

# When life couldn't get any worse



Thalachimi Suppiah undergoing her dialysis treatment.

**KUALA LUMPUR** — Thalachimi Suppiah was a happily married woman who lived a stable life with her husband, Supramaniam, in the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur. However, things took a turn for the worse when she lost her beloved husband to diabetes.

Without any children, she had no immediate family and was forced to live in a wooden hut with no water and electricity in the outlying area of the capital city.

Her sister, niece and nephew stays at a flat in Bandar Baru Sentul. Even with support from her siblings, the financial burden was too much of a strain.

Three years ago, at a time when life could not possibly get worse for Thalachimi, it did.

Her face and legs started swelling. She rushed with her sister to see a general practitioner, who referred her to Kuala Lumpur Hospital.

The news was completely devastating

when the hospital authorities told her that her kidneys had failed as a result of diabetes.

"They said that I would have to undergo dialysis treatment, which I really could not afford. I was at a loss of words. How could life be so cruel? Even my sister did not know what to say. It was just a hopeless situation," says 63-year-old Thalachimi.

At this point, Thalachimi's kidneys were really taking a toll on her body, which in turn slowly began draining her energy. She wasn't able to walk long distance like before or do simple things like cooking to feed herself. This made her struggle even more complicating.

Already barely able to make ends meet, matters were made worse when she had to pay for her dialysis and taxi fare to go to and fro from the dialysis centre. These expenses including those for daily sustenance had to be borne by the small

## **National Kidney Foundation of Malaysia**

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) Malaysia is a non-profit organisation dedicated to helping Malaysians suffering from end stage kidney failure who lack access to or cannot afford dialysis treatment. The foundation currently has over 1,600 dialysis patients receiving subsidised dialysis treatment in its 28 dialysis centres nationwide.

sum of money she was earning in helping a cowherd pack fresh' milk and the financial aid of RM80 a month she received from the Welfare Department.

Thankfully, as luck would have it, the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) found out about Thalachimi's plight and offered to cover the expenses of her dialysis.

"When I found out NKF was going to assist me on the full expenses of my dialysis, I was thrilled. NKF gave a new hope and new beginning to end the struggle so I can continue with my daily life such as cooking and starting to work again. All their staff are polite and look after me and the other patients very well. If it wasn't for NKF I wouldn't know how much I have to suffer in the long run," says Thalachimi.

Today, Thalachimi is still recovering. She now has a new hope and a more positive outlook towards life.