**McMum**

**GOOD CAUSE:**
Diana Ser with some of the items donated by celebs for the children's charity carnival.

EDTA personality Diana Ser isn’t just mum to her two children. She feels protective over other kids as well. The occasional TV host and boss of a communications company told The New Paper: "I remember reading what some other celebrity had said and I thought it was very wise.

"He said that when you have children, you become parents to other children by some kind of extension, because you want to look out for their interests too.” Ser joined the board of the Ronald McDonald Children’s Charity (RMCC) last year.

The charity, which is independent of the fast-food chain, provides support to sick children whose families cannot afford their medical treatment and who do not meet the MediFund criteria. Ser, 36, added: "The RMCC is close to my heart because I have two young children (Jake, four, and Christy, two).

"To be in a position where you urgently need medical treatment and your family isn’t able to afford it—it’s a situation no child should be in." RMCC is holding its first fund-raising charity carnival on Sunday from 1am at Campus Green in the Singapore Management University (SMU). A community service project by a group of SMU student leaders, the carnival will feature a flea market selling new and second-hand clothes, shoes, toys, books and DVDs donated by celebrity mums.

Ser rallied friends like Wong Li-lin, May Phua, Evelyn Tan, Beatrice Chia-Richmond and Lina Ng to donate to the cause. Actor Adrian Pang has also volunteered to be dunked at the carnival.

Ser recalled: "When I talked to the celeb mums to get items from them, all I had to do was mention two things.

“One, sick children and they would go ‘Oohh’. Two, sick children from needy families, and they said ‘What do you need and when do you need it’? It wasn’t hard to talk to the mums because they all have young children... We are all lucky that we don’t have to deal with anything worse (than a common cough).”

**Born premature**

Ser recounted a case of a child that RMCC helped a few years ago. The girl, now five, was born premature and could digest only a special type of milk powder. She had to be tube-fed as well.

Her single mother, who also has two other children, received $4,000 from RMCC to fund her diet and other consumables.

Ser, who’s married to former actor James Lye, was able to empathise.

Her daughter Christy was also born premature, and both mother and child had a close brush with death.

"My first pregnancy was easy and I worked right to the last day. I thought the second one would be easy as well, so I worked myself silly. Then I woke up one night in a pool of blood," she said.

Ser was only 23 weeks pregnant then, but her water bag had burst.

She was bleeding because she had placenta previa, a dangerous condition where her placenta was attached to the uterine wall close to the cervix. As the amniotic fluid replenished itself, she did not have to deliver the baby immediately.

But she was put on bed rest for the next three months to prevent any further accidents.

Ser continued: "I was living a day at a time because every day that I managed to get through without her coming out was a victory for both of us.

But she admitted the difficult period made her depressed.

"At one point, I asked myself if I would give my life for her, if only one of us could live. I was severely anaemic and there was a danger to my life because of loss of blood.

"Clearly, she would have to live, not me. But at the same time, I thought, what good would my two children be without their mother? I had plenty of time to contemplate these issues; it was awful." Ser eventually gave birth to Christy at 35 weeks, who weighed 2kg at birth.

Because of how tiny her daughter was, Ser nicknamed her Polly Pocket, after the popular toy.