

AMEC holiday gift

AMEC wanted to ensure that all the money set aside for community investment was donated to worthy causes.

After the disappointing uptake of the nominated charity matched funding policy during 2007 by November the community investment budget still contained a significant sum of money. A proposal was made to look to donate the remaining community investment budget (circa. £130,000) to worthwhile charitable causes.

A review was conducted on the existing donations made to AMEC's six nominated charities for 2007 up to December 14th 2007:

United Way	£112,300
CLAN	£12,325
Children with Leukaemia	£380
Engineers w/o Borders	£12,000
Engineers Against Poverty	£0
Water Aid	£0
<i>Note: All others (Crisis etc)</i>	<i>£24,500</i>

AMEC felt at the start of the year that these were worthwhile charities to support and yet three have received very little or nothing. Therefore a one-off donation of £5,000 was given to Children with Leukaemia, Engineers Against Poverty and Water Aid, at a total cost of £15,000. This left circa. £115,000 remaining in the budget.

The Charities Committee want to identify a small number of charities

which would benefit from a one-off donation from the 2007.

The Committee agreed that small charities should be identified where AMEC's donation would make a significant contribution to the receiving charity. The remaining monies were split equally between the recipients listed below. These charities were selected using the following criteria;

- They are small (three have average annual income of below £1.6million) and so AMEC's donation will make a significant difference
- In each case, a very small percentage of the donation is used in administrative fees.
- The donation can be clearly linked to AMEC's principles and values.

a) AMEC's commitment to Communities

SOS Children's Village - Children in Chile

(<http://www.soschildrensvillages.org.uk/sponsor-a-child/americas-child-sponsorship/chile.htm>)

In Chile a large proportion of the population live below the poverty line in slum conditions, which are compounded by high unemployment, housing shortages and malnutrition. The charity began its work in Chile over thirty years ago in 1965. Today, there are thirteen SOS Children's Villages and numerous associated welfare, educational and medical facilities serving the needs of vulnerable people in the neighbourhood communities.

b) AMEC's commitment to Health:

World Medical Fund
(<http://www.worldmedicalfund.org/>)

This charity operates a mobile surgical unit which operates deep in the African bush. The charity has already raised funds to purchase and refurbish a mobile surgery unit and is now looking to raise a further £25,000 per year to cover operating cost. The charity also operates a mobile children's clinic which treated over 30,000 children in 2006 (3,000 cases of malaria alone).

c) AMEC's commitment to Education and Entrepreneurship

HopeHIV (<http://www.hopehiv.org/>)

The charity provides support to HIV orphaned children in Africa where over 13 million children have been orphaned by the disease. The charity provides funding for orphaned children's education, arranging foster places and helps young people set up their own business. It provides peer education programmes to help to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS.

d) AMEC's commitment to Human Rights

IMPACT Foundation
(<http://www.impact.org.uk/>)

The impact foundation is a network of charities which operates in developing nations. The aim of its work is to prevent disabling disease through early treatment and diagnosis and access to safe drinking water and water treatment.

Its work includes immunization programmes, treatment of conditions such as cleft lip and provision of vitamin supplements (vitamin A deficiency causes thousands of cases of blindness in children).

The charities selected work in the developing world where there is the greatest need. All four charities deal with one or more UN Millennium development goals in providing education, preventing the spread of HIV and reducing infant mortality. Although we do not directly work in many of these neighborhoods, they represent the areas of greatest need.

Representatives from each charity were invited to discuss how the money would be invested by the charity and a process of monitoring the impact of the donation would be monitored through 2008.