

NGOs receive RM320,340

By LEE MEI NYEE



(Front, from left) Augustine, Manimaran, Palanivel and Aqlam with (back, from left) Datuk Dr Abdul Halim Harun, Asmat, Yoshimi Ishii and David Chen at the presentation ceremony.

UMW Toyota Motor donated a total of RM320,340 to three non-governmental organisations during the Toyota Classics cheque presentation ceremony held in Kuala Lumpur recently.

The beneficiaries are Persatuan Kanak-kanak Istimewa Kajang Selangor (PKIK), Pusat Penjagaan Kanak-kanak Cacat Taman Megah (PPKKCTM) and Kuala Lumpur Society of the Deaf (KLSD).

The funds were raised through tickets sales and corporate donations for the 2005 Toyota Classics concert.

Deputy Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk G. Palanivel handed over two cheques of RM122,000 each to PKIK and PPKCTM and a cheque of RM76,340 to KLSD.

"We must continue to promote generosity to help our needy fellow Malaysians and educate the people about the importance of being a generous Malaysian," said Palanivel.

"I would like to urge more companies to be more willing and ready to work together with their chosen charitable organisations to help the less fortunate. The miracle about giving is that the more we share, the more we have," he added.

"Toyota Classics is an annual concert featuring world-renowned orchestras since 1990 and had raised and donated more than RM4mil to various charity organisations.



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We strongly believe that we will be able to contribute further to this good cause, with the support of the generous Malaysian public," said UMW Toyota Motor Sdn Bhd chairman Tan Sri Asmat Kamaludin.

PKIK chairman Augustine Benedict said the organisation is currently serving 90 people and the donation from Toyota Classics 2005 would go towards building a bungalow in Semenyih. A developer donated land for the purpose. He said it would house the new Independent Training Group Home, which would guide special young adults in learning to live independently.

"The physiotherapy/gym room in the new building will be named UMW Toyota Classics Room," he added.

K. Manimaran from PPKKCTM said the centre now catered to 135 children, with another 360 children on the waiting list of.

As such, the organisation needs a bigger space and looking to reconstruct the centre as a children's home, with dormitories, handcraft workshops, a library, rooms for physiotherapy, occupational and speech therapies, a clinic, cafeteria, music room, gym and computer room.

"Our operating cost is about RM33,000. We get income from sale of souvenirs crafted by our special children at the centre and generous donations from the public," said Manimaran.

KLSD president Aqlam Jafri said KLSD had about 1,500 deaf and hearing members.

He said the donation received would be used to fund a new resource centre where deaf members could attend basic computer courses and education seminars.

Besides sign language courses, the centre will also house a library opened to hearing people who want information on the deaf community worldwide.