Women's & Children's Hospital
North Adelaide, Australia

Greatest Challenge Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

Surviving the devastation of diagnosis, relapse or end of life issues is a challenge for us all. The grief, frustration and hurt experienced by families and the team unites our focus to support the child through the protocol with minimal side effects and maximum quality of life.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

Hope exists through the feeling of community "one-ness" between staff and families as we work together. Joy is shared through the smiling faces of the children and a belief in the future when the children return for post treatment check ups looking healthy and recognizable with hair.
**Children’s Cancer Centre, Royal Children’s Hospital**

**Melbourne, Australia**

**Greatest Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group**

Being able to provide the best care within the constraints of a publicly-funded health system and the difficulty in attracting health professionals. We also need to remember that we need to support staff as well as children and families and continuously strive for best practice.

**The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future**

In seeing children get better and meeting them again after they have finished treatment knowing they have great lives and knowing that you’ve contributed in making that happen. The knowledge that we have made bearable the unbearable and that each day we are improving the way we care for children and their parents.
Centro De Tratamento E Pesquisa,
Hospital Do Cancer A.C. Camargo
Sao Paulo, Brazil

Greatest Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

The biggest challenge faced by our treatment centre has been the constant development of new activities for children in order to lead them to get back to a normal life and maintaining a quality of life.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

We like to gather newly diagnosed patients with survivors of childhood cancer hoping that through the exchange of information the child can improve his coping skills with the illness experience. In seeing a child maintain hope, happiness and joy despite his illness encourages us to reflect on our own values and beliefs in the quality of life.
Children's Haematology & Oncology Center
Christchurch Hospital
Christchurch, New Zealand

Greatest Challenge Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group
In being the "small fish in a big pond" as we are a tertiary pediatric centre within a general hospital with limited space and facilities. There is no space for privacy for families to deal with diagnosis/treatment results as well as not having a kitchen area that would encourage normal routines and interactions.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future
The inspirations in seeing the children cope successfully and get to the end of treatment. The rapidity of developments and advancements in care and the related increase in positive outcomes are fantastic. Also important is the sense of fun and laughter so often heard on the unit.
Pediatrics Department, Portuguese Oncology Institute
Lisbon, Portugal

**Greatest Challenge Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group**

The biggest challenge is to integrate disease within the daily life of the child and family. A multidisciplinary effort is made to keep all the joys that are part of a child's day, even if it includes having your blood drawn or staying attached to an IV line.

**The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future**

Family and friends are the most important daily source of joy and hope. Keeping busy, while at home or in the hospital, is helpful to get through everyday and make plans for the future - especially keeping school attendance. Staying in touch with survivors makes you believe and think positive.
James Brindley School,
Diana Princess of Wales Children’s Hospital
Birmingham, England

Greatest Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group
Balancing the most important need to deliver the best medical, nursing and psychosocial support for every individual child with cancer and their families, against the resources of time, available beds, space on the ward and in out-patients, trained staff, car parking and parent accommodation and externally imposed targets and perceived improvements.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future
The hope that one day cures may be found so that no child suffers. The bravery and humor of the children and the strength and reserves of their truly incredible parents, experiences with cancer treatment often enhancing life skills for coping with future challenges and experiences. Seeing patients who are now well and happily leading a normal life.
Greatest Challenge Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

In a fog of devastating news prolonged hospital visits and an uncertain future, good communication between everyone involved in the child’s treatment becomes the beacon of light that enables patients to cope. As professionals we constantly strive to achieve this but it is a constant challenge.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

As a family we have a very positive attitude and approach to Sydney’s illness and are working together to get through it. The initial positive prognosis and results so far and feedback from doctors give us hope and belief for the future. Joy will come at the end of treatment!
Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital
Manchester, England

Greatest Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group
The biggest challenges we face as a unit involve all kinds of areas, from teenage issues generally trying to understand why young people, who are just starting their lives are affected with cancer.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future
The way young people approach their illness is always awe-inspiring and humbling to watch. The belief in the future comes from their positivity and belief in getting well, despite the problems and obstacles that are thrown at them.
Queen’s Medical Centre Nottingham
University Hospital NHS Trust
Nottingham, UK

**Greatest Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group**

Maintaining enthusiasm to develop new ideas and continue to develop the service with the financial constraints that are currently present. It is also a challenge to maintain a suitable environment for both children and young people cared for within the same environment.

**The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future**

Is the continued collaboration of professional groups and charitable bodies throughout the world. Working to improve the care, treatment and outcomes for children and young people with cancer.
Greatest Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

Children treated in our unit are also treated in their local hospitals and at home. Moving from place to place can cause additional stress to families and staff. We would like a designated adolescent unit to enhance the care and the support offered to young people with cancer.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

The resilience that people show, coping under such difficult circumstances is amazing. Talking to other people in similar situations provides parents and children with support, reassurance and hope. Working together also helps staff to provide the best care that they can, learning from each others experience and expertise.
Greater Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

The biggest challenge is being able to accommodate everyone's needs to provide the best service possible. Also, being able to find and provide transportation for the families so that they can come to their clinical visits and receive treatment. The nurses, on the other hand, find teaching precautions for patient care when a child is diagnosed very demanding.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

Seeing patients and families smile and being themselves despite their illness. The hope in patients surviving their treatment and coming back to the hospital to show everyone where they are now. Providing patients activities that they enjoy engaging in at home, here at the hospital and giving them opportunities that they would not be able to have if they were not diagnosed with cancer.
Paediatric Clinic of Sarajevo, University Clinic Centre
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Greatest Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group
One of the challenges is the parent’s lack of information on the disease itself. We would like to have more interaction between our social workers and psychiatrists as well as more involvement between the parents and the volunteers. We also need to include our volunteers in more projects.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future
Whenever we see a child and their parents come back to us with happy faces and some kind words. We are always happy when we succeed in our projects and we are especially pleased when we have good cooperation with the Government.
Ewings Sarcoma,
Boldrini Childhood Cancer Centre
Campinas, Brazil

Greatest Challenge Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group
One of our biggest challenges nowadays is the poor commitment of adolescents to their treatment as well as not fitting within the hospital frame. Our parent group presents a great difficulty in gathering new parents towards a collaborative effort, a major difficulty for the bereaved.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future
The wonderful smiles on children’s faces when coming out of chemotherapy, or from being in hospital, making plans and proceeding on home. The little ones involved in the playroom. The high rate of children released from treatment in our hospital unit and the hearty commitment shown by some very special professionals.
Greatest Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

is helping our sick children and their families cope with their life-threatening illness in the best possible manner. To this purpose the medical and paramedical team cooperate in building a support system in the clinic and community so that the child and family receive both medical and psychosocial support.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

We have a colorful playroom with games, crafts and a computer which makes the children happy to visit and they are able to meet others in the same situation as well as those who have “survived” the illness. Our art therapist helps them develop their creative strengths. The staff adopts a healthy optimistic attitude.
Hospital Materno Infantil de San Isidro
Fundacion Maria Cecilia De Ayuda Al Nino Oncologico
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Greatest Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group
The foundation provides everything that is necessary to the patient and their families. It ensures that the children receive adequate treatment by providing the catheters and medication needed.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future
We love and are proud of working in an interdisciplinary medical team in our country. We fight for the rights of our children ensuring that they receive the best treatment in spite of their economical situation. Our children are HAPPY at the hospital which makes it all worthwhile.
ASHIC - A Shelter for Helpless III Children
Foundation for Childhood Cancer
Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy
and a Belief in the Future

Each year ASHIC has organized a press conference in Dhaka. The aim has always been to raise as much awareness about childhood cancer as possible as well as making the cancer-affected children have a day when they feel special.
Saint-Luc University Hospital
Brussels, Belgium

When I prefer at school is the teacher. She is very kind. Sometimes I miss my school from outside.
Andrea, 12

My "Winnie", I love them.
Belgium, 6

The school at the hospital
David, 11

The "serious" corner in the classroom
Belgium, 12

Luc and Nathalie, for Pub
Mare, 16
Greatest Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

The biggest challenge facing our treatment center is the lack of space and a constantly growing population. Also, the long distances some families have to travel to receive treatment.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy, and a Belief in the Future

The things that bring hope, joy, and a belief in the future are when follow-up patients return with babies and families of their own. Also, when patients return to visit to share milestones that have occurred in their life such as travels, graduations, and career choices.
Kids with Cancer Society

Edmonton, Canada

Greatest Challenge Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

Educating the community as to the distinct needs of children with cancer creates a challenge. Only when we achieve this are we in a position to provide programs and services that will have an impact on cancer families and their journey with childhood cancer. Until there is a cure, we will work tirelessly in support of these wonderful children.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

The children themselves! Despite their challenges, children display a strength and courage that motivates all who care for them to strive for greatness. They are an inspiration to us all and remind us of what is important in our lives.
KCCFA - Alberta Children’s Hospital
Calgary, Canada

Greatest Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group
It is challenging for a pediatric oncology clinic to balance the acute medical care needs of a patient with that of their needs for autonomy, education and socialization.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future
As pediatric oncology nurses, we are fortunate to be able to witness the on-going success rates and increasing survival rates for pediatric cancers. We are privileged to be able to be a part of a family’s journey through the devastating diagnosis of cancer and watch them face many challenges while coping with the disease. It is tremendously rewarding to see a patient and family through diagnosis, treatment and graduation as a long term survivor.
Kingston General Hospital
Kingston, Canada

Greatest Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

Some of the biggest challenges we face include our clinic's lack of space, lack of privacy and lack of parking. The Pediatric Oncology team tries to stay fresh by doing ongoing emotional processing. Our work requires us to ensure that we are receptive and responsive to the needs of our families.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

Seeing the children laugh and play and being able to focus on the positive aspects of life while appreciating the simple things others may take for granted. Watching families rise to the challenge of living with cancer and focusing on what has been gained by the experience.
CancerCare Manitoba

Winnipeg, Canada

Greatest Challenge Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

We are lucky in that we have a brand new facility for children. There is something to do for everyone; teenagers enjoy laptops, video games and creative arts while the younger children enjoy a tree house and have more toys than Toys R Us.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

The important things in life, especially when you have cancer, are family, friends, and a healthcare team that really cares. Life is a gift and we need to appreciate every moment and try to live in this present moment every day.
The Lady Pao Children’s Cancer Centre, Prince of Wales Hospital
Hksar, China

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

The things that bring Wai On and his mother’s hope, joy in the future are the friends in church and the praying from them. Their concerns and care bring them support and hope.
Greatest Challenger Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

Being an expatriate Australian family living in Hong Kong our challenge has more to do with culture than with the disease itself. Not speaking the language can make you feel quite isolated at times. It takes greater effort to meet the social & psychological needs of our son.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

One aspect of this experience that has brought us great joy are those times when we have all reached out beyond the obstacles of language & culture and made a personal connection with other families. Whether it was gifts exchanged at Christmas or Chinese New Year, a smile or wave across the ward works wonders.

I like this nurse because she is cute, sweet and takes good care of me in the hospital. Jacqueline, 7
Faculty Hospital, Pediatric Clinic, Hematology - Oncology Section
Olomouc, Czech Republic

Greatest Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group
Six years ago CMANCE originated regional bone marrow donor registry and until now we have acquired more than 2,000 disposed donors. At the beginning it was a futile requirement to be able to help one little boy with acute leukemia and now there are many patients who are successfully transplanted by using our contribution.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future
The love of the human.

Roche
University Children's Hospital
Giessen, Germany
University Children’s Hospital
Homburg, Germany

The four good spirits

Sitting on the sofa in the games room

Music therapy with drums

Tired exhausted

Me and the clown
University Children's Hospital
Kiel, Germany
University Children’s Hospital
Koeln, Germany
I ask to take a photograph of me with my mother so as to show we, the patients, are never alone.

Laura 12
The pump: My Adventure's Mate
Beatrice, 7
This is a picture of a three year old female patient who is the very first volunteer at the center. She is a special and joyful girl, loved by every one.
Greatest Challenge: Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

Is being able to find effective treatment for the 30% of children that are still dying of cancer and try to reduce the risks of late effects of our therapy. To give parents and siblings the possibility to care for each other despite the challenges of treatment, hospitalization, and the economy.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

The upcoming drugs acting directly against the cancer cells and finding treatment modalities to replace radiation. The children's way of finding the positive in life, "I hadn't met so many nice people if I hadn't been sick."
Donors-for-Kids Society
Russian State Children Hospital
Moscow, Russia

Greatest Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

The patients face enormous, for Russia, costs of treatment (>$20,000 - $60,000) and travel (often thousands of kilometers from the hometown). Most aren’t able to get proper treatment because of insufficient funding and hospital space, and lack of blood donors.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

The dedication of sponsors and volunteers.
Severodvinsk, Russia

With this doctor I don't have a bad future.

She'll have a long life.

Sasha is 7 months old, photo by mom.

I am seeking new friends.

Max is 6.

All that happens is for the better.

Anya, 8.

I am not scared of the green

Drawing by Artemis.
Royal Aberdeen Children’s Hospital
Aberdeen, Scotland

Greatest Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

Distances that patients have to travel to the centre. Being apart from family for long periods. Missing school. Lack of money because of missing/giving up work. Relationship breakdowns between parents.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future


Roche
National Association of Childhood Cancer Parent Organizations of Serbia & Montenegro
Serbia, Montenegro

Greatest Challenge Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

Our biggest challenge is to provide psychosocial care during and after the treatment. Information about illness for the parents and children in all Centres in Serbia and Montenegro. Also our kids in hospitals do not have playing rooms, TV sets, toys etc.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

We believe that our parent’s activity will bring some changes, it must be if we want to be a part of this World. If we can get more support and help from our friends from developed countries and more understanding from our Government and medical staff, we are sure that our children could have appropriate care and treatment as they deserve to have.
Bratislava, Slovakia

Greatest Challenge Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

The biggest challenges for us is to improve conditions of accommodation for our parents, who are staying with their children during treatments. We have a desire to encourage our parents to be more active with other professionals and volunteers who can help them with organizing special care and pay attention to their children’s needs after their treatments, but also when the children are out of the hospital.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

Taking care of children with malignancies and their results are pretty well developed in Slovakia. The young medical team has much better possibilities to obtain knowledge and info about illnesses, psycho-social problems of children and their families. In addition, they have a wider field of choices to satisfy children with families and their quality of life.
Greatest Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

To have a dedicated paediatric oncology ward. At the moment we are sharing a ward with the surgical departments. We as the parent support group also need funds to help with the running cost of the Danine Clover CHOC House.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

Patients that recover give strength for the next patients fight against cancer. The joy and relief that the families experience staying in the CHOC House (“an oasis”). We believe that God works through the medical staff, families and CHOC members to create a future for patients.
Oncological Service, Hospital Materno-Infantil, Val d’Hebron
Barcelona, Spain

Greatest Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group
I can’t go to the school because I have to go to the hospital. I can’t do things that I did before. When there are too many people, I can’t go in. My mother can’t go to work because she takes care of me.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Relief in the Future
My family and friends and playing to Play Station.

Roche
Queen Silvia Children's Hospital
Geteborg, Sweden

When you have a very low blood count, a blood transfusion helps to make you feel better and perhaps come home slightly earlier.

Keeping up with school work.
March 10, 11

When you are feeling well enough it is a good break and fun to do some school work.
March 11

Carrie, the hospital teacher.
March 11

Having a television in the room is very important. This is a great help to keep the mind occupied, especially when you are feeling sick, both day and night.
March 11

Keeping good contact with the doctors and nurses is very important. It is important that they talk direct to the patient and not through the parents. This helps to give a safe and secure treatment.
March 11
Academic Medical Centre
Emma Children’s Hospital
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Greatest Challenge Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group
Our biggest challenge is to be cured and to cure in the most pleasant way, in all respects.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future
We are proud of the perseverance and the stamina of the children and the staff.
Greatest Challenge Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

The biggest challenge for our cancer centre is working together with children and parents to provide a climate wherein they are stimulated to make use of their own strengths and possibilities in facing the treatment.
Leiden University Medical Centre
Leiden, Netherlands

Greatest Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

The greatest challenge facing our unit at the present time is to establish a dedicated adolescent and young adults’ unit. Such a facility would allow us to develop a unique and dedicated philosophy of care, which would enable us to better meet the specific needs of young adults with cancer.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

The documented improvement in outcome for children with cancer gives us confidence in our daily work. However, it is the courage and determination as well as the humor of the children and their families that gives us hope and strength for the present as well as the future.
Greatest Challenge Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

Working with oncology families we travel their journey with them, through diagnosis, treatment, follow-up and sometimes through relapse and palliation. We work in a multicultural regional centre which has its own challenges. We want to continue giving a high standard of care to future children and their families.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Relief in the Future

Our hope is that survival rates continue at the present rate or are heightened by the introduction of new modalities of treatment which in itself will be a challenge. The children themselves and the amazing way they cope with whatever comes their way throughout their treatment, is a constant source of both joy and hope.
Elephant Day Care
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust
London, England
Middlesex Hospital  
London, UK  

Greatest Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group  

A big challenge for our parents is finding a common language. People come from all over the world to have their children treated here, finding the time or energy to meet up is also a challenge. Whilst you draw comfort from snatched conversations in the parents' kitchen, your child's sometimes all consuming needs for attention come first.

Story by Meagan  

When I was diagnosed with cancer in November 2004 I was really upset and scared. I thought that with all the trips to hospital I would have and surgeries on my leg, walking down the road eventually to happen again. Any plan or arrangement we had made had to be cancelled and I felt terribled.

As it has turned out, having cancer doesn’t have to be a bad thing. Although I was constantly travelling to and from London when I arrived at the hospital all the doctors and nurses were really friendly and helpful. I never felt as if I was doing anything wrong or anything that was going to hurt me.

Although I wasn’t going to spend Christmas at home, everyone in hospital made it as nice as possible. To start with there was the Christmas party, to look forward to so celebrate Christmas as we did. There was also the staff from the wards to look forward to, the others who were nice as the nurses went out to buy the patients lots of presents and non-alcoholic drinks for each patient. The patient’s families were also given a special Christmas day. On Christmas day, the patient’s families and the doctors and nurses were given a special Christmas dinner and the day was celebrated as that families could stay the night.

On Monday we were visited by Duneen from the pop group ‘Blue’ who came and sat on each patient’s bed and gave us a signed album, a poster and a disposable camera. We all enjoyed the visit and taking photos of us. The nice thing about being in hospital is that there is something someone or something happening. This could be from being a patient to a visit from a friend. Everyone in hospital is really friendly and always trying to find something to keep you amused.

When you are not in hospital, there are many nurses and volunteers who are trying to make things exciting and make a special event. A charity that I found is ‘SUKI’ which is a website for children who are hospitalised. This gives the children in hospital the chance to go through treatment. Everyone is trying to make the child better and good and I can’t thank those people enough.

Meagan, 12  

“I’m losing all my hair”  

To be sung (with a smile!) to the tune of “I’m walking in the air” from “The Snowman”

I’m losing all my hair  

Although the days will work their magic as I see  

I’m holding it tight  

To have cancer be real is a thing to me  

Suddenly it’s all falls all over me  

It is quite apt I’m negotiating chemotherapy  

Far across the world  

Hope and prayer for me  

From England, Scotland, and Wales  

People gone mare and then I’ll be  

Torn to joyor  

When I take off my pink hair, you should see my eyes  

I’m trying to be brave  

And keep my hair quite fit too  

If I choose mine than meet me in a while I’ll be sorry  

Suddenly I wake on my pillow case,  

There’s some hair it is so soft  

And I don’t have a diagnosis  

I really like to thank the doctors nurses and Jo from hospital  

With your help I’ll stay free from cancer  

The hospital transport is a bus  

It turns up really late one day  

When it comes I’m really on a date  

I’m growing all my hair  

I’m growing it after chemotherapy  

It’s getting very long and starting to be Reply  

I’m growing out all my hair  

Although it being really nice  

There’s some up in my hair  

Others down below  

My tumour has shrunk  

And I will be removed shortly

Meagan, 12
Sheffield Children’s NAS Trust
Sheffield, England

My leg being managed by Sinead our Therapist, watched by my mum. Rachel, 7

Decision & nurse Jan, going to the ward, treatment room for acute chemotherapy. Rebecca, 10

Waiting at the treatment room for the bag to finish. My grand maurie, her mum and no our nurse. Rebecca, 10

My friend, Pip. Feeling horrible not wanting to go home. I remember not feeling very well. Rebecca, 10

Facing the machine for my Tuminal Bed Examination. Zilair, 10
Greatest Challenges Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

We are a shared-care centre so some children may have to wait for some treatments at their main hospital. Our day room is lovely but far too small. Staffing levels make it difficult to provide palliative care and also supportive care. There is no parent's support group at present.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

Seeing children that have passed through treatment and follow-up bring their own children to visit the Unit. Seeing the children smiling and the friendship between children of all ages playing together as they share a common bond. Seeing children finish treatment and watching them grow up through treatment.

Roche
Anna’s Cat Kozma

Anna is very fond of cats. When she was diagnosed with leukemia her cat Kozma fell sick. The vet suggested she seek a new littermate for Kozma. The vet asked Anna’s neighbors if they knew of a cat for sale or adoption. Anna’s neighbors eventually referred the vet to a woman who had a litter of kittens. Anna was overjoyed and excited to find out that the vet had a litter she could possibly adopt. The vet explained that the litter was from a cat she had rescued from a shelter. Anna was very grateful to the vet for finding her a new littermate for Kozma. She was happy to take Kozma home and give him the love and care he needed.

My Friend Kozma is a molecularly named Anna.
Greatest Challenge: Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

The biggest challenge that faces our parent group is funding. We are a largely volunteer organization. Time and funding constraints prevent us from implementing many worthwhile programs and services. Although, I do believe that we do a spectacular job with the resources that we have.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

Joy comes in the form of a smile from one of our children as they set aside their pain and teach us how to enjoy the moment. It is inspirational to celebrate their milestones as they end their treatment or graduate from high school. We find hope meeting the countless dedicated people that work to support children with cancer.
Greatest Challenge Facing Your Treatment Centre and/or Parent Group

One of the biggest challenges facing our treatment centre is that our “Children’s Hospital” is intermeshed within the main institution. Our inpatient units consist of a couple of floors here and there within the main hospital. Hospital administration must plan for the needs of many and cannot focus on the needs of a few. (Children’s wards) A Children’s Hospital with both inpatient and outpatient resources and procedure rooms would be the start of providing the quality care that we are capable of providing.

The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

Ongoing research into treating children’s cancers. Over the 16 years of my career, I marvel at not only how the treatments have improved but the quality of life for the survivors has improved. With long-term follow up it is rewarding to see our kids grow up to be adults and have kids of their own. “In my heart, working with pediatric oncology patients has provided me with an abundance of heartwarming, humbling experiences I will never forget, and I continue to be inspired by this population daily.” - Nurse Shands.
Children's National Medical Center
Washington, U.S.A
Academic Hospital Groningen
Beatrix Children’s Clinic
Groningen, Netherlands
The Things That Bring Hope, Joy and a Belief in the Future

Our ideal is to help children with cancer overcome their disease in a way that they can develop themselves into healthy adults in all respects. Therefore optimal care for the child with cancer not only means the best possible medical treatment of the disease, but also care of side effects and optimal psychosocial care.