

# Great response

Golfers generously chip in and charity organisations get a shot in the arm.



Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (second from right) and Star Publications executive deputy chairman Datuk Vincent Lee (right) posing with the winning team representing Advanced Fertilizers (from left) Rayappan Sandiango, Krishnan Gopal, Shaun Orange and Syed Shaffi Iqbal.

By CHRISTINA LOW and Y.P. SIVAM

THE inaugural Star Charity Golf Challenge 2011 was a big hit among the participants and a total RM300,000 was raised from the championship held at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club recently.

And the amount was distributed to six charity organisation - MyKasih Foundation, Hospis Malaysia, Ti-Ratana Welfare Society, Alzheimer's Disease Foundation Malaysia, Mercy Malaysia and Persatuan Kanak-Kanak Istimewa Hulu Langat - with each getting RM50,000.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Star Publications' executive deputy chairman Datuk Vincent Lee handed the contributions to representatives of the charity organisations during the prize giving ceremony.

Star executive director and chief operating officer Ho Kay Tat said the charity golf challenge was part of the Star's 40th anniversary celebrations. "This is the first time we are organising a charity golf event. We were not quite sure of the response then, but with the overwhelming support from the participants and the assistance of the Star Foundation we have succeeded in raising RM300,000," said Kay Tat.

The challenge was organised by The Star in partnership with The Star Foundation. The Star Foundation was incorporated on Sept 20, 2004 with the aim of raising, receiving and administering funds for charity, social and research purposes.

The sponsors were Boehringer Ingelheim, Canon, Ossia World of Golf, Newage and Nasim Sdn Bhd, Swiss-Garden Golf Resort and Spa Damai Laut, Unilever Holdings and Firefly.

A total 120 participants from 25 organisations - Acorn Communications, Sports Toto Malaysia, Westports Malaysia, Dialog Group Berhad, Advanced Fertilizer, Ambank Group, Guinness Anchor Berhad, Genting Group, EMC2/Terracom, Maxis, Teras

Kimia, Pos Malaysia, CIMB Group, Johnnie Walker, Perfect Living, Souled Out, Plus, GPL Group, Gamuda, Astro, Giant, Telekom Malaysia, Scomi Group, Digi and Maybank - teed off in the championship.

In the individual category, Davis Sandlin, representing Souled Out, emerged as the champion with 38 points.

Former professional golfer M. Vasanta Kumar, currently with Ossia World of

Golf, settled for the second spot on 37 points.

Luck was on Pos Malaysia's Datuk Mohd Deros Harun side as he won the third place after a countback involving four other participants.

Sandlin, who won a 40 inch LCD TV, said he was an avid golfer and was happy to be part of Star Charity Golf Challenge as it was for a good cause.

Vasanthakumar, who won a 32-inch LCD TV, said luck was not on his side

but was happy to be part of the event.

Advanced Fertilizers, comprising Krishnan Gopal, Rayappan Sandiango, Shaun Orange and Syed Shaffi Iqbal, collected 129 points to win the top prize in the team event. In second place was the foursome of Mohd Derus, Datuk Shahril Jikun, Nor Azizan Tarja and Haidan Abdul Rahman with 124 points.

Ten participants won prizes at the lucky draw which offered a 40-inch LCD TV as the top reward.



Front row seated from left: Star Executive Director and COO Ho Kay Tat, Star Publications executive deputy chairman Datuk Vincent Lee, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin; Star Foundation trustee Datuk Dr Mohd Aminuddin Mohd Rouse and Star Publications managing director and group chief executive Datin Linda Ngiam posing with the participants of the Star Charity Golf Challenge.



Representatives of the charities receiving mock cheques from Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (centre).