

Kidney patient seeks funds for transplant

ASANTHRI NADARAJA

LIVER Subindran Suganthan, 27, was leading a normal life until the age of 19 when he started experiencing severe weight loss, frequent fainting, vomiting and headache.

These symptoms continued for about two weeks and his weight dropped from 95kg to 55kg.

Doctors told Suganthan he had non-functional kidneys and had to undergo dialysis three times a week.

At first, his family did not understand the severity of his condition. When the doctor explained the dialysis process and the restrictions that he would have to follow, they were shocked.

As a part-time student in Hotel Management, his hopes and dreams crumbled.

He had to stop studying and working, and followed a strict vegetarian diet.

The four-hour dialysis leaves him very weak because it not only eliminates toxic substances but also the minerals and vitamins in his body.

The doctor always advise me to go home directly to avoid cooling anywhere," he said.

Suganthan had been working in a part-time share vacation club for five years to pay for his medical fees.

However, in the past year, his condition deteriorated, leaving him too weak to do any work.

My bones have become very brittle and weak, I cannot stand long and cannot carry heavy



Suganthan helping his 10-year-old sister, Alvina, with her homework.

things," he grimaced, expressing his regret that he had become a burden on his family.

Suganthan's doctor had advised him to undergo a transplant. His father volunteered to be the donor, and plans were made for an operation in December 1997. However, in June, misfortune struck as his father died, leaving Suganthan feeling hopeless and desperate.

"I felt like giving up life, I could not take it ... the pain was unbearable and problems kept coming," he said.

A glimmer of hope came when he read in *The Star* about a 17-

year-old student, Manalan Velasamy, who underwent a successful kidney transplant in India.

Suganthan then contacted T. Mohan from MIC to get details. The transplant and follow-up treatment in India will cost RM75,000. Suganthan's wife, Yogalakshmi Silvarajah, 27, whom he married two years ago, will be the donor.

Suganthan is now seeking funds to meet the cost.

He said three of his four siblings were working, while the youngest was still schooling.

"My elder sister is staying on her own and does help out with

household expenses. But the combined income from my two younger siblings and my wife is less than RM3,000 a month," Suganthan said.

"I do not expect a lot, as I know there are many others in need who are suffering other serious health problems," he added.

Cheques can be made out to Oliver Subindran and sent to Biro Sosial & Kebajikan (Pergerakan MIC Kebangsaan), No. 12, Jalan PBP 5, Taman Industri Pusat Bandar Puchong, 47100 Puchong. Alternatively, donations can be banked into Maybank account number 114160038090.