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Club and developer drum up funds for underprivileged children's education

BY NURUL ATIQAH MOHD RANI



Akmel (fourth from left, back) and RCKBCC president Natasha Zolkeflee (centre in grey headscarf) presenting the cheque to the pupils of SK Kampung Bharu.

MORE than 50 pupils from SK Kampung Bharu received financial aid under Rotary Kasih, a project by the Rotary Club of Kampung Bharu City Centre (RCKBCC) aimed at helping poor families nationwide with their children's daily school expenditure.

The monthly aid is to help the schoolchildren buy lunch and stationery inschool.

The club was joined by Putrajaya Perdana Berhad (PPB) in the second edition of Rotary Kasih, which received a RM25,000 donation from the company. PPB, a

property development and construction company, sponsored 25 children last year and another 17 this year.

“To us at PPB, a complete schooling experience is a basic need as a Malaysian, and everybody should be able to have it,” said PPB chief executive officer Akmel Zurin Haron.

“The children in front of me today will be the future of the nation. PPB feels it is our responsibility to motivate them to be better in life, and I believe with this effort, we can achieve that.

“Due to current economic situation, we realise that not everyone can afford a full education experience that they can enjoy without worry, so I hope our small contribution can help these children and motivate them to build their knowledge at school, because without knowledge, we can’t progress.

“We want to help this initiative in any way we can as the success of the children today is a success for Malaysia in the future,” he added.

Also at the cheque presentation ceremony was Rotary Kasih adviser and Malaysia past district governor Kirenjit Kaur.

“With the success of our ‘Tell Me a Story’ project last year in which we collaborated on with volunteers from IM4U, we are happy to contribute more to get the schoolchildren excited to learn English this year,” said Kirenjit.

“Other than a reading corner to help the pupils improve their English, we also have initiatives such as a monthly story-telling competition and special programmes for pupils who are going to face major examinations,” she added.

SK Kampung Bharu headmistress Siti Zainee Idris expressed her gratitude to both parties as they were helping her dedicated teachers to provide the best education possible for her pupils.

“This is not the first time Rotary Club has collaborated with us, and we at the school are fortunate to receive such help.

“With the contributions today, we can conduct more activities and further enhance the children’s educational experience,” she added.

Rotary Club of Kampung Bharu City Centre also donated English books and is planning to continue the partnership.

Under this programme, the pupils will receive RM60 each month through the Rotary Kasih Smart Card and all transactions at the school canteen and bookstore will be cashless.

This programme also contributes to nation building through the implementation of education in human values which are embedded in the Rotary Kasih project.