


**Fundatia  
Vodafone  
Romania**


**Our little house** – A special place that the children have decorated in their own way, creating their personal space that is **JUST FOR THEM...**



**The brave lion** – A true friend that helps children overcome their fears



**The friendship tree** – A joyful tree that is proudly composed of the little hands of every child on the

*The Little People Association provides daily support to children and teenagers fighting cancer in 6 onco-paediatric treatment centers in 4 cities: Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Timisoara and Iasi, thus reaching over 80% of all cases in Romania.*

*With the help of the Vodafone Foundation, from November 2011 we were able to extend our Patient Support Program to the onco-paediatric section of the "Marie Curie" Emergency Hospital for Children in Bucharest. The sponsorship received from the Foundation ensures the salaries of 2 psychologists as local coordinators and all expenses related to the training and orientation of staff as well as the psychology student volunteers, the educational and creative materials for developing activities, as well as travel costs for the project coordinator. We would like to thank Vodafone Foundation for their generous support!*

*Even though the program only started a few weeks ago, we already have beautiful results:*

### • 1<sup>st</sup> of October – 3<sup>rd</sup> of November – Recruitment process

A collaboration process was established between the Little People Association and the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences in Bucharest, followed by the start of the recruitment process for the most suitable students of the university. The Little People Association also recruited the 2 key people who would later on oversee its local operations in the new department.

### • From the 7<sup>th</sup> of November – A new beginning

In order to evaluate the specific needs of this department and adjust the Little People Association's standard psychosocial program to the special needs and dynamics of the Marie Curie hospitals' oncology department, the newly appointed local coordinator, accompanied by the trainer and supervisor psychologist of the association began their daily visit and work with the little cancer patients of the department, enjoying a warm welcome from doctors, nurses and the enthusiastic little children and their parents alike.

### • 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> of November – Volunteer selection

Out of 30 candidates interviewed 11 psychology students were selected to form the Marie Curie psycho-oncology team. They will be specifically trained to develop the daily activities from Monday through Sunday in the Marie Curie hospital. The newly selected students will be accompanied & overseen by the local coordinators, while the quality of the interventions and the overall standard of the psychosocial program is supervised by the two specialists of the Little People Association.



**Snow-white and Harlequin – Visiting the children under treatment.**



**The Ocean of Wishes – The golden fishes take our wishes towards the magic ocean...**



**The teenagers find out about TEMERARII and their encouraging message – YOU CAN TOO!**



**The adventure with the Brave Lion – A special game which helps identify the specific needs of each child (which are his/her fears, coping mechanisms, level of hope, the emotional state, the knowledge of his/her own body, etc.)**

### • 13<sup>th</sup> of November – First intensive training

Katie Rizvi familiarized the newly formed team with the most important aspects:

- The Little People Association's organizational policies, standards, goals and objectives
- The global view of paediatric oncology with emphasis on the specifics of the hospital the volunteers will work in
- Rules of conduct, ethical consideration and patient rights
- Hygiene and health consideration for anyone working in the oncology setting
- The psycho-social objectives of the Intervention Program the team will implement in the hospital
- Examples of planned activities and creative materials which are being used
- Logistical aspects related to the schedule and the supervision period
- Everybody received their copy of a special *Volunteer Guide* for oncology volunteers as well as a *Parent Guide*, both containing relevant information for their future activities in hospital

### • 14<sup>th</sup> of November – The second intensive training

The most important aspects of the session were related to:

- General aspects regarding childhood cancer
- Familiarization with information regarding medical procedures and onco-pediatric treatment
- Behavior and hygiene principles inside the hospital
- Information about the Temerarii Club of cancer survivor young people and modalities of sharing the hope and success message with current patients
- Daily report modality of the activities developed in the hospital

### • From 13<sup>th</sup> of November – Supervision period

The newly selected and trained volunteers started the activity in the hospital under the supervision of the association's specialists who made sure that everything is running well and that the objectives of the structured intervention program are followed. Following this week of supervision, the volunteers will pursue an organized schedule and they will continue the program with the local coordinators.

### • Smiles...

All the little cancer patients and their parents are overjoyed by the new program and immediately understood the time frames, rules and scope of our visits. Since currently there is no designated play area in the onco-paediatric department, our specifically designed intervention activities take place in the individual rooms at the bedsides of the patients. In developing psychosocial interventions we pay special attention to the needs of the different age groups and can also pay individual attention to those who need it. At the end of the day, the activities are displayed on a specially arranged panel in the oncology section's hallway, where parents and medical staff can admire the work of the little patients and the topics discussed or addressed throughout the week or even a longer period.

**Thank you so much for your support!  
Together we can beat cancer!**