



CANADA COMES TO AID OF SICK PINAY GIRL. The Toronto Hospital for Sick Children's 'Herbie Foundation' provides financial support for open-heart surgery and medical treatment for Milka Agustin, a 5-year-old girl from Tuguegarao, Cagayan Province, who has been suffering from Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD), a congenital defect of the heart common to about 5% of young children. It occurs when a small hole in a child's heart does not close during an infant's early stage of development. This condition renders a child susceptible to major medical complications or even death by their teen years. Aside from Herbie Foundation's support, fund-raising and sponsorship has also been assumed by residents of Kamsack, Saskatchewan. Milka, accompanied by her mother and her aunt, left for Canada on Oct. 1, courtesy of Canadian Airlines and Cathay Pacific, to begin pre-operative medical testing in Toronto. Her surgery will take place on Oct. 18, 1999 at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, one of the largest pediatric academic health science centers in the world. For over 40 years, the hospital has carried out research which created positive impact on children's health improvement. Their research activities encompass everything from basic research conducted at the laboratory bench to inquiries made at the bedside and out in the community. Awarding Milka and her mother Luzviminda Agustin (center) the round-trip ticket to Canada is Mercedes Laurel-Marquez (left), country manager of Canadian Airlines, with Yves Beaulieu (right), second secretary and vice-consul of the Canadian Embassy.

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