

# Reaching out for charity

## Gas association donates RM30,000 in maiden effort

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**T**HE Malaysian Gas Association (MGA) donated RM 15,000 each to two non-profit organisations in their maiden corporate social responsibility effort.

Both the organisations — MyKasih Foundation and the Children's Cancer Fund of University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMMC) — will use the money to fund projects for people in need.

MyKasih is an innovative organisation that uses the MyKad computer chip to allot a sum of RM40 every two weeks for selected families to purchase food at several participating outlets.

"We began the project in April last year with 25 families in Selayang.

"We work with local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to select worthy families for the funding," said its chief executive officer Jeffrey Perera.

A member of the family is selected to shop for their needs and pay for the purchases using their MyKad as a payment tool.

However, in a bid to ensure the families will be independent, they are also sent for courses on budgeting.

"We want to teach them how to fish because we want it to be a sustainable programme.

"They are also not permitted to purchase cigarettes and liquor with the credit allotted to them" said Perera.

Currently, a total of 1,200 families all over the country are participating in the project and another 15 families in Pandan Jaya will benefit from the donations by MGA.

Under the Children's Cancer fund, the money will be used to assist needy patients with their treatments and equipment which are not subsidised by the hospital.

According to Haematology and Oncology Unit senior lecturer at the Paediatric Department of UMMC Dr. Chong Lee Ai, many of their patients are from all over the country and cannot afford the trips to the hospital on a regular basis.

"Many of the patients have to come for regular treatments and cannot afford to rent a room so we are looking at building a half-way home on the hospital grounds for them," she said.

Apart from that, the fund also seeks to enhance the quality of life for patients undergoing treatment.

They celebrate birthdays and hold



**Here you go:** Abdul Rahim (third from right) handing over a mock cheque to Dr Chong as other representatives from UMMC and MGA look on.

'end of treatment' parties so all the children can participate and have a little fun.

"We have festive celebrations as well for them.

"Many of these patients are reclusive and sad. Sometimes, when we have these parties, we get a rare smile from them and all our efforts are worth it," she added.

They are now looking for corporate sponsors from companies to come forth and assist them in building the half-way house for their needy patients.

As for the MGA, president Datuk Dr Abdul Rahim Hashim said the RM30,000 was raised at a Charity Golf Tournament held in December last year.

"We already had the money in hand but we didn't want to give it to just anybody.

"The members wanted transparent organisations, that is why we decided to split it between MyKasih and the Children's Cancer fund," added Abdul Rahim.

He also said the money goes directly to the recipients.