

NURDOR

National Association of Parents of Children with Cancer

YOUR LOVE MEANS A LOT BECAUSE WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER!

January to March

Issue 1/Page 1



WE NEED YOUR LOVE BECAUSE TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE IT!
The 15th of February International Childhood Cancer Day

NURDOR

On the occasion of International Childhood Cancer day we would like to thank to all donors and volunteers who helped NURDOR make significant steps in improving the quality of life of the children diagnosed with cancer and their families, enhancing the quality of treatment, equipping the ward, raising public awareness and legal regulation in the previous year.

Owing to your love and generous help we succeeded in raising 230,000 euros in money and 150,000 materialistic donations. By these donations we provided a huge number of necessary things that help our dear children and their families to easier overcome the difficult period of treatment.

In the category of improving life of the children diagnosed with cancer and their families we would like to point out that we got and equipped two parental houses (Belgrade and Novi Sad) of what we are very proud.

Nine years in a row, National Association of Parents of Children with Cancer remembers the 15th of February, World day of children diagnosed with cancer. The motto of this years' activities performed to remember this date



Important Information

- Every day a child is diagnosed with cancer in Serbia
- Every week one child dies from cancer in Serbia
- Over 400 children are cured annually from cancer in Serbia
- Luckily, the percent cured is high, with 60% successful cured
- The most common malignant illness in children is acute leukemia, where the percent cured is the highest, and ther-

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in each of the three cities where children with cancer are medically treated, Belgrade, Nis and Novi Sad, is *Your love means a lot to us because we are stronger together!*

The aim of remembering the 15th of February is to animate and raise public conscience regarding issues about children with cancer, and to improve the quality of medical treatment, rehabilitation and problem solving.

The central event celebrating this date was organised in Belgrade, in *Delta City Shopping Centre*, as well as in Nis and Novi Sad in *Mercur shopping centres*.

In the entertaining part of the programme in Belgrade and Nis, the finalists of the music contest *The First Voice of Serbia* took part- Davor Jovanovic, Igor Terzija, Nevena Dordevic, Dusan Kurtic, Filip Mitrovic, Aleksandra Dabic. A music band called *The Frajle* performed in Novi Sad.

PRVA TV and *PRVA RECORDS* were the media sponsors of the manifestation.

During the manifestation the visitors had a chance to buy commercial goods (such as T-shirts, caps, handbags...) and thus help fighting this disease.

We want to thank everyone who supported the action, visited the stand, purchase items and donations, and participated in fundraising for the furnishing of our new Parental house in Nis.





WE ARE PROUD OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers Tamara and David organised a humanitarian party in a Belgrade café called *Good Times* on January the 9th.

All of the money raised will be used for medical treatment of a twelve-year-old Kristina from Leposavice, who needs an urgent bone-marrow transplant. With the help of good willing people we have managed to gather 71,000 dinars.

We are grateful to all of you who had come and helped Kristina. Any support possible gives us new motivation to carry on in this work.

OSMEHOVCI HAVE MADE CHILDREN HAPPY ONCE AGAIN

For the purpose of remembering the World day of fighting against cancer, on the 15th of February, the members of a students' association *Osmeh na dar* (Smile as a gift) have once again visited children at haematology and oncology wards in Mother and Child Institute, Radiology and Oncology Research Centre of Serbia, and University Children's Hospital in Belgrade, Tirsova Street.



They gave various presents to the children- a number of social games and a cake, and had also spent a day with them.

The children and the staff welcomed the students warmly and spent hours in socializing with them through creative workshop, playing social games, drawing and reading. Finally, the *Osmehovci* promised to come again and visit them and wished that they recover as soon as possible.

WOMEN'S DAY WITH *ETNO URBAN ART*

On Women's day, the 8th of March, with pleasure on both sides, we have dealt anew with the association *Etno Urban Art* by being guests at their bazaar in Bezistan.

In spite of cold weather, the colourful stalls and our lovely volunteers in good mood and with positive energy have drawn attention of our fellow citizens asking them to give charity and help building a Parent's house in Nis.

People who donated money got a small souvenir from our hand made programme: ginger bread hearts, lollypops and amazing handbags manually decorated by our dear skilful and talented friends from the association *Etno Urban Art*.

18,740 dinars was raised in this action. We are looking forward to a new joint action with these lovely ladies.



THE ORDER OF MALTA RAISED A DONATION OF 100,000 EUROS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF DOCTOR'S TOWER

The Embassy of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, which deals with humanitarian work, organised, in cooperation with *Help Them* association from Milan, an auction of priceless watches in Milan where 100,000 euros was raised to reconstruct *Doctor's tower* or build or buy a new establishment.

The money raised at this big humanitarian watch auction, with the help of our embassy in Belgrade, will be used for sick children in Serbia. It was decided that we use the money in the project of reconstruction of *Doctor's tower*, where another Parent's house will be done- explained Sonja Spirito, secretary of the ambassador of The Order of Malta.

Doctor's tower is a two storey 19th century building nearby *Clinical Centre* which has not been used for decades due to disrepair. Two years ago, a project was made to reconstruct this building and 700,000 euros is needed.



This Parent's house will shelter temporary children and parents from all over Serbia who are medically treated at hematooncological wards in *University Children's Hospital* and *Oncology and Radiotherapy Research Centre of Serbia*. Unfortunately, the reconstructing work has not started yet, because the money is not provided. Thanks to the funds raised, the construction works should start as soon as possible.

There are two temporary Parent's houses in Belgrade, but after reconstructing *Doctor's tower*, the problem of sheltering and housing children with cancer will be permanently solved. The house will have the capacity of taking ten families in a time, enough space for playing and socializing, as well as the office space for the association. It is situated nearby the hospitals where the medical treatment is taken, which is significant.

THE AMBASSADOR OF THE ORDER OF MALTA VISITED HEMATOLOGY PAEDIATRIC WARD IN TIRSOVA

The ambassador of the *Order of Malta*, his Excellency Alberto di Luca, visited our children at the pediatric hematology ward of the *University Children's hospital* together with the head of the municipality *Savski Venac*, Tomislav Đorđević and members of NURDOR.

One of the basic strategies of curing children with cancer is spending as less time as possible in hospital. Consequently, most of the children, when their health allows it, undergoes therapy through daily hospital. In most of the cases, when they undergo radiation therapy, the children do not have to be hospitalized.

Homelike atmosphere and the presence of parents are philologically significant for a child under medical treatment. This is why families coming from all over Serbia will have a place to stay in Belgrade during the therapy- noted the ambassador di Luca, pointing to the importance of the reconstruction of *Doctor's tower*.



LITTLE PEOPLE BUT WITH BIG HEARTS

All of the first grade pupils from Elementary School *Ratko Vukičević* in Nis, as well as their elderly schoolmates from classes V-3, V-4, VII-1, VII-2, VII-3, VII-4 gathered 12,500 dinars and donated the money for our Parent's house in Nis.

We are truly grateful to all of them who answered the humanitarian call of the teacher Marija Kostic and joined the action sending a message of support and encouragement to all of their sick little friends.

We are proud of having such friends who have recognized the significance of this activity aimed at furnishing the Parent's house in Nis.



ОСНОВНА ШКОЛА „РАТКО ВУКИЋЕВИЋ“ НИШ

THE COMPANY *PEPSICO* DONATES TOYS FOR CHILDREN IN PARENT'S HOUSES



NURDOR want to thank *PepsiCo* for toy donation on behalf of all children from the Parent' houses.

This generous gift of the company *PepsiCo* made a great number of boys and girls smile.



Big and small car toys, dolls, trucks, construction and toy blocks of all sizes will already find places on shelves of our houses and in the hearts of their small dwellers.

THE WIENER STÄDTISCHE'S EMPLOYEES CELEBRATED VALENTINE'S DAY WITH NURDOR'S GINGER BREAD HEARTS



To the initiative of NURDOR, and with the support of the *Wiener Städtische* staff, on Valentine's day we organised an action of raising funds for opening a Parent's house in Nis.

In the very building of the company, there was a stall where volunteers handed everybody who donated 100 dinars our leceder's hearts, lollipops and gift cards. Thank you all who supported this action where 30,000 dinars was raised.



ERGOMADE MEROSINA DONATED FURNITURE FOR PARENT'S HOUSE IN NIS

We received the very first donation in goods for our Parent's house in Nis!

The company *Ergomade Merosina* donated this furniture: 8 night lockers, 4 dressers with drawers, 4 wardrobes, a TV set, a bookshelf, a coffee table, a computer table, a computer chair, a shoe case and two dining tables with 4 chairs. Thank you a lot!



FOR THE OCCASION OF WORLD CANCER DAY OF CHILDREN WITH CANCER, WORLDWIDW ORGANISATIONS FOR FIGHTING CANCER IN CHILDHOOD STARTED A CAMPAIGN FOR EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF CANCER AND SAVING A NUMEROUS CHILDREN LIVES



Today is the International Childhood Cancer Day. The International Society of Pediatric Oncology (SIOP) and the International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organizations (ICCCPO) are launching a targeted grassroots health advocacy campaign to better educate the public in recognizing the early warning signs for childhood cancer.

Each year 175,000 children worldwide are diagnosed with cancer, of which an estimated 90,000 will die from the disease. The exact number of new cases is not known because in many countries not all children with cancer are registered and many are not ever even diagnosed correctly. These figures are staggering given the fact that 70% of all childhood cancers are curable when diagnosed and treated early. Cancer is the second leading cause of death among children in developed countries. The most common type of cancer in Europe, Americas, East Asia and among the Caucasian population

is Acute Lymphoblast Leukemia, whereas Burkitt's lymphoma, associated with malaria and infection from the Epstein Barr virus, accounts for half of all childhood lymphomas in African countries.

"The symptoms of cancer can often be interpreted as common childhood ailments" warns Dr Gabriele Calaminus, the president of SIOP.

The following symptoms, if persistent, could be signs for childhood cancer:

- White spot in the eye, new squint, blindness, bulging eyeball.
- Lump in abdomen/pelvis, head and neck, in limbs, testes, glands.
- Unexplained prolonged fever over 2 weeks.
- Loss of weight, pallor, fatigue, easy bruising or bleeding
- Aching bones, joints, back, and easy fractures.
- Neurological signs: change or deterioration in walk, balance, or speech, regression of Milestones
- Headache for more than two weeks with or without vomiting, enlarging head

While eighty percent (80%) of children with cancer survive in wealthier countries, the reality is vastly different for those living in resource-poor settings and where 80% of all children with cancer live. This is compounded by the fact that these are the same places where there is often an absence or a lack in knowledge about what childhood cancer is. Not only is childhood cancer detected too late for effective treatment, it is also compounded by limited access to appropriate treatment, resulting in approximately eighty percent (80%) of children with cancer dying. Dollman, a South African parent, explains: "delayed diagnosis significantly diminishes survival rates. While in resource-rich countries, 8 out of 10 children survive, only 2 to 3 out of 10 children will survive in low and middle -income countries".

Today, SIOP and ICCPO, with its members from around the world will be reaching out to communities, schools, hospitals, and the public in general. Parents will be working alongside pediatric oncologists, pediatricians, nurses, public health advocates and others in disseminating vital information about childhood cancer. For more information about activities in your region, please contact: National Association of Parents of Children with Cancer – NURDOR.

SIOP and ICCPO have prepared a Joint Action Plan on early warning signs for childhood cancer. More information about the Action Plan by SIOP and ICCPO, can be obtained by visiting their society websites at www.siop.nl and www.icccpo.org, respectively.

PATIENT MONITORING EQUIPMENT AT HEMATOLOGY WARD IN NIŠ



With the help of our friends, a patient monitor was donated to the hematooncology ward of the Children's Internal Hospital In Niš. The donation was supported by Prokuplje Municipality head, Milan Arsović, the Red Star supporters' club from Prokuplje and others who wanted to help curing children. 346,682 dinars was needed and by organizing a humanitarian football match 86,550 dinars was raised.



A NEW DESIGN OF NURDOR'S T-SHIRTS

Dear friends,

We are proud to present our Nurdor Teddy Bear who decorates our T-shirts this spring.

T-shirts in different sizes and colours can be found at our stalls during all activities done by Nurdor, or you can order them by a phone call or via e-mail.

We are sure that in this diversity of colours and sizes, you will find your Nurdor Teddy Bear.

They are available in sizes 2 to 12 for children and S to XXL for adults.

You will receive one T- shirt if you donate 500 dinars + postal coast . Your donation will help the implementation of various Nurdor's actions and projects .

We are already truly thankful for your support and friendship.

Contact phone number: 011 26 81 554, 011 26 81 555



NURDOR, the National Association of Parents of Children with Cancer, www.nurdor.org.rs, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nongovernmental organization founded by parents of cured or deceased children, the medical staff of oncology departments, and volunteers who recognized the need for systematic and effective support for parents of children with cancer. The National Association began its work in 2004, and it brings together parents and friends of children from all over Serbia. The main objective of the organization is to support families of children with cancer by providing high quality treatment, rehabilitation and socialization of children, infected or healed. NURDOR is a member of the International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organizations (ICCCPO), www.icccpo.org and works closely with the International Society of Oncology Pediatrics (SIOP), www.siop.nl.

These children are small but brave, and you be big and ready to help them.

Do not forget that their life depends on the maturity of our adults.



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