

22/03/1998

Kavitha helps KL-Mentakab walk with her pocket money

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Form Four pupil Kavitha Segamani, who underwent a successful heart surgery through funds raised in a charity walk in 1991, today donated her pocket money for a noble cause.

Kavitha, of Sekolah Menengah Abdul Jalil, Ulu Langat, came with sisters Vijaya, 14, and Anuja, 11, to Balai Berita with RM347 to sponsor one kilometre of the non-stop 100km KL-Mentakab charity walk to raise funds for another hole-in-the-heart girl, an orphanage and two temples.

"I am proud to be part of the charity walk which gave me a a new lease of life," said Kavitha.

When Kavitha was in Standard Three, she needed about RM80,000 for a corrective heart surgery in Melbourne and her father Segamani, a New Straits Times Press (M) Bhd employee, had appealed to participants of the charity walk for help.

The nine-year-old girl was operated on in Melbourne in September 1991 with about RM60,000 raised through a charity walk from Kuala Lumpur to Maran by New Straits Times specialist writer R.V. Veera and his colleagues Mohamed Saiful Mahathir, P. Pusparajan and S. Rajendran.

Seven years later, on hearing about the charity walk by NST journalists Jasbir Singh, Sarban Singh, accounts executive K.R. Visvalingam, R. Rajalingam of Seremban, R. Rajendran of Maybank Triang, Pahang and Ganapathy Subramaniam of Universiti Utara Malaysia, Sintok and Veera, Kavitha said she felt it was her turn to contribute to the good cause.

Segamani, a father of four, also gave RM101 to sponsor a kilometre.

NST reader Balagopalan Nambiar of Port Klang donated RM101 and pledged to get at least 10 sponsors.

The six participants hope to raise RM50,000 through sponsorship at a minimum of RM101 per kilometre of the walk, which will start from the NST office in Jalan Riong at 10am on April 4.

The group hopes to complete the walk at Mentakab in 48 hours.

Those keen to sponsor the walk can contact Veera at 03-2822959 or 010-2121095.

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