

# BRITISH COMMUNITY IN NEW FUND RAISING EFFORT

With the arrival of Vanessa Patey, wife of the British Ambassador, ICING has a new patron. ICING (the International Children in Need Group) was set up by the British Embassy in 2004 to support a number of charities both in Saudi Arabia and abroad; to help children in various ways. ICING is not a Charity in itself, merely a conduit through which the efforts of the community may be directed.

ICING also seeks to raise the profile of deserving cases so that others may recognise the need to lend their support wherever possible.

The first project for the Group was to support work done by the British Ladies Society in Kuwait, who together with the British Army in Southern Iraq distributed much-needed basic goods to the children of the area. This included 3000 pairs of shoes and a school-rebuild project in Basrah.

Within Saudi Arabia, ICING has provided assistance to DCSA, a non-profit organisation that serves children with Down syndrome and their families; and to a school in Marikh Village outside of Jeddah.

Part of the cash was used to provide a Portacabin and part to purchase a Mini Bus to collect children from remote areas.

A significant donation was also made to the Friends of the Hadhramaut, enabling them to refurbish and equip a school in a remote area of the Yemen. The funds contributed have provided assistance to a facility now used by over 200 children. The contribution raised by ICING from the British community was supplemented by an anonymous donation of SR100,000 from a Saudi gentleman.

More recently, ICING has sent SR100,000 to the British Forces in Afghanistan to assist in providing much needed medical equipment for a hospital. The initial donation has been used to set up a basic emergency facility at the Bost Provincial Hospital in Lashkargah. As the photographs below indicate the Hospital is in need of significant assistance simply to bring it up to basic standards.

Following Mrs Patey's arrival the Group was able to arrange a Fund-raising evening in the grounds of



Above: Boys from the orphanage in Maysan province receiving shoes Below: Sergeant Rachel Webster in refurbished Girls School in Basra



Bost Provincial Hospital in Lashkargah. Above: The "Intensive" Care unit. Below: Mothers and children share the same bed for the duration the child is ill.

