

Special bazaar to raise funds for needy

Ambassadors' wives lend a helping hand to community

THE Spouses of Heads of Missions (Sohom), under the patronage of the Foreign Minister's spouse, Siti Rubiah Datuk Abdul Samad, will join forces to organise a charity bazaar to raise money for two good causes: the Fugee School and Empowered! The Cancer Advocacy Society of Malaysia. The event is open to the public, and will take place at the Italian ambassador's residence, 19 Jalan Panggawa, Kuala Lumpur from 10am to 4pm today.

Sohom president Shirley Lenz (Switzerland), has worked closely with the fundraising chairwoman, Nilou de Luca Gabrielli (Italy) and Irene Ong (Singapore) to raise money for the needy.

When asked about the impetus behind the event, Lenz said, "To give something in return to Malaysia. It's a wonderful host country. My job as president is an honorable one. I would like to involve everybody in this wonderful event."

"I'll always help a good cause. I'm excited to open my home. I've got some beautiful Italian Murano glass for sale, plus lots of good food," said de Luca Gabrielli.

Tents covering sales tables representing over 40 countries, are expected fill the grounds of the Italian ambassador's residence. International baked goods and foods, jewellery, crafts, clothing, artwork, Cambodian silver, plants,

pre-loved items, toys, furniture and other goods are for sale.

Raffle prizes and a silent auction include hotel vouchers, a smartphone, designer jewellery and artwork.

Ong said, "I'm excited and happy to help. Our goal is to raise at least RM15,000."

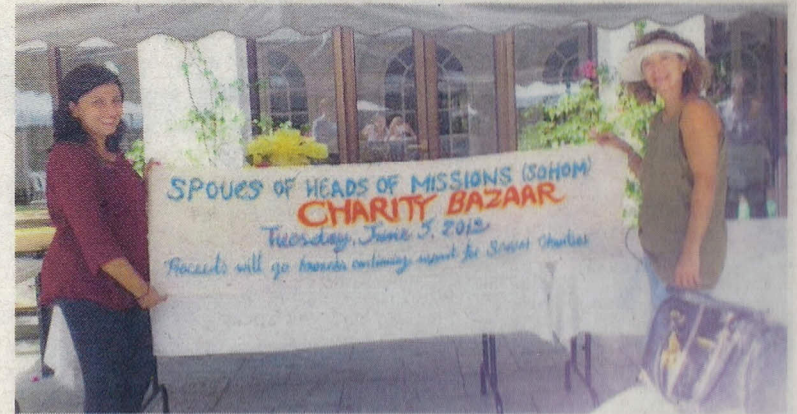
The Sohom committee met with Deborah Priya Henry, Miss Malaysia 2011 and co-founder of the Fugee School.

They were impressed with the organisation that aims to educate 90 Somali refugees, aged from kindergarten through high school.

Catherine Jones from the United States said, "What sets this organisation apart is their outreach to



Strong support: Sohom members setting up for the bazaar at the Italian Ambassador's Residence. Over 40 countries are represented.



Come all: de Luca Gabrielli (right) and Apsara Acharya Bhattarai from Nepal holding the event banner.

underprivileged people in rural areas.

"Their present focus is on educating people about colon cancer, doing at-home screenings, and if

there is an issue, they follow the patient through the treatment process.

"Early detection and teaching awareness is their goal."