

Kenvale students give themselves and *have* fun!

This year, Kenvale College of Tourism and Hospitality Management offered its students a great way to use their event management and hospitality skills to serve the community. We work together with **Windgap**, an organisation providing services for people with an intellectual disability and their family.

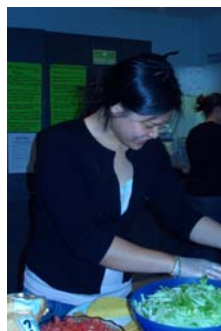
So many students volunteered to help that we divided up into two groups with six students in each, to organise two separate events at different venues.



The first dinner party went with a Mexican theme. We had a few planning meetings with the residents at the home where the dinner party would be held. We discussed with them the plans, and they gave their input as to what they would like on the menu, who

they would like to invite, etc. We made the invitations together with them.

The students enjoyed the opportunity to organise an event. They planned everything from decorations, to music, to the menu. They shopped around to find the best deal on sombreros, liaised with the Mexican consulate and travel agencies to find pictures, etc. for decoration, and held a fundraising BBQ to contribute to the cost of the dinner (Windgap also had a budget for the dinner). We also had fun with our own "mocktail tasting session", to choose the best non-alcoholic cocktails to serve on the evening.



Planning the menu required a bit of creative thinking to accommodate some complicated dietary requirements. One option we offered was tacos - so people were able to choose the fillings that met their needs, and we made sure we had fillings to suit everyone.



And then came the day of the event. I met with students to shop for the ingredients, and was impressed with the budgeting skills and shopping prowess of some of the students!

We then headed around to the house and got cooking! Some students set up for the party, and put up decorations - including a very artistic cactus centre piece for the table.

The residents and their guests seemed to really enjoy the evening - each in their own way. One of the residents has a passion for working in the kitchen - especially for cleaning up! So, much to our disappointment (!), she would not let us near the sink after the meal. She also helped us prepare the meal.

One resident was very shy, and always disappeared when we visited for the preparations leading up to the dinner party. On the day of the party, one of the students asked for help setting the table. He volunteered, and proceeded to help her. A worker from Windgap was thrilled, and told me that this was a big breakthrough for him - in the first place to volunteer to help, but secondly, to do so in front of a group of people.



All in all, it was a rewarding experience for everyone, and we were really impressed with the students. They showed a great deal of enthusiasm, creativity and commitment every step of the way. They did a brilliant job, and were a lot of fun to work with.