

Over RM8mil raised for kids

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A RECORD-breaking RM8,623,000 was raised by S P Setia Bhd to support its corporate social responsibility arm, S P Setia Foundation.

The foundation recently held a charity dinner to celebrate the event and raise more funds for the foundation's initiatives.

The initiatives include to advance the education of less fortunate children in Malaysia, to implement sustainable programmes for underprivileged communities, involvement in disaster relief efforts and to support the beneficiaries under the Setia Caring School Programme.

Education director-general Datuk Seri Dr Khair Mohamad Yusof was welcomed as the new patron of the foundation at the event.

"Education gives every citizen an equal opportunity to improve his socio-economic status," he said, adding that a family can escape living in poverty through education.

He also said education was important in fostering unity among the many races that live in Malaysia.

Dr Khair commended S P Setia Bhd, a corporate body, for spearheading the Setia Caring School Programme.

"I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the SP Setia Foundation for championing such a noble cause and following



Young entertainers: Pupils under the Setia Caring School Programme singing during the charity dinner. — BRIAN MOH/The Star

through with such dedication," he added.

S P Setia Foundation chairman Tan Sri Dr Wan Mohd Zahid Mohd Noordin said the Caring School Programme aimed to instil a sense of caring and unity among school-children.

Three schools have been part of the programme this year — SJK (C) Lee Min, SK Meru Jalan Tap and SJK (T) Ladang Vallambrosa.

"We would rather start small and make a success of it. Later, if it is successful, we'll expand the idea

to other schools," he added.

"The Caring School Project is based on the value of togetherness.

"One of the best means to do so is we encourage schools to promote activities that can basically bring the children of the three schools together." Dr Wan Mohd Zahid said.

The pupils, he added, visited Rumah Warga Emas Lembaga Zakat Selangor to spend time with the elderly living there.

He said there were "tears in his eyes" when he saw the multiracial

pupils chatting animatedly with the elderly at the home.

The foundation is currently working on creating hibiscus gardens in each of the three adopted schools while involving the pupils, S P Setia Bhd staff and public volunteers.

Staff from SP Setia Bhd and the pupils entertained the guests with various performances.

Laughter also filled the air with stand-up comedians Kuah JenHan, Dr Jason Leong and Phoon Chi Ho at the event.