

07/07/1997

Helping children with AIDS

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - The Malaysian AIDS Foundation's Paediatric AIDS Fund yesterday received a RM110,000 donation from the Kuala Lumpur Hilton Hotel after the hotel spent two hours raising the money through a charity auction.

The money was raised by selling more than 80 items including tableware and furniture from the hotel's Melaka Grill which will be closed from tonight to make way for a new restaurant.

Speaking at the hotel after receiving the donation, MAF chairman Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir thanked the fundraisers and promised the proceeds will be used wisely.

"The maintenance for AIDS infected children costs a lot and some parents can't afford this.

The fund will help pay for the childrens' books, uniforms and other expenses to allow them to become productive Malaysian citizens," she said.

According to the World Health Organisation, over 10 million children worldwide will be infected with the HIV virus in the next four years and that AIDS will surpass starvation as the leading killer of infants and children.

According to the MAF, by the end of December 1995, some 700 Malaysian children under the age of 19 were found to be AIDS sufferers.

However, they believed the figure could be four times higher.

"And such children need extra financial assistance to lead a normal life," said Marina.

The Paediatric AIDS Fund was launched last year to cater to the children's education, hospitalisation and medication costs.

(END)