

» YOUTH OLYMPICS

# Piggyback ride support for bid.

AS THE song goes: "He ain't heavy, he's my brother".

With those words in mind, 573 youths from Boys' Town lifted their buddies and gave them a piggyback ride across six metres to enter the Singapore Book of Records.

This mass participation event was not only part of the charitable institution's 60th anniversary celebrations, but also a show of support from Boys' Town for Singapore's bid to host the 2010 Youth Olympic Games (YOG).

Yesterday's effort drew praise from Parliamentary Secretary (Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports) Teo Ser Luck.

He said: "This is in line with the spirit of the Youth Olympics as the act of piggyback reflects a sense of friendship and solidarity among the participants, who will be completing the task together as a group."

Visa, the retail electronic payments network operator, has also pledged its support for the nation's bid to host the inaugural Games.

The company has displayed specially designed YOG-themed banners at VivoCity, nine Golden Village cinemas and the Esplanade Theatre.

Said Meranda Chan, country manager - Singapore and Brunei, Visa International: "Visa's experience as a sponsor of the Olympic Games since 1986 gives us insights into how important a country's infrastructure and financial environment are in ensuring a successful global event.

"Singapore already has

much to be proud of, not least of which are its world-class infrastructure, sound financial environment, dynamic tourism economy and international appeal. These are all qualities that are integral to be able to successfully host an event on the caliber of the Olympic Games."

Singapore's only rival for the YOG is Moscow. The winner will be announced by the International Olympic Committee on Thursday.

The IOC had set yesterday as the deadline for the postal votes to be submitted.



HE AIN'T HEAVY: Mr Teo Ser Luck (far left) giving Chua Shan You, 14, of Boys' Town a piggyback ride at the school's anniversary celebrations yesterday. More than 1,000 youngsters from Boys' Town showed their support for the YOG bid.

ST PHOTO: LIM CHIN PING