

Hope to Home Story About Boy X

By Mariam Roelofse HOPE to Home Community Health Worker June 2015

This boy started on ARV treatment in June 2006 at Tygerberg Hospital (TBH). In 2007 he was transferred to Delft CHC. That is where he was seen by the HOPE Dr Jayne Cunningham.

On the 26th Feb. he was admitted to TBH. He had kidney failure and landed up in ICU. After months he was discharged to G3. That is where I Mariam met him and his mom. After two weeks he was admitted to G10. I started checking on his hospital appointments, making sure he has enough ARV medication and that his mom is giving the right amounts. Then he was discharged home. After two weeks he was back at G10 again.

The doctor then decided that they are going to remove the kidney stones. He has only one kidney working properly and he keeps getting infections. While waiting for an operation to remove the big kidney stones, HOPE to Home supported him and his mother with regular visits by me.

One day he was asking for 2 minute noodles then the HOPE Dr Jayne brought him some. He said he was tired of hospital food. I first checked with the hospital dietician if it was ok as he is on a special kidney diet and she said that he could have it with only half of the flavouring. Since he was so long in hospital and getting very bored, HOPE to Home was sponsoring him with a donation of a CD player and a small portable radio. That was the happiest day of his life.

On the 18th June, he had another big kidney operation which took 4 hours. After being in ICU for two days, he was transferred back to G10. He is doing well at the moment and will probably be discharged in 2 weeks. He will have to return to hospital for appointments every month. At the moment I am busy working on disclosure with him because he wants to know what is wrong with him. I have checked with his parents and the Tygerberg doctors. I am taking it step by step as he is sometimes sleepy and uncomfortable.



Comment by Dr Jayne Cunningham:

"This boy on top of dealing with his HIV has got severe kidney disease and will require chronic care with repeated admissions, multiple medications and numerous tests. HOPE to Home aims to make his care more bearable for him and his mother by providing a constant friendly face, helping with disclosure regarding his status, counselling and support for his mother and items such as a radio and toys to remind him that he is still a child who is dearly loved!"