Report for the 2nd quarter
2020
Dear donor!
Thanks to you and other Ukrainians, in April-June 2020, 530 children with cancer and their families have received help. The amount of transferred charitable contributions was UAH 18 million.

Despite all the obstacles of the pandemic and closed borders, children managed to continue treatment without the risks for their health. The necessary medications have been delivered on time, sparse means of protection were in sufficient quantity, and psychologists maintained online-communication with families.

All this was achieved due to your concern and generosity. We thank you!

Total expenses of the Foundation in the 2nd quarter were UAH 20.9 million, 3.9% of them were administrative expenses.

We sincerely thank you for your help. Constant. Invaluable.

to be continued

Your «Tabletochki»
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, multiple challenges have arisen.

Due to the border closure, it became very hard to import unregistered medicinal products into Ukraine and send children abroad for treatment.

Due to the public transport suspension, it took hours for healthcare workers to get to work.

The oncology departments were put in quarantine, so psychologists and volunteers could no longer get to children.

Intensive care units have been closed again for visitors in hospitals.

**But what was most distressing is the fact that healthcare reform was in jeopardy, and public procurement of medicinal products was thwarted.**

What we have been doing to meet all these challenges — further in the report.
Only thanks to you, the Foundation didn't close any of its aid programs.

The children received all the necessary things in full and as timely, as before the pandemic. Alongside the help according to standard programs, we provided the wards of the department with personal protective equipment; together with Uber and Ciklum, we helped medical workers to get to their working offices and provided doctors and nurses with 9,220 free rides; with our partner Robert Bosch Ltd, we arranged the repair of 7 ventilators for Okhmatdyt and did our best with you to protect children from coronavirus, as well as from the quarantine consequences.

Some programs had to be taken fully into online. The following was held online:

- **237** psychological counseling for families during treatment
- **243** psychological counseling for wards of the palliative program
- **5** meetings of the supporting groups for parents who lost a child due to cancer (and one more meeting was held online after the relaxation of the quarantine)
- **6** trainings of the educational program for doctors and nurses
- **24** meetings of communication club for the adolescents who defeated cancer and one meeting with a psychologist for their parents.
Medicines from abroad overcame all quarantine obstacles and came to children on time

In some cases, the medicines available in Ukrainian pharmacies or procured by the government are not suitable for demanding children’s bodies. Then doctors have to prescribe the drugs that are only available abroad.

Before the quarantine, they were imported into Ukraine by the Foundation’s volunteers but after the closure of airlines, it became impossible. The children, though, had no time to wait until the borders will open. Dozens of people united in order to help in providing children with foreign medications.

Among them are ambassadors, diplomatic officials, truck drivers, and many other very different but kind people.

18 children have received life-saving drugs. Most of the time, we had to buy asparaginase and thiotepa that were previously unavailable in Ukraine.

In three months, the Foundation’s donors had paid foreign pharmacies bills in the amount of more than UAH 4 million.
Due to the risk of contracting coronavirus, some intensive care units have again closed their doors for visitors, despite the fact that the Order of MoH No. 592 On the Free Attendance of Intensive Care Units remained in force and was not amended.

In May, we learned about at least two instances, when children died alone. One of the boys was four years old, and he spent his final hours in an empty resuscitation bay, confined to his bed. His mother was allowed to visit him twice a day for an hour, but she wasn’t with the boy at the moment of his death.

The Execucional Director of Tabletochki, Viacheslav Bykov (В’ячеслав Биков), participated in the meeting of the board of trustees of the hospital, resulting in the boardroom decision to lift the restriction on access to the intensive care unit. Now parents can stay with their children round-the-clock, provided they follow to the rules of quarantine.

We also went to international organizations and experts, including the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP), and asked them to give recommendations on the access of visitors to seriously ill patients during the pandemic. Currently, the experts are developing such recommendations.

Once again, we had to fight to prevent children from dying alone in closed intensive care units.
Every day, we work with children and families suffering from the stunning inefficiency of Ukrainian health care system. That is why we support and fight for the extension of health care reform.

To continue the implementation of the medical guarantees program is to create a transparent and comprehensive paying system for medical services, to give medical workers economic motivation for professional development, and doctors — for providing quality services and care for patients.

We agree that the tariffs set by NHSU require clarification, eHealth electronic system — refinement, the data provided by institutions and HCDs — verification.

The reform needs to be improved but it cannot be stopped.

We sincerely support the willingness of the authorities to provide doctors and other health care workers with decent salaries. It is true that medical professionals are the only hope for each patient today. But when it comes to the system in general, to be cured today is a matter of luck, rather than the result of the whole industry work.

One cannot preserve the old inefficient system at the cost of people’s health. Oncology departments that have no equipment and experienced doctors capable to diagnose or treat life-threatening diseases, don’t have the right to exist.

Taxpayers and patients should not pay for the work of institutions that endangers people’s life. The remuneration system in the medical field should encourage and reward high qualification, the quality of work, innovations and humane attitude to patients, and no trow everyone in the same barrel.

We call upon the Ministry of Healthcare, Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, and local government authorities to unblock the health care reform. We ask the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Public Health to ensure that the reform will continue and Ukrainians will have finally a chance to receive a modern and efficient health care system.
Centralized public procurement of medicines was failed.
Already in autumn, patients were left without life-saving drugs

The Ministry of Healthcare didn’t adopt budged passports and procurement programs on time, didn’t approve the list of drugs and medical devices for procurement in 2020, didn’t choose the international procurement organizations, and didn’t approve the government rules and regulations that will enable the majority of procurement through SE «Medical Procurement of Ukraine» (ДП «МЕДЗАКУПІВЛІ УКРАЇНИ»).

Along with other organizations, we:
- sent an Open Letter to the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky (Володимир Зеленський), Prime minister Denys Shmyhal (Денис Шмигаль), Minister of Healthcare Maksym Stepanov (Максим Степанов), and Chairperson of the VRU Committee on Public Health, Medical Assistance and Medical Insurance Mykhailo Radutskyi (Михайло Радуцький)
- organized a press briefing to propose the possible ways of reducing the forthcoming disaster.

The procurement of medicines is a long process that cannot be accelerated. The most optimistic projections show that the first supplies will come in February 2021. By this time since autumn, 1,300 000 people with deadly diseases, including children with cancer, will either buy life-saving drugs at their own expense or die without treatment. We believe this to be a crime against Ukrainian patients.

Already in the 2nd quarter, we had to buy medication for UAH 1.19 million that would have to get in pediatric oncology departments through public procurement. Moreover, the costs on these medicinal products have been increasing every month:

UAH 348.7 thousand — in April
UAH 383.5 thousand — in May
UAH 459.6 thousand — in June

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Process of public procurement

Scheme of the public procurement process by pediatric oncology, without taking into account procurements of international organizations.
Our ward flew to Italy for treatment just in the middle of the world lockdown. Kolia has a very rare and dangerous immunological disease. It can only be treated by allogenic bone-marrow transplantation.

Last summer, the clinic in Verona accepted to perform it. The boy just needed to grow a bit. Kolia had grown, but the borders were closed. To delay the transplantation meant to reduce the chances for recovery. In early May, the Ukraine International Airlines charter flight was organized by the joint afford of two Ukrainian ministries, as well as two embassies, charitable funds, hospitals, and volunteers from two countries. Kolia celebrated his first birthday in the sky between Ukraine and Italy.

On July 13, Kolia underwent the transplantation and now he is supervised by the doctors at the Verona clinic.

But against all odds, there have been very happy moments, too
Children now have their own movie hall at the Okhmatdyt Department of Bone marrow Transplantation

Thanks to our friend and partner «Kurazh» the life of our wards became happier — now children have a real movie hall right in the hospital.

The room in the department is now equipped with a video projector, screen, media player, and audio system. It has also comfortable beanbag chairs. Currently, the cinematheque includes 250 animated films and movies.

Children can watch movies at any time. Once a week, real movie nights are held: children chose a movie or animated film in advance, and the Foundation partner, «Planeta Кіно» («Планета Кіно») treats the spectators with popcorn and other goodies.
We have launched a new information project «Tabletochki u Likaria» on Facebook

Every Friday, together with our audience, we ask doctors of various specialities comfortable and uncomfortable questions live. We talk about cancer, health care of children and adults, the principles of healthy nutrition, skincare, and many other things.

We have already talked to 15 experts and don’t plan to stop!

So, subscribe to our page and follow our announcements about new broadcasts to ask a question to a doctor.
And you have also collected one million hryvnias which turned into two million!

In less than a month, the campaign of «Як я живу на твої гроші» Foundation dedicated to the Children’s Day has raised UAH 1 million to help children. The Foundation’s partner — Borys Lozhkin Foundation (Фонд Бориса Ложкіна) — doubled this sum. Thus, children will receive two million to fight cancer.

2,500 people participated in the campaign. The largest transfer was UAH 35,000 and the smallest — UAH 6,000.

We thank all Ukrainians who contributed to helping children. Together we can do everything — and even twice as much!
To be continued...

If you'll keep assisting

tabletochki.org