

Raya cheer for dialysis patients

Group presents them with hampers and duit raya



Happy lot: Dialysis patients with (from left) NKF centre fundraising manager Shirley Koh, NKF CEO Chua Hong Wee, Rafiah (with scarf) and PR & communications executive Dharshini Ganeson.

SOROPTIMIST International Club of Shah Alam (Sisa), an international worldwide service organisation for working and professional women, brought cheer to dialysis patients at National Kidney Foundation of Malaysia (NKF) by presenting 10 hampers to 10 hardcore poor patients.

The hampers were filled with rice, cooking oil, biscuits, milo and cordial drinks.

Patients also received *duit raya* from generous members of the club, who felt the money would come in useful for Raya shopping.

NKF welfare manager Mah Ah Noye said such projects were welcomed as it brought smiles to the faces of dialysis patients, who had to undergo four-hour dialysis three times a week.

Rafiah Bahar, past president of Sisa said they were always on the look out for organisations that would benefit from their help and the items for the hampers were

carefully chosen as they were aware of the need for healthy food for dialysis patients.

Ahmad Hashim, 63, with two children, felt devastated when he was first diagnosed with kidney failure and underwent dialysis eight years ago.

Today he is a much happier man and thanked Sisa for thinking of dialysis patients as every day presented challenges to all of them.

The patients were invited to NKF for the presentation and NKF hoped more organisations would come forward during festive times such as Hari Raya to show their caring side.

Abdul Ghani Melan said the hampers would make a difference as the rice could be used to make ketupat as it was more healthy than buying the pre-mix ketupat.

"NKF has a fund for hardcore poor patients who receive a full subsidy but that is in relation to their dialysis at the foundation", said Mah.