

The Sheikh Zayed Private Academy organise a Fashion Show for Special Care Centre Donate a brick campaign

The Special Care Centre (SCC) is an Abu Dhabi-based, self funded institution that relies heavily on donation and volunteers; it is a socially oriented organization which provides educational and developmental services to children with physical and cognitive disabilities.

For the last 18 years, the Special Care Centre has successfully run an educational facility for students with special needs in Abu Dhabi. In line with the current growth of the city and very much concerned about the growing waiting list of children SCC cannot accommodate, the centre aims to build larger and better equipped premises to serve many more students and families with special needs.

To achieve that dream, Good Heart, the fundraising arm of SCC has initiated a campaign called Donate a Brick (DAB), to raise money for that prestigious project. The concept is to establish the school that has been ***built by the community for the community***. This endeavor brings individuals, schools, the corporate and government sectors, and all stakeholders together.

The idea is simple; AED 5 is the cost of a brick, therefore we have AED 5 million bricks to collect so AED 25 million is the total money we have to raise. Time is crucial for SCC as the waiting list of children is increasing at a progressive rate.

Zayed University, American Community School, American International School, Emirates National School, Theodore Monod the French school and now the Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for girls (to name a few) are supporting the Donate a Brick campaign. Many NGO or associations are also organizing events to raise money for DAB.

We are pleased to have companies like EMC, Aggreko, Deloitte & Touche, Maven Corporation, Standard Chartered Bank, ITP group, Jashanmal, to name a few, who have organised fundraising events for the DAB.

We have also major Founder Sponsor who have contributed financially to DAB, namely Emirates Foundation, Daman, Finance House and National Investment Corporation so far with sponsorships above AED 250 000 each. We urge companies here in Abu Dhabi to join as Founder Sponsors as it corresponds to larger amounts and we still have to raise AED 22 million. In return, companies can benefit from branding opportunities during the campaign.

The Vision for the new SCC:

The challenge is to raise that money in a record time to start to build as fast as we can in order to open the first academic year not later than September 2010. The first stone ceremony should be held on January 2009.

The Special Care Centre Community School will be a place where students with special needs will find a state of the art environment for their education and holistic development.

It will be a place for families and non-students to network, make use of resources, gain knowledge and skills, and take part in individual, group, or family counseling. Visitors and community members will be able to make use of the many facilities provided by the school (play area, school shop, library, clinic, multipurpose room, hydro therapy pool, auditorium, gym, cafeteria, shaded garden).

The building should be 100% compliant with international standard for accessibility for special needs.