



May 28, 2008

In early February 2008 it was brought to the MET College of Guyana Alumni Association's attention that a young lady at the tender age of 23 was suffering from renal failure (malfunctioning of the kidneys).

Shoma Laljie is from Vreed-en-Hoop, Guyana; prior to Shoma becoming ill, she lead a perfectly normal happy existence. When Shoma's health became progressively worse; the weaker Shoma became the more her quality of life suffered....and so the fight for her life began when she started receiving dialysis treatment 3 times per week in Georgetown, Guyana at an exorbitant cost of G\$36,000 (US\$180.00) per treatment.

Shoma, who shows only the bravest face, has been weathering this storm without the presence of her family nearby to help shoulder the burden. Her mother, father and older brother recently immigrated to Canada. Shoma was unfortunately left behind because she failed her medical examination which is a procedure that every would-be immigrant must undertake.

Shoma's parents consulted a Kidney Specialist at Toronto General Hospital and they indicated that Mr. Laljie was a suitable donor and that such a surgery could be successful. The cost however would be in the region of C\$135,000.

The matter was brought to the attention of the Alumni and it was clear that the cost of the operation would make it prohibitive in Canada. The members of the Alumni then brainstormed the viability of assisting Shoma. It was then proposed that we should explore the possibility of doing it in India. Members then contacted the Three Rivers Kids Foundation and was able to arrange with Jeanette Singh to give logistical, material support and valuable advice. The Alumni undertook to spearhead the raising of funds and assisting the family to open the relevant trust account.

The Alumni was advised that the kidney transplant could be performed in India for an approximate cost of US\$15,000. With the determination and compassion of the Alumni members, we solicited friends, family and well wishers and took on some initiatives to help raise money for Shoma, her father the donor, and her mother to travel to India to have this surgery. We were instrumental in raising approximately C\$20,000.

The Three Rivers Kids Foundation through Jeanette Singh, provided much valuable assistance in co-ordinating with the Doctor at Batra Hospital in New Delhi, India and also included the family in the Foundation's fund raising efforts. The nephrologist, Dr. Deepak Jain reviewed Shoma's medical reports and he suggested that she was suffering from chronic irreversible renal failure

Shoma and her parents traveled to Delhi, India on April 29th under the guidance of Jeanette Singh from 3-Rivers Foundation. The surgery was performed on Thursday May 8th at Batra Hospital, Mehrauli Badarpur Road, New Delhi. To date the news is that both Shoma and her father are doing excellently and Mr. Laljie has been discharged from the hospital.

We continue to pray for Shoma's good health and hope for the entire family that their lives will soon be restored to some normalcy.

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