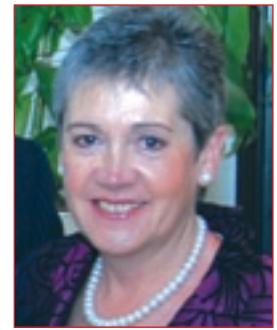


BRITISH COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING TOPS SR 2.6 MILLION



It was after an article in the RGBB News magazine in the Spring of 2004 about 'Children in Need in Iraq' that a few individuals from the British community in Riyadh took a decision to attempt to direct the efforts of the community by offering a funnel through which the funds raised could be channelled. It was felt that by coordinating those efforts, the experience gained from organising one event could be used for the benefit of another.

ICING was born not as a Charity in itself, but more a mechanism through which the efforts of the community could be assisted.

Since 2004, various groups in the community have held an assortment of functions where any 'profits' from organising the events have been channelled through ICING. This has had the effect of 'multiplying' the sums available for distribution.

During the last five years, funds raised under the ICING banner have been directed to different causes in Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Pakistan, India & Sudan as well as those in Saudi Arabia. More recently the Gaza Strip and children's hospices in the UK have also benefited.

It was also hoped that by identifying genuine causes for financial support in Saudi Arabia, ICING might assist in raising the profile of those causes so that others in the wider community might be willing to add their own direct support.

So where are we now?

This years ICING Summer Fundraiser stimulated a variety of donations from across the wider community, attracting funds from other ex-pat groups and from many Saudi companies and individuals who were happy to give their cash to an organisation that attempts to put every last riyal to direct and specific effect.

ICING has no targets, merely deals with the donations as they come in. ICING has no administration fees to cover; indeed it has hardly any costs at all since all the work is done by unpaid volunteers. With continued support, ICING will continue to look at situations where a small donation can make a big difference.

Since 2004 ICING has distributed in excess of SR2.6 million raised from the various functions in the community and what has been exceptionally rewarding is to see the growing numbers of individuals who are giving freely of their time to assist with these events and through their efforts the growing numbers of contributors.

ICING is nothing without the people that attend and support the events; and although it sometimes seems to have a life of its own, without the efforts of individuals, ICING would simply not exist.

ICING has demonstrated just how many people in our community are prepared to put something back. My personal thanks to all who have played a part.

Vanessa Patey
Patron ICING

SUPPORT TO THE UK

Honouring a commitment made when ICING was set up, to support Children in Need in the UK, the committee decided to make donations this year targeted specifically at children whose lifespan was under threat.

It's every parent's worst nightmare to be told their child will die before them. But for an estimated 20,000 families across the UK, this is a reality. Some of these children will die when they're very young; others will deteriorate slowly over a number of years. In most cases, full-time care falls to the parents – 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Not surprisingly the whole family is under huge emotional, physical and financial strain.

Children's hospice services help children and families in these situations with the emotional and physical challenges they face, helping them to make the most of life. They offer a diverse range of services including symptom control, end-of-life care, the provision of therapies (such as play, art and music therapy) and bereavement support for all family members.

Sadly only about 4000 children and their families can gain access to existing facilities with rural areas being less well served.

Four separate and equal donations were made to Children's Hospice Association Scotland, Ty Hafan - The Children's Hospice in Wales, Naomi House Children's Hospice in England and Horizon West in Northern Ireland.

SUPPORT IN SAUDI ARABIA

One of the latest recipients of cash from ICING has been The Saudi Autistic Society.

According to a report in the Arab News earlier this year, Autistic children receive only SR8,000 a year in financial support from the Ministry of Social Affairs. The report also said there were an estimated six cases of autism for every 1000 babies born in the Kingdom each year.

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability. It is part of the autism spectrum and is sometimes referred to as an autism spectrum disorder, or an ASD. The word 'spectrum' is used because, while all people with autism share three main areas of difficulty, their condition will affect them in very different ways. Some are able to live relatively 'everyday' lives; others will require a lifetime of specialist support.

The three main areas of difficulty which all people with autism share are sometimes known as the 'triad of impairments'. They are:

- difficulty with social communication
- difficulty with social interaction
- difficulty with social imagination.

People with autism have said that the world, to them, is a mass of people, places and events which they struggle to make sense of, and which can cause them considerable anxiety. In particular, understanding and relating to other people, and taking part in everyday family and social life may be harder for them.

The lack of specialised government centres to treat autistic children has led many families to seek treatment abroad and we hope that the SR150,000 donation we were able to make will assist the Society in providing care in the community.

ICING has also contributed to another organisation in the Kingdom which aims to address an aspect of life in Saudi Arabia which is often well hidden behind the closed doors of society.

The National Family Safety Programme seeks to bring together private and public sector concerns in the fight against domestic violence involving women and children.

Princess Adela bint Abdullah addressed the second conference on domestic violence held in Riyadh this year by saying "Abuse against women and children is increasing astonishingly. So there needs to be a professional strategy to create a balance in relationships between family members. Abuse of women and children is a real threat to the stability of our society. It is a worrying universal phenomenon, not just a local one."

ICING has paid for a series of small publications designed to spread the word that Islam does not condone abuse of women and children.

The Saudi charity Insan (Charity Committee for Orphans Care) currently supports 3000 orphans in the Kingdom and was another recipient in 2008.

The Charity's Chairman, Prince Salman, Governor of Riyadh, launched an appeal to develop the 'Insan Village' for orphans with special needs in April last year with a personal donation of SR3m.

Other donations in Saudi Arabia since our last big 'event' have included additional amounts to DSCA who continue with their work for children with Down Syndrome and to Open Skies, the Jeddah based organisation who organise therapeutic riding for disabled children.

SUPPORT AROUND THE WORLD

Responding directly to an appeal for urgent medical assistance, ICING was able to make a donation in January of this year to provide emergency packs for children caught up in the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

ICING funds paid for 500 Hygiene Kits for children under five to be distributed among displaced families in Gaza. Channelled through the charity MAP (Medical Aid for Palestinians), ICING was able to assist only through the generosity of our supporters in Riyadh whose donations have topped SR500,000 so far this year.

ICING was able to respond late in 2008 after heavy storms crashed through Yemen, one of the poorest countries in the world. The wind, rain and lightning

killed a number people initially, but the subsequent flooding took a much larger toll, in both lives and property.

Together for Sudan is another of the organisations selected by ICING for support. All patrons, trustees and officials of Together for Sudan are volunteers and work from home. They draw no religious or cultural boundaries and following the example of Sudanese Christians and Muslims working together to ensure a better future for those whose lives have been shattered by war and displacement in Sudan.

Most recently a donation has been made to support Future Hope, a charity helping street children in Kolkata.