

# Donation boost for children's hospital

## STAFF REPORTER

A DONATION of R1 million from the SA Muslim Charitable Trust is going to be put to good use by the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital – it will help the hospital to upgrade its Specialist burns unit and develop a surgical skills training centre.

The trust, which was established by the Old Mutual Al Baraka Equity Fund in 2008, made the donation to the Children's Hospital Trust – the hospital's fundraising arm – yesterday.

Louise Driver, the CEO of the hospital trust, said the trust was "extremely grateful" for special donors like the SA Muslim Charitable Trust.

"Every cent of their extreme-

ly generous R1m donation will be shared between the trust's two priority projects, with R500 000 going to the burns ward upgrade project and R500 000 going towards the surgical skills training centre project," she said.

Driver said the money was a welcome boost to improve the hospital and keep it at the cutting edge of paediatric health care.

The hospital is the only children's specialist hospital in southern Africa and has the only specialist paediatric burns unit on the African continent.

Mufti Zubair Bayat, a trustee of the SA Muslim Charitable Trust, said the donation would make a significant difference to the hospital's ability to provide modern health care, while en-

suring that surgeons and physicians had the necessary training facilities in which to hone their skills for the benefit of "our people".

"The trust believes that we should do everything possible to assist in nurturing the return to health of young patients in this important hospital facility," he said.

The Children's Hospital Trust has secured pledged funds from philanthropic donors towards the building costs of the burns unit

Funding has been secured from Germany, Switzerland, the UK and local donors for the Surgical Skills Training Centre.

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