

**T**he incredible donation of SR250,000 from the RGGB, raised from the recent Golf Day, brings the total raised and distributed by ICING to SR3million. Rather more than was ever envisaged when we started back in 2004.



therapeutic horse riding facility has also had more funds allocated from our recent donations.

In Saudi Arabia as well, we've been pleased to support the National Family Safety Council, the Saudi Autistic Society and the Insan Orphans charity.

Although there have been some significant personal donations, the bulk of the funds have been raised at individual events or initiatives ranging from a collection made at the Children's Nativity Play, to the multiple sales of the Manchester United shirt.

Outside of the Kingdom donations have been made to Friends of the Hadramaut in the Yemen, two organisations looking after children in Darfur in Sudan as well as smaller amounts for specific purpose in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine & Sierra Leone. Most recently we've been pleased to be able to offer support to Future Hope, a charity helping street children in Kolkata.

Most recently, bmi's donations of seats at Twickenham have generated a lot of interest amongst sporting fans and the trip to the FIFA World Cup Final in Cape Town in July donated by SABB and Visa will, I'm sure, add significantly to the funds raised during 2010.

In the UK, contributions were made last year to four Children's Hospices.

Donations from the various events in Riyadh's best garden have kept the cash flowing as have contributions from other groups whose events have been held elsewhere.

When selecting a cause to support, we've attempted to ensure that as much of our donation as possible is spent on real items of need and not swallowed up in administration fees. Indeed it's ICING's proudest boast that we make no deductions for administration ourselves with all the cash raised being turned around and given away. We've taken care to ensure that any minor costs we have incurred have been covered by specific donations from individuals and companies for that very purpose.

High on the list of supported causes has been DSCA, the Down Syndrome Children's Association who we have been pleased to help for several years. Open Skies, the

## Darfur Children 'On Brink Of Starvation'

**D**arfur is on the brink of a new human catastrophe, with children increasingly at risk of starvation because of drought and neglect. The children, many of whom have known nothing but war, are uncared for and the situation is getting worse, Kids For Kids charity founder Patricia Parker said.



children of Darfur, the charity has brought some sense of hope, building a midwives' training school in El Fasher last year and seeing it produce 40 new graduates.

"I am struggling to come to terms with what I saw in the hospital in El Fasher, the regional capital of North Darfur," she told reporters. "Small babies, their sunken eyes too big for their little faces, legs and arms stick thin, gazed solemnly at me, too weak to cry. "They come from the villages and no one seems to want to know about them. The world is weary of Darfur."

The midwives are key because many mothers do not know how to look after their children, often giving them starch to eat when they are too young and then seeing them subsequently fall ill with diarrhoea and vomiting.

Mrs Parker says aid agencies should have a bigger presence in the region - there was a major withdrawal at the height of the violence because of safety fears.

The lucky graduates are now travelling back to their villages with a new donkey, leather sandals, a medical kit and, for the first time, a mobile phone and phone card so the donkey ambulance can be summoned in an emergency.

However, she says having been there only last week, the region showed far fewer signs of violence than in the past.

"These may appear small things," Mrs Parker says, "But, in Darfur villages, they are the difference between life and death."

"The international community knows exactly what the situation is but it's just not doing anything about it. Why not? Why does no one care?"

In February Kids for Kids commissioned repairs to 30 water handpumps and the installation of 10 new pumps. They will do more. They are providing water carts to enable people to collect water from long distances and are giving donkeys to the poorest families so children do not have to walk miles for water. Crucially the goat loans are providing milk and a small income. By enabling people to help themselves Kids for Kids are giving people the means to survive.

Despite its frustration at the apparent desertion of the

Mrs Parker founded the charity after a visit to the western region of Sudan in 2001, ICING has been supporting Kids for Kids since 2007 and will make another donation in 2010.