



story by
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Latin Americans give back to society

Festival raises over RM70,000 for disabled children's home

THIS year's Latin American Festival meant more than just sharing and celebrating the culture and heritage of the Latin American countries in Malaysia – it was about helping those in need.

The 8th Latin American Festival raised RM77,484.60 at the event held on May 22 and the funds were donated to Kirtarsh Handicapped and Disabled Children's Home.

At the cheque presentation ceremony, Dean of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (Grulac) in Malaysia and Venezuelan ambassador Manuel A. Guzman Hernandez said the festival was very successful.

"To be able to bring to Malaysia a good taste of the rich culture of Latin America gives us great satisfaction.

"But it means even more to us when this festival of great food, dance, music, crafts and joy generated funds to help the needy. It is a worthwhile journey.

"With this fund, we hope the representatives of Kirtarsh Home can rebuild their home which burned down late last year, and hopefully they can continue caring for children and homeless adults," he said.

Also present were ambassadors of the eight other Latin American and Caribbean countries namely Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay.

Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Mohd Amin Nordin Abdul Aziz, Low Yat City area director Steven Chong, Federal Hotels International senior area general manager Simon Leong and Plaza Low Yat and BBPark general manager Albert Khoo also joined the cultural festival.



Khoo (second from left), Hernandez (seventh from left) and Federal Hotels International Group Marketing, Sales and Development and Operations director Ooi Lee Ping (second from right) with the ambassadors of the eight other Latin American and Caribbean countries handing over a mock cheque to Mani (centre) at the 8th Latin American Festival cheque presentation ceremony. — Photos: GLENN GUAN/The Star

"We are very grateful to receive the funds to help rebuild our home. I want to thank the Latin Ladies Association of Malaysia for volunteering at our home and raising awareness on our predicament at the festival.

"The funds will help us rebuild our kitchen. However, we still require funds to rebuild the bathrooms for the elderly," Kirtarsh Home founder Mani

Vannan said.

This year's festival was held in collaboration with the nine embassies and the Latin Ladies Association of Malaysia, supported by Kuala Lumpur City Hall, Plaza Low Yat, BBPark and the Federal Hotels International.

For details or to donate and help out, call 013-257 7841 (Mani Vannan) or visit www.kirtarsh-home.org



(From left) Khoo, Ooi and Hernandez checking out the photos that were taken during the 8th Latin American Festival 2016.