

Kerteh Chapter leads Engineering companies to help the poor for the second time.

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And we did it again! We stepped up to our vision to help children in need.

The Institution of Engineers Terengganu, Kerteh Chapter (IEM Kerteh) together with Toyo Engineering & Construction Sdn Bhd (Toyo Malaysia) with the support of engineering companies that are involved in the Oil, gas and Petrochemical Industries successfully completed another charity to give away shoes, bags and writing instruments to poor primary school children in Kemaman, Terengganu. IEM Kerteh Chapter and Toyo Malaysia first got together to organize the inaugural event in November 2007. At that time the ceremony was held in Sekolah Kebangsaan Kerteh where about 280 selected primary school children received their new shoes and bags. They are children who come from families who earn less than RM 400 per month and their names were provided by the Education Office in Kemaman.

A portion of the funds collected in 2007 were also used to help a Children Center in Chow Kit Kuala Lumpur. This shelter looks after poor children in that area who would otherwise be walking around the busy streets subjecting them to unimaginable risks. Many of these children also come from drugs dependant parents or parents with other social problems.

Even though we started late; the response this year was overwhelming. The collection went beyond expectations as a total of RM38, 395.00 were collected from 21 organizations and individuals.



*Dato' Ahmad Shabery
Cheek arriving*



The ceremony on the 9th November 2008 at Sekolah Kebangsaan Sri Geliga Cukai Kemaman started at 10am. This year more than 300 children from 13 schools were selected to receive these gifts. The ceremony was once again graced by The Honorable Dato' Ahmad Shabery Cheek, the Information Minister and also the MP for Kemaman, YB Ir. Rosli Othman, State Assemblyman of Kemasik, En Mahzan Hamzah, representative of Education Department, Kemaman, Tn Hj Omor Draman, Headmaster SK Seri Geliga, Ir Yong Hee Leong, Vice Chairman of IEM and Ir Wan Sabri Wan Ahmad, representing the IEM Trg branch Chairman.

The event started with welcoming speech from Ir Ali Shastry from IEM Kerteh and Ir Rashid from Toyo Malaysia. It was then followed by the speech from The Honorable Dato' Shabery. The Information Minister congratulated IEM Kerteh and Toyo Malaysia for the noble efforts of IEM and Toyo, for the second year running. In addition to this on going work that we are doing he also requested IEM Kerteh and Toyo Malaysia to consider long term programs such as providing tuition classes by engineers who live around Kemaman or providing scholarships to student who excel in their studies. He said engineers and other professionals can provide another perspective to learning that emphasize on the practical applications of science, mathematics, geography etc. He also encourage the primary school children to study hard and become professionals in various fields in the future.



Ir Ali Shastry from IEM Kerteh Chapter delivering the welcoming address



Dato' Shabery Cheek giving his speech



Ir Rashid from Toyo delivering his speech

The event proceeded with the presentation of the school bags and shoes. It was an emotional sight watching these children walking on stage to receive their gifts. They were full of smiles! And they were deserving of these gifts as they were truly in dire need of assistance! A small gift that many of us take for granted, but we could see the sparkle in their eyes; it is like the heaven



Smiling faces receiving school bags

has answered their prayers.

One of the school teachers said that due to seasonal weather, and the monsoon can be very severe in this area, these children who mainly come from families whose parents are fishermen and farmers, do not have regular monthly income. Therefore the schools in this area welcome any form of assistance that can help reduce the burden of these children's parents. As teachers he hopes the children, through proper education, will be able to one day have a better life.





Entertainment from the young ladies

We were also fortunate to watch several performances by the students from this school. They perform choral speaking in English and Arabic which entertained the crowd. The event ends up with the presentation of token of appreciation from IEM Kerteh and TOYO Malaysia to the generous donators and also to the guest of honor, Dato' Ahmad Shabery Cheek.

On the way to lunch we heard laughters from the children, in several small groups, when they tried on their shoes and admired their school bags. During lunch Dato' Shabery said he would really like to have more collaboration between his office and the IEM that will



The presentation of token of appreciation to the donators



Dato' Shabery Cheek and Ir Rashid helping the children with their new bags

enable many more children to excel in their studies and make them realise the importance of knowledge and the ability to converse properly in English, especially in this globalised and shrinking world.

May the Almighty bless us all with the health and resources to continue with this act of EFFECTIVE GIVING for many more years to come. This will be OUR LEGACY we leave behind for these beautiful children.



Group photo of IEM Kerteh Chapter committee members and the Honorable Minister