

Foreign firm chips in for foundation

New Zealander donates RM24,000 for MyKasih programme

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FOR homemaker Hasliza Hassan, 36, the RM40 she receives fortnightly from the MyKasih Foundation helps put food on the table for her family with seven children.

"Only my husband works and six of my children are still schooling," said Hasliza, who stays in Damansara Bestari in SS2, Petaling Jaya.

Under the MyKasih Foundation, Hasliza and more than 2,500 other recipients receive between RM40 to RM60 every two weeks to purchase groceries from selected stores like Giant.

The amount is credited into their MyKad and they can only buy selected groceries like rice, oil, bread and eggs.

Foundation chairman and co-founder Ngau Boon Keat said under the programme, they were able to monitor exactly what was being purchased by the families.

"At least we know they are using the money to buy food instead of cigarettes or alcohol," he said at the Giant supermarket in Atria, Damansara Jaya, after receiving a contribution of NZ\$10,000 (about RM24,000) from New Zealand national Peter White-Robinson, who is the chairman of Fitzroy Engineering Ltd.

Starting with a pilot project in Selayang in December 2008, Ngau said they officially

launched the programme in December 2008 last year.

"We have about 2,700 families registered as recipients but we have enough budget to support up to 6,000 families, so we are slowly growing," he said.

He said they initially received donations from Malaysian companies but many more individuals, even foreigners like White-Robinson, were coming in to support the foundation.

"We also provide training to the families so they can learn to be financially independent and we arrange for tuition for their children so they can improve academically," said Ngau.

The families are taught skills like sewing and baking so they can start small businesses.

With the MyKad system, every sen of contribution from donors go to the families and they are able to provide monthly reports so donors know what the money is spent on.

White-Robinson, who came all the way from New Zealand for the event, said he had many opportunities in life and was glad for the opportunity to give back to the community.

"My wife and I are happy that we can help out and I look forward to staying in touch with the families," he said.

Also present at the event was New Zealand High Commissioner to Malaysia David Kersey.



Thankful recipient: (Second from left) Ngau, Kersey, White-Robinson and Malaysia New Zealand Chamber of Commerce chairman Richard Tankersley observe as homemaker Hasliza Hassan buys groceries using her MyKad.



Generous contribution: White-Robinson (right) presenting the mock cheque to Ngau (left) witnessed by Kersey