

## *Artists Against Cancer — Kunstenaars Teen Kanker*

The leukaemia and cancer units at National Hospital has just entered a very exciting era. With a motivated and enthusiastic team of doctors, nurses, caregivers and community volunteers, we want to positively influence the lives of our cancer patients in a novel manner. Medical expertise is important in the management of our patients, but on its own, it can never be enough. We want to touch the individual patient in every aspect of his or her being, be it physical, spiritual or psychological.

The patients in our leukaemia unit are usually admitted for anything between 4-6 weeks, after which they go home for a week, before returning for another session of chemotherapy. Because of the infection risk, they must be isolated for long periods of time, and because many of their families do not have the means to visit them regularly, many patients become severely depressed. It is in this area that we believe that we can make a difference, by involving the wider artist community. Whether you paint, draw, write poetry, do photography, quilt-work, sing, dance or make music, you can be a part of this new wind that is coming to our cancer patients. The only limitation will be the borders of our collective creativity.

### *The Vision*

We see a cancer unit filled with light, colour, artworks and photographs that bring hope, inspire, encourage and portray love and rest. We see patients who again have the light of hope shining in their eyes and regain the courage to go on. We see patients who find in their personal artistic expression a release for their frustrations, fear and uncertainties. We see caring people by their bedsides teaching them simple art techniques and help them to continue this on their own, whether in hospital or at home. We see musicians, dancers and singers performing on Sunday afternoons, inspiring these wonderful people in their unique ways. We see light in our patients' eyes, because no longer are they alone in their fight against cancer.

### *How can you get involved?*

If you are involved in the arts, be it a hobby or in a professional manner, then you can get involved. Contact one of the people below to discuss your personal involvement in this project. Whether your involvement is very big or minutely small, we would like to invite you to join the rapidly expanding group of Artists Against Cancer.

### *Contact Details*

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## *Kunstenaars Teen Kanker — Artists Against Cancer*

Die leukemie-eenheid by die Nasionale Hospitaal in Bloemfontein het 'n baie opwindende era betree. Met 'n entoesiastiese en gemotiveerde span van dokters, verpleegsters, hulpverleners en vrywilligers uit die publiek, wil ons graag die lewens van ons kanker pasiënte maksimaal positief impakteer. Medisyne en kundigheid is belangrik in die hantering van ons pasiënte, maar nie naastenby genoeg nie. Ons wil graag die pasiënt in sy volle menswees aanraak - fisies, psigies en geestelik.

Pasiënte in die leukemie-eenheid lê gewoonlik vir 4 tot 6 weke in die eenheid, waarna hulle vir 'n week lank mag huis-toe gaan voordat die volgende sessie van chemoterapie aanbreek. Aangesien hulle vir lang tye geïsoleer word om infeksies te beperk, en baie pasiënte se families nie die geld het om hulle te besoek nie, raak baie depressief, moedeloos en verloor hoop. Hieraan wil ons 'n verskil maak deur kunstenaars in die breë by ons pasiënte te betrek. Of jy skilder, teken, gedigte skryf, weef, brei, hekel, fotografie doen, sing, dans of musiek maak, jy kan deel word van die nuwe wind wat deur ons leukemie-eenheid en die kanker afdelings van Nasionaal gaan waai. Die enigste beperking is die grense van ons gemeenskaplike kreatiwiteit.

### *Die Visie*

Ons sien 'n kankereenheid gevul met lig, kleur, kunswerke en fotos van hoop, inspirasie, liefde en rus. Ons sien pasiënte met hoop in hul oë wat weer kans sien vir die lewe. Ons sien pasiënte wat in kuns 'n uitlaatklep vind vir hul frustrasie, angste en onsekerheid. Ons sien mense wat omgee langs hul beddens wat hulle verskillende kunstegnieke leer wat hulle dan op hulle eie kan doen. Ons sien musikante, dansers en sangers wat op sondagmiddae 'n klein optrede gee en mense inspireer deur hul uitvoerings. Ons sien lig in ons pasiënte se oë omdat hulle nie meer alleen is in hul stryd teen kanker nie.

### *Hoe nou verder?*

Indien u op een of ander manier betrokke is by kuns, as stokperdjie of professioneel, kan u betrokke raak. Kontak een van die onderstaande persone om te praat oor u persoonlike aandeel in hierdie projek en sluit aan by die groeiende groep Kunstenaars Teen Kanker.

### *Kontakbesonderhede*

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