



Province of West Papua, Indonesia

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Medical Relief from 3,000 Km Away, Boy Says Good-Bye to a Neck Tumor

When eight-year-old Varas (a pseudonym) was born, there was a tiny tumor around the right side of his neck. "It was only about the size of a corn kernel," said the boy's mother Suleiman (a pseudonym). The family did not pay much attention to it at the beginning.

They thought that it was just a little cyst, and it would disappear when the boy grew older. But to their surprise, the lump grew bigger and bigger as Varas grew up. It affected Varas' growth both physically and mentally. Since Suleiman is a housewife and her husband is a fisherman, they cannot afford to pay any medical expenses for Varas' treatment.

In 2021, during an Indonesian military sponsored free clinic, a doctor suggested that Suleiman should take her son to RSUD Manokwari Hospital for a thorough check up. A surgeon at the hospital suggested cutting out



Mother Suleiman sincerely thanks the volunteers of Indonesia Tzu Chi and the medical community, for arranging the surgery to remove the neck tumor from her son Varas. On April 8, 2022, Nurse Weni Yunita of Indonesia Tzu Chi Medical Mission visited Varas and inspected the healing of his operation cut.

Varas' tumor. However, the doctor also indicated that their hospital does not have adequate CT scan and other equipment for the surgery. The doctor suggested the family take Varas to a hospital in Jakarta for further treatment.

Upon receiving the news of Varas' condition, local Tzu Chi volunteers



visited Varas's family and recorded all the specifics of Varas's situation. They immediately reported the case to a Tzu Chi Center in Biak. The volunteers also contacted the Jakarta Branch office. With Tzu Chi providing detailed arrangements, Suleiman and her son flew over three thousand kilometers from Manokwari Selatan in West Papua to Jakarta. The family was placed in Tzu Chi Daai Village #1 in Golden Kalian. This arrangement enabled Varas to receive proper treatment in the Central Jakarta Hospital (RSCM Jakarta).

Varas's surgery was successfully performed on March 22, 2022. After the operation, the surgeon indicated that more than 90% of the tumor was removed. Suleiman said with heartfelt gratitude, "Our family deeply appreciates the help of Tzu Chi, which provided the opportunity for Varas to receive excellent treatment in Jakarta."

On April 8, Nurse Weni Yunita of Tzu Chi Indonesia Medical Mission visited the mother and son in Daai Village #1. She said with gratitude, "When I first met Varas, his tumor was huge. Now it looks much better. I expect that his future will be significantly changed after this surgery." Weni also wished that Varas will grow up like any healthy boy, acknowledge filial piety, and become a useful person in the community.