

Mithushi Returned to Melaka for Treatment

Written by Tzu Chi Foundation
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In 2008, and with Tzu Chi's help, Mithushi, a congenial scoliosis patient from Sri Lanka, underwent an operation at Melaka Mahkota Medical Centre to correct her spine. Early this year, one of her spinal support bars broke and protruded from her back. She had to return for treatment and Melaka volunteers welcomed her with warm hospitality.

At approximately 8 am on August 2, 2013, Mithushi arrived at KL International Airport, accompanied by her mother, Kusumalatha, and volunteer, Salome. They were met on arrival by volunteers, who brought them to Melaka.

At about 10.30 am, they arrived at Melaka Mahkota Medical Centre, where they were welcomed by another team of volunteers. After taking the beverage and food prepared by the volunteers, Mithushi was led into Dr. Jeyaratnam Satkunasingam's clinic. The latter was very happy to see her and gave her a big hug.

When Tzu Chi volunteers discovered the 9-year old Mithushi at a free medical outreach held by the Singapore team in Sri Lanka in 2008, her condition was critical. Her deformed spine was affecting her respiratory system and appearance.

Due to the lack of medical facilities in Sri Lanka, Tzu Chi volunteers decided to bring her to Malaysia for the necessary treatment and funded the medical fees.

Early this year, a spinal support bar broke and partly protruded from her back, causing an infected wound. As a result of this problem, she had to return for treatment earlier than her scheduled appointment to replace the temporary support installed in 2008.

In view of her condition, Dr Jeya decided to remove the temporary support now and install the permanent one at the end of this year. Although it was a minor surgery that would take about an hour to perform, Dr. Jeya requested volunteer Salome to help translate his explanation to comfort the anxious mother.

The hardworking Mithushi

Salome said Mithushi suffered great pain walking on a bumpy dirt road to school everyday even with her mother helping to carry her school bag. The journey is 40 minutes one way.

Mithushi is a hardworking student. She has achieved good results and intends to be a doctor and a volunteer in future. Realizing that English is an important language, she is studying hard to master it and hopes that one day she can express her gratitude in English to the volunteers.

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