

Brave Relvie's timely surprise



Christmas cheer: Relvie Nelson, 8, with her parents, Tomave and May, at the Royal Children's Hospital. Picture: DARREN TINDALE

WHEN you are eight, in a foreign country and recovering from major heart surgery, the last thing you want to be is alone at Christmas.

But for little Papua New Guinean Relvie Nelson, who has spent weeks in the Royal Children's Hospital, her chances of seeing all of her family were slim.

Her family struggles financially, so Melbourne charity Children First Foundation stepped in and gave Relvie the surprise of her life this week — her father, Tomave, and brothers Jonathon and Junior

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relapse that put her in the intensive care unit.

Mr Nelson lost his job because he had to care for his two sons while Relvie's mother came to Australia.

Ms Kelly asked that an Australian company operating in PNG offer Mr Nelson a job to ensure the family's income when it returned home.

"We will put them up in CFF's emergency accommodation for the next month or so, but at some point they will have to return home," she said.

'This is the first time we have brought a family here for Christmas . . . this will really help with her recovery'

joined her and her mother, May, at the Melbourne hospital.

"This is the first time we have brought a family here for Christmas for one of our kids," CFF founder Moira Kelly said. "And this will really help with her recovery."

CFF organised life-saving medical help for Relvie in October. Her heart's bigger arteries were crossed and needed to be unblocked. The surgery went well, but Relvie suffered a

"We will continue to supplement his wages, but it would be great if we could get some support for them upon their return home."

The Preston Rotary Club donated the \$2000 for the Nelson family's airfares to come to Australia to be with Relvie.

If you can help, contact CFF on 9329 4822, toll free on 1800 992 299 or by emailing cff@childrenfirstfoundation.com

