Giving hope to children with heart ailments

WHEN Siti Faridah Abd Halim gave birth to twin sons a year ago, she thought both of them would grow up together and have a healthy life.

Unfortunately, a week after their birth, the 25-year-old housewife found out that one of the boys — Ahmad Fawwaz Ahmad Bukhari had a hole in the heart.

“Ahmad Fawwaz would have difficulty in breathing and was constantly gasping for air.

“His health condition deteriorated and after his first cardiac surgery, his lung collapsed and we sought numerous medical treatments,” she said recalling the episodes of Ahmad Fawwaz’s journey until he underwent two surgeries in Gleneagles Penang in April and September this year.

Siti Faridah added that she was thankful for the Life Renewed programme by Parkway Pantai which sponsored the medical treatment, now Ahmad Fawwaz is a happy child growing up with his brother Ahmad Fayyadh.

Two other congenital heart patients 11-month-old Ainnur Najihah Abd Malik and SMK Berapit student Yu Rou Ai, 13, also benefitted from the programme.

Gleneagles Penang chief operating officer Yong Zi Ling who was present, said since the programme was launched in 2012, it had enabled more than 1,300 underprivileged patients to gain access to Parkway Pantai’s network of healthcare and medical facilities.

“This year, Parkway Pantai injected a RM6mil funding in support of the Life Renewed programme in Malaysia for the utilisation of its 14 Gleneagles and Pantai Hospitals.

“At Gleneagles Penang, about 250 needy patients have benefitted from it since 2012,” she said.

Buddhist Tzu Chi Merits Society Malaysia has also helped to identify the programme’s beneficiaries.

Its commissioner Khoo Boo Leong said the society’s objectives were to provide aid, spiritual support and humanitarian services to the underprivileged, and they were pleased with Gleneagles Penang’s heart surgeon Hafiz I.A. Law who has been treating the beneficiaries.