



# Schools rally to help Iraqi children

**HELP:** Some of the Bradford children who have raised money for the Human Relief Foundation

**B**radford school-children raised almost £5,000 for their young counterparts in war-torn Iraq. The Human Relief Foundation, which is based in Claremont near Bradford University, asked youngsters at schools across Bradford to take part in the fundraising drive. They held the same campaign last year and ran it again as it was so successful. Project co-ordinator Yousaf Razaq said it was a tremendous effort. "We did the same thing last year and the children did really well. This time we extended it to more schools and again we were overwhelmed by the response." Children did sponsored events, baked buns and made gifts to sell in order to raise the money, putting their earnings into envelopes to pass back to the Human Relief Foundation. Some youngsters simply took home envelopes which were filled by generous relatives eager to help the unfortunate in Iraq.

**Anila Baig reports on attempts by the Human Relief Foundation to raise money for children affected by the war in Iraq**

"This year, more than last, the need to send over money for vital equipment and medicines is more pressing than ever," said Mr Razaq.

"Many Iraqi families struggle to meet their basic needs in the face of desperate socio-economic conditions. This makes the distribution of food and educational materials to children and orphans very meaningful, very valuable and gratefully received.

"The situation in Iraq deserves urgent attention as conditions are, and will continue to deteriorate."

HRF has various relief and development projects in Iraq and will provide tents, emergency kits, medical supplies, medicines, tinned and pre-packed food, blankets and water purification kits.

This year the project was again supported by the Interfaith Education Centre, which also distributed envelopes on behalf of the charity to the schools. Nineteen schools were involved

in the project, including Carlton Bolling College, Cophorne Primary, Lapage Primary, Margaret McMillan Primary, Miriam Lord Primary and Westbourne Primary.

"This clearly represents the partnership approach and commitment of the teachers, parents and children without whom none of this would have been possible," Mr Razaq said. At Miriam Lord Primary School, Church Street, children took home envelopes and which came back to school bursting with donations.

Headteacher Susan Clark (crrt) said it was a brilliant effort.

"Our parents are always very generous. There was a very good response to the fundraising and we raised a lot of money. The school sent out letters about the appeal and everyone wanted to help.

"We received a plaque and a certificate from the Human Relief Foundation," she added. To make a donation to the HRF call (01274) 392727.