



**PRESS RELEASE
20 June 2008**

Sichuan Earthquake Appeal

The Altnagelvin Hospital Fundraising Committee, has helped people in the earthquake-hit province of Sichuan through a donation of £500 to the Sichuan Earthquake Appeal currently being run by the Londonderry branch of the Chinese Welfare Association 'Sai Pak'.

Announced today, the Fundraising Committee donation will help those in Sichuan devastated by the recent earthquake.

The disaster, measured at 7.9 on the Richter scale, is estimated to have killed over 40,000 people.

Karen Scrivens from Sai Pak commented: "Sai Pak is doing whatever it can to help in the wake of the tragedy. The Chinese Welfare Association has been shocked and saddened to learn of the extent of the devastation."

She continued: "Through our organisation, we have close cultural, business and school links with Sichuan and have friends and colleagues in the area. Our thoughts are with everyone involved in or affected by this tragic event."

Paula Cunningham, Head of Service Planning, Western Health and Social Care Trust and Chair of the Fundraising Committee said, "We recognise the current human experience of the people of China and want to assist those who have been greatly affected by this appalling disaster. We hope that this donation assists the aid effort in the provision of food, shelter, clean water and other basic aid. On behalf of the Committee we make our donation through our local Chinese Community Group, Sai Pak".

Paul Cavanagh, who represents the WHSSB on the Sai Pak Advisory Committee and joined the community on its sponsored walk, highlighted the tragic circumstances that the appeal is hoping to aid. "We hope to have raised a lot of money to provide some relief in these very difficult times for the people of the Sichuan Province and I am very pleased to have been associated with the efforts".

Eileen Chan-Hu, Chief Executive, Chinese Welfare Association commented, "The Chinese Welfare Association along with other Chinese groups including Sai Pak (Londonderry) and British Red Cross have set up this fund to support the Sichuan Earthquake Disaster. Chinese communities across Northern Ireland are supporting the work of the Chinese Embassy in UK and the Red Cross Society of China in sending relief to China and the Western Trust has also now contributed to this process."

For the latest information on fundraising activities and events with the Chinese Welfare Association, go to their website: www.cwa-ni.org.

Ends

For further information contact:

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Notes to Editor:

1. Picture caption: From left Simon Ling, Bi-lingual Health Advocate, Karen Scrivens, Community Relations Officer, Jessika Ling, Community Interpreter, Raymond Chan, Sai Pak Management Committee, Paula Cunningham, Head of Service Planning and Fundraising Committee Chair, Paul Cavanagh, Senior Commissioning Manager with the Western Health and Social Services Board and Anne Love, Volunteer Services Manager, Altnagelvin Area Hospital.