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(From left) Associate professor Jeya Devi Coomarasamy, nursing students Takongwa Tabulawa, Siti Embun Manap and Dr Ednin Hamzah at the cheque presentation ceremony.

Varsity raises RM4,000 for Hospis Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR: UCSI University's School of Nursing recently donated RM4,000 to Hospis Malaysia. The funds were raised by the university's nursing students in a charity run held last year during the Pink October event.

A cheque of that amount was presented to Hospis Malaysia chief executive officer and medical director Dr Ednin Hamzah by the UCSI's medical sciences associate dean and associate professor Jeya Devi Coomarasamy during a ceremony at the Kuala Lumpur campus in Cheras.

Dr Ednin said he appreciated the contribution by the University's School of Nursing which has been supporting Hospis Malaysia for five years.

"The university's support for the organisation is greatly appreciated, and every sen-

counts," said Dr Ednin.

Hospis Malaysia offers palliative care, which includes caring for patients with life-limiting illnesses, ranging from cancer and AIDS to motor neurone disease or multiple sclerosis.

Dr Ednin also highlighted the fact that healthcare was one of the top five issues that Malaysians complained about, according to a newspaper poll carried out last year.

"Today's healthcare system lacks care and compassion. Healthcare personnel attend to the physical and social aspects of a person's illness, but ignore the psychological and spiritual aspects.

"This is why soft skills are very important when nurses interact with their patients."

In her speech, Jeya Devi pledged to raise RM8,000 in this year's Pink October event.