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AS mothers, you will do anything for your child. Even way before they are brought into this world, your instincts kick in and you tirelessly worry about your baby. You want to learn everything there is to learn and more importantly, you want to protect them from anything and everything that can harm them be it the common cold or a fever; and if you had your way, you would gladly get sick for your child. And your anxiety is not without reason, since there are many childhood diseases that can be harmful or even fatal to children.

Leukemia is perhaps the most common type of cancer compromising 47.8% of all childhood cancers¹. Hodgkin's Disease¹ or non-Hodgkin Lymphoma is the third childhood cancer comprising 9% of childhood cancer. Aside from these types of cancers, certain brain disorders are also common in children. These

include cerebral palsy and neuroblastoma. Cerebral palsy severely impairs the development of the motor functions and afflicts 1-2 percent of the Philippine population. Neuroblastoma, on the other hand, causes the sufferer to lose the ability to empty the bladder, experience paralysis of the hips, feet, legs and uncontrolled movement.

Research into the use of cord blood and cord lining stem cells have been ongoing since the 1980s and has shown promise of saving lives and treating life-threatening diseases. More than 30,000 cord blood stem cell transplants have already been performed since 1988.

"The strides made in cord blood transplantation has made this manner of treating diseases more widely accepted by people," said Dr. Arvin Faundo, Cordlife Philippines Medical Director. "Currently, umbilical cord

blood transplant is considered as one of the standard forms of treatments for leukemia, among others. Also, many clinical trials worldwide are ongoing for which the results are encouraging. In fact, Duke Medicine is studying the use of umbilical cord blood stem cells to treat autism and related brain disorders. While the trials are still in the initial phases, we are hopeful that these will yield positive results."

Last June, Duke Medicine received USD 15 million funding by Atlanta-based Marcus Foundation. Apart from treating patients based in the United States, Duke Medicine has also opened its door for possible participants from outside of the country provided they meet the inclusion and exclusion criteria to be considered, patients must be aged between 24 months and 72 months old.

When popular reporter, Niña Cor-

puz, decided to bank with Cordlife, she knew it was an investment in her baby's and her family's future. Like any mom, Niña wants to give her baby the best that life has to offer and her baby's long-term health and well-being was the primary reason for her to consider banking her baby's cord blood and cord lining.

"Having my child was the most fulfilling moment of my life. I never thought I'd be capable of so much love and sacrifice until I gave birth to my wonderful kids," said Corpuz. "Every day is just a joy and as early as now, I think of the many things my child and I will do, experience, and share. I invested in my baby's cord blood and cord lining because I want to be sure that my baby is given the best investment I could ever give."

