

**FUNDS:** BRADFORD PUBLIC'S GREAT RESPONSE TO PLEA

# £30,000 raised for displaced Iraqis

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by **KATHIE GRIFFITHS**

T&A Reporter

A Bradford relief charity has raised £30,000 in two days for innocent Iraqis camped outside war-torn Fallujah.

International aid agencies say thousands of people are streaming out of the city and moving into makeshift camps to escape the ongoing battle.

Fallujah's population was estimated at 280,000 before the war and has now dropped to around 30,000 because of the mass exodus and deaths resulting from the fighting as US and Iraqi troops clear rebels from the town they stormed two weeks ago.

To help the humanitarian effort, the Human Relief Foundation, based in Great Horton, put out a live broadcast in aid of Fallujah at the weekend on an Asian digital TV channel which brought in more than £13,000 in three hours. Money was still coming in today.

The channel, which broadcast internationally, also coined in donations from as far away as Norway and Sweden.

The Foundation's project coordinator Yousaf Razaq said the charity was celebrating the positive response to the appeal. "Our phones were red hot," he said. "They were ringing continuously, we had just six manned lines and we missed around 78 calls. But



**HELPING OUT:** Families who have been forced to flee the recent fighting in Fallujah

people have kept the number and carried on contacting us."

Another cause for celebration was £15,000 raised at an Eid dinner on Saturday at Cleckheaton's Aakash Restaurant.

The Human Relief Foundation, which has worked in 40 needy countries, has raised more than £2 million for Iraq since it was set up in 1991 after the first Gulf War.

It regularly sends blankets,

sheets and medical supplies from well-wishers in Bradford and across the UK.

The charity's national Ramadan appeal to ease suffering throughout third world countries has this year raised £250,000.

Mr Razaq said: "The Ramadan total was amazing. It's money that has been given by Muslims but will go to anyone who needs it in third world countries regardless of

their race and creed." Anyone wanting to make donations to the charity can send cheques made payable to The Human Relief Foundation, Freepost BD3125, PO Box 194, Bradford, BD7 1BR or pay in to a Barclays bank account, sort code 20-11-81 account number 70554022.

For further details, visit [www.hrf.co.uk](http://www.hrf.co.uk)

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