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Student alumni a nominee

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - What started as a student alumni coalition is now an influential body that has made a name organising charitable causes. Ansara, or the association of former students from Maktab Rendah Sains Mara, has made it its goal to help the less fortunate.

It is this tireless effort to help that earned it a nomination for the New Straits Times Press-PricewaterhouseCoopers (NSTP-PwC) Young Humanitarian Award.

Last year, the association organised the tuition programme Mutiara Pertiwi to help students from poor families.

Ansara runs three tuition centres in Selangor, accommodating 350 students who are orphans and from poor families. The project was in collaboration with Angkatan Pemuda Warisan Malaysia or Pewaris.

The association also feted 100 young patients from the National Heart Institute last November.

The programme was described by Ansara president Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir as a way to cheer the children in the hope that they heal faster.

During the celebration, two patients, two-month-old Mohd Hafiz Mohd Helmi and six-month-old Nur Atiqah Mohd Piah, each received a donation of RM2,000 from the association.

The Young Humanitarian Award is open to individuals below 40 and groups. Only humanitarian acts between Jan 1 and Dec 31, 2003 qualify. The public and NGOs may nominate anyone eligible for the award. Media organisations may nominate individuals or groups they had covered.

The award consists of a trophy and a cash award of RM20,000 for the winner and another RM20,000 for a charity of the winner's choice. Nomination forms are available at [www.nst.com.my](http://www.nst.com.my), [www.pwc.com.my](http://www.pwc.com.my) or [www.tv3.com.my](http://www.tv3.com.my).

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