54," said Farid, who speaks fluent English.

He expressed hope that the public would be more aware that those who had autism needed support and encouragement.

Present to help with the food distribution were USM Food Science Studies centre's OKU Transformation Unit coordinator Dr Mohd Zulkifli Abdul Rahim and Farid's friends,

Muhammad Hazwan Zulkiflie, 27, and Nurizzati Nabilah Mohamad, 20, who are both disabled.

Zulkiflie said the efforts of Farid and his friends were laudable and showed that they could achieve anything if they put their hearts and minds to it.

