

Golf for a noble cause

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GOLF, as anyone who has a passion for the game can attest to, is an addictive sport. Those who love the game like nothing better than making their way across a golf course, all with the hope of scoring a hole-in-one as often as possible.

What could be better than combining one's passion for the game with a worthy cause? Such would be the case for avid golfers who sign up for a charity golf event, the "Charity Golf For Rural Kids Education Fund" at the Samarahan Country Club in Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, on April 30.

The charity event is being held to raise funds to help rural children, including those whose schools were affected by the floods in the state in January. The rising waters caused major disruptions to the lives of rural communities and affected numerous primary schools and students.

News of the "golfing for a good cause" event was recently revealed at a press conference officiated by Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, who is also patron of the event. At the press conference, Uggah announced that about RM700,000 had already been raised for the fund.

The event's organising chairman Datuk Richard Lee said as a Sarawakian who studied at a rural school, he understands the challenges faced by children in the state who live in remote areas. "I'm retired now



One of the rural schools in Sarawak affected by the recent floods.



Lee says donations for the worthy cause are continuing to pour in.

and I wanted to work on a corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme that would be beneficial for people who live outside the city because of the many challenges they face," Lee said in a phone interview.

He added it was important to help children in remote areas in whatever way possible as it would help them attain a good education. This was the reason he formed a committee consisting of friends, many of whom are from Sarawak, to work towards that goal.

"The idea to help children in rural areas

was mooted last year but we began working on the "Charity Golf For Rural Kids Education Fund" just after Chinese New Year," Lee said.

He added that donations for the worthy cause are continuing to pour in, saying: "The response from corporate bodies as well as personal donors has been heartening. We're close to achieving our targeted figure of RM1 million.

"While not many people who live in the city may realise this, there are over 300 schools in rural Sarawak that do not even have electricity. In fact, some children do not even have shoes to wear to school and it definitely warms my heart to know so many people want to help these children. We're also pleased to be able to do our part in helping the children in the 112 schools that were affected by the recent floods."

The charity golf event has several sponsorship categories — Platinum (RM100,000), Gold (RM50,000), Silver (RM30,000), Bronze (RM10,000), Four-some Per Flight (RM5,000) and Individual Golfer (RM1,000). Entry fees will include green fees and buggy usage as well as lunch and on course refreshment, among others.

The "Charity Golf For Rural Kids Education Fund" is co-sponsored by MyKasih Foundation and Samarahan Country Club. Funds will be channelled to the MyKasih Foundation to be dispersed to the children in need.

For more information on the event, call Grover Peter Gani at 019-8667668.