



Andrea Solomon VERECIO

Date of birth 09.04.2009.

The Philippines

Andrea was about 2 years old when she was diagnosed with the congenital heart defect (CHD).

Since then she was under medical supervision in a cardiac centre in Maniila. Initially the Philippine Heart Center (PHC). The hope was that the hole would heal naturally but unfortunately by the age of 4 it was clear Andrea needed surgical intervention as the hole had grown to 1.2cm and was having a serious effect on her health.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to cure the CHD condition and doctors advised that a heart operation was required.

Miguela J Solomon – the mother and a single parent of Andrea – could not possibly afford the cost of the operation while the state medical care system did not provide for such support either. The cost of operation in Manila, the Philippines was estimated at around £10000 (\$15000).

The family began the search for people/organisations to help Andrea and it was fortunate that they found a friend Mr Jo Leitner from the UK who helped Miguela to approach English language charities worldwide. In 2015 Mr Leither approached Children's Hearts charity for the support for the CHD operation for Andrea, and the joint search to provide best help for the child continued. In March 2016 the family, encouraged by Mr Leitner, contacted Children's Hearts charity, and the charity agreed to support Andrea. The medical condition of Andrea was gradually deteriorating, so it was vital for the child's life that support was found as soon as possible. In September 2016 Children's Hearts charity provided the funds for the operation to be performed. The operation was performed just in time, at the time the hole in her heart had grown to 1.7cm and had it been even 0.2 cm bigger she would have required intensive open heart surgery.

On 16 September 2016 in the St. Luke's Medical Centre in Manila, the Philippines, Andrea had successful heart surgery performed by Dr Jonas Rosario, lead Paediatric heart surgeon for the hospital. The operation went perfectly, a stent was fitted and Andrea is at home now. The recovery has been good and Andrea has put 3.5kg in weight, from 15 to almost 19kg in the following few months. She is gradually able to do the things she has always wanted to try, such as dancing, running and swimming. Thanks to Children's Hearts, Andrea now has the chance of a normal and happy future. We wish Andrea all the best and happy life!

Children's Hearts (UK) thanks all its supporters and, in particular, Audosta Limited, for their support. The Children's Hearts charity remains committed to helping children with congenital heart defects, giving children another chance to live.

THANK YOU