Students collect RM10,000 for boy’s heart surgery

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — University Putra Malaysia students donated RM10,000 of the proceeds from a charity concert to pay for the medical treatment of 14-month-old heart patient Dewa M.

A cheque for the amount was presented to the New Straits Times which will forward the money collected to the boy’s family in Sungai Pelek, Sepang.

The plight of the toddler, suffering from a congenital heart disease, was highlighted by NST on Nov 13.

He needs urgent surgery to correct his hole-in-heart condition.

His case inspired the students of Tun Perak Residential College to organise a fund-raising campaign. Its Culture and Arts Secretariat organised a cultural performance in conjunction with Deepavali called Malam Fiesta Cahaya Putra 1997 at UPM’s Experimental Theatre to raise funds.

The concert was launched by Works Minister Datuk Seri Samy Vellu and was also attended by UPM vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Syed Jalaludin Syed Salim and the college’s principal associate professor Dr Naim Ahmad.

In his speech, Samy Vellu lauded the caring spirit shown by the students towards the less fortunate and in a generous gesture that brought applause from the students gave an on-the-spot cash donation of RM5,000.

Dewa’s father, B. Murale, a labourer, and mother Poo Muhu, a factory worker, are not able to raise the RM28,000 needed for the surgery.

Those wishing to donate can send their cheques to The Cashier, Finance Department, New Straits Times Press (M) Bhd, 31 Jalan Riong, 59100 Kuala Lumpur. (“M. Dewa” should be written on the back of the cheques.)