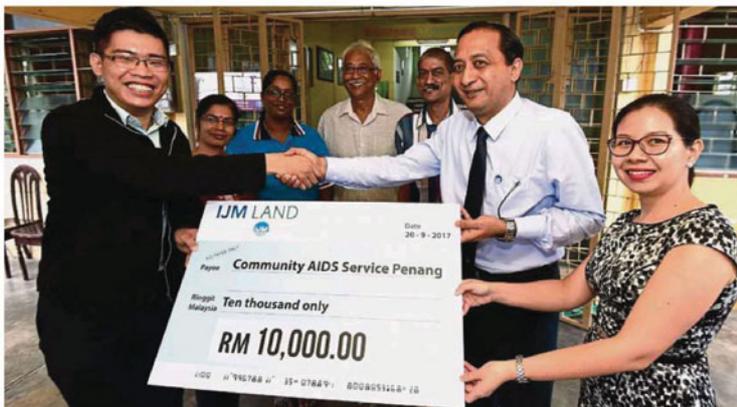


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Shelter in urgent need of new home

Landowner gives CASP till February next year to vacate present building



(From right) IJM Corporation Berhad Corporate Communications executive Amelia Lim Ann Ni and Hanafiah handing over the mock cheque to Dr Hor witnessed by CASP representatives (from second left) B. Kuganeshwan, H. Revathi, M. Santhamohana and A. Poonathan at the shelter in Jalan Pow Nee, off Jalan Kulim in Bukit Mertajam.

By **LO TERN CHERN**
andylo@thestar.com.my

AFTER serving for the past 28 years, Community AIDS Service Penang (CASP) in Jalan Pow Nee, Bukit Mertajam, might have to move out.

Its chairman Dr Hor Chee Peng said the landowner had asked them to vacate the building by February next year.

"We now have 14 residents in five rooms. Most of them suffer from psychiatric problems and other health issues.

"With a shortage of funds and little time, it is not easy to find a new place that can house them and four others on the waiting list.

"Our monthly expenses total up to at least RM21,000 but thankfully, we are getting monthly grants of RM8,000 and RM5,000 through outreach programmes from the Health Ministry," he said on Wednesday.

CASP received a boost of RM10,000 from IJM Corporation Berhad.

The amount was presented by IJM

human resources assistant manager Hanafiah Ahmad under the 'Walk With Us' charity segment of Penang Starwalk 2017.

Hanafiah said CASP found a potential building in Jalan Stesen not far away where they wish to be relocated, and the company would look into assisting them.

"The four-storey building is an abandoned building and may need structural inspection and major renovation.

"We'll discuss with the management to understand the matter," he said.

CASP was established in 1989 after the first HIV case was found in Penang.

Its mission is to provide shelter for homeless and abandoned people living with HIV or AIDS.

It also provides support for the blind, bedridden and those recovering from opportunistic infections.

Those interested to donate or volunteer can contact the home at (04-5398510/5399510).