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MERCY Relief and Hong Leong Group Singapore have donated a total of \$650,000 towards reconstruction efforts in China's quake-hit Sichuan province.

The funds - \$450,000 from Mercy Relief and \$200,000 from Hong Leong - will be used to rebuild a students' dormitory and Wolong Primary, a school in Ziyang prefecture.

Mr Gerry de Silva, the head of group corporate affairs at Hong Leong Group Singapore who attended the ground-breaking ceremony in Sichuan, said: 'When we saw the kids, they were full of life. It was an emotional experience.'

CityCare, a non-profit body, has also stepped up to raise \$500,000 for the province's students by holding a charity sale of artwork.

A hundred pieces of art - done by Chinese artists and earthquake victims - will go on sale at the Luxe Art Museum from Aug 1 to 3.

The funds will go towards rebuilding a primary school, providing financial aid to the affected families and implementing scholarship programmes for tertiary students.