In 2020, you helped more than 1,000 children like Solomiya. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! It’s all thanks to you. Factors influencing quality of treatment of a child with cancer. Protection of rights of children with cancer. In 2020, four patients received bone marrow transplants from unrelated donors. Ukraine has got a strategic vision to address cancer. There was a delay in public procurement. Children received essential medicines thanks to you. Education of doctors and nurses. Year 2020 was devoted to professional development of nurses. In 2020, there were 215 healthcare workers participating in the educational program. Help for hospitals. Targeted help. Help during treatment in Ukraine. Examinations and treatment abroad. Life of children receiving treatment. Palliative care program. Psychosocial rehabilitation. Dreamed, ran, ate chocolate — all for children! Year in numbers.
In 2020, you helped more than 1,000 children like Solomiya

Solomiya is four years old. The girl with her mother entered the global lockdown being already in isolation — Solomiya had been admitted to the oncology department of Okhmetyty due to blood cancer half a year before the pandemic started. The lockdown made pediatric treatment more challenging. For example, to bring Solia only one package of life-saving medication from abroad we had to conduct a "special operation" involving a lot of people.

But you stood by. And Solia continued to receive treatment. In October she was discharged from the department and transferred to the apartment for patients receiving outpatient treatment, which is located near the hospital. Solomiya still lives in this apartment. She takes medicines and undergoes regular examinations.

Being in the oncology department for months, Solia made a long necklace. Its every bead is special. Children receive them as a reward for courage shown during painful procedures or after completing the next treatment stage.

Solia’s story is quite similar to the story of every child we cared for in 2020. Cancer was not quarantined. Families of children with cancer were brave only thanks to you. In this report we will tell you how many things your help changed.
On March 11, 2020 we finally understood that not only long-lasting fight against cancer, but also challenges posed by the coronavirus await us in the future.

Borders were closing one after another, children were lacking access to essential medicines. Masks and sanitizers that are needed in oncology departments every day suddenly ran out of stock. The attention of all of the world was focused on the pandemic.

However, delaying treatment of a child with cancer even for a few days means to reduce his/her odds of survival. We had no right to stop. I am really grateful to every benefactor and partner who contributed to the fight against pediatric cancer in 2020. Thanks to your support, we didn’t close any of the Foundation programs and increased the size of assistance.

You did more than simply provided children with medicines. Because of you, targeted help saved its main meaning even under the pandemic conditions — to see a person behind the system: a child who feels pain; a mother who is afraid; a nurse who has dry hands due to wearing gloves; a terminally ill girl who dreams of seeing the sea. You stood by all of them in every such case.

I thank you for this year and your help. We will continue to work under a routine turbo regime.

And to be continued

Slava Bykov,
CEO of Tabletochki Foundation

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Thank you from the bottom of my heart!
It's all thanks to you

- >1000 children received targeted help
- 19 departments were under the care of the Foundation
- 32 families lived in the apartments for patients receiving outpatient treatment that are located near the hospital
- 59 families participated in the palliative care program
- 97 children received help for examination and treatment abroad
- 215 healthcare workers developed their expertise as a result of participation in the education program

It's all thanks to you!
Factors influencing quality of treatment of a child with cancer

Childhood cancer is not caused by anything that can be influenced. In adults some types of cancer may develop due to unhealthy lifestyle or environment hazards. Childhood cancer cannot be prevented.

At the same time, it is quite a rare disease, as opposed to cancer affecting adults. About 1,000 new cases are diagnosed in Ukraine per year — this is approximately 0.015% from the overall number of children. Incidence rates vary slightly between different countries. However, the likelihood of the child's survival depends greatly on the country in which the child lives.

For the present, Ukraine does not have reliable statistics on the number of children surviving for 5 years after the end of treatment. According to the recent estimates of the World Health Organization, it is less than 50%. In high-income countries this index exceeds 80%.

Your charitable contributions have an impact on all the factors the quality of pediatric cancer treatment is dependent on.

Our aim is not to let any child in Ukraine die of cancer. To achieve this aim, Tabletochki is working in four directions: targeted help to families; help to hospitals; education of healthcare workers; protection of rights of children with cancer.
Factors influencing quality of treatment of a child with cancer
Protection of rights of children with cancer

Nazar was born with a very dangerous disease. His immune system did not fight infections. There was only one way to cure the child: to perform transplantation of bone marrow from a donor.

Nazar’s relatives did not meet the eligibility criteria for donation. Earlier in such a situation, one would have had to fly abroad — legislation did not permit the transplantation of bone marrow from an unrelated donor. But Nazar’s family was lucky. After working together for a few years, the Ministry of Health, deputies, patient organizations and lawyers brought about changes in legislation. On April 1, 2020 Nazar became the first person to receive an unrelated bone marrow transplant in a Ukrainian hospital.

Systemic changes are slow, not always obvious; it’s hard to unite around them. But we see them as the only chance to ensure quality treatment in Ukraine for every child like Nazar. Thus, with your help we promote interests of children we are caring for on a systemic level. We would like to share with you the milestones in the Ukrainian medicine of 2020, where your support was priceless.
In 2020, four patients received bone marrow transplants from unrelated donors

All four transplantations were performed at the National Children's Specialized Hospital (NCSH) Okhmatdyt. The costs were covered by the state. And you provided each child with foreign medicines they needed. Without these medicines, transplantation is not possible.

Unfortunately, the Ministry of Health still does not procure some medicinal products that are necessary for the treatment of children. In particular — for receiving bone marrow transplants from related and unrelated donors. You paid a total of 16.8 million hryvnias for foreign medicines for children. It's five times more as compared to 2019. We still persuade the Ministry of Health that the state should start buying essential medicinal products instead of benefactors and parents.

Ukraine has got a strategic vision to address cancer

A working group of the Ministry of Health developed a project of the National Strategy for Cancer Control until 2030. For the first time, this document faces the problems of childhood cancer. It aims to increase the childhood cancer survival rate to 80% by 2030. See detailed changes in pediatric oncology, envisaged by the Strategy.

We thank our legal partner Asters for working on the Strategy project together with us and other experts of the working group.

The Strategy must be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in 2021. Then a detailed Action plan must be drawn up to follow it.
In 2020, the process of public procurement of medicines started only in June. As a result, the first deliveries of medicines financed from the 2020 budget were received at the end of the year. Children received 8 items of medicinal products out of 131 items needed, and the Ministry of Health failed to purchase 24 items at all.

Children continued to receive treatment only thanks to you. You provided them with medicines that were not timely purchased by the state, amounting to over 15 million hryvnias.

Also your support helped us to get the following things done:

- the Ministry of Health purchased the most critical of the absent 24 items at the expense of funds left unused from the 2019 budget;

- to add to the 2021 nomenclature of public procurement 7 drug items that were previously bought for children with cancer by parents and benefactors.

See detailed information on the delay in the 2020 public procurement.
Misha adores robots and space. During all the time of his stay at the Oncology Department the boy dreamed that one day a transformer would come flying and they would go as far from the hospital as possible. The dream came true. A transformer was there at the time of discharge.

To increase the likelihood of survival of children like Misha, doctors and nurses from the sphere of childhood oncology use opportunities offered by the educational program of the Foundation. Healthcare workers from different regions take part in reputable international events, study English, undergo soft skills trainings, receive up-to-date treatment guidelines translated into Ukrainian etc.

Celebration of the end of every child’s treatment stage was also adopted by Ukrainian doctors from the western colleagues. A child should stay a child, no matter where he/she is. That’s why Ukrainian departments started to see transformers, festive cakes and victory bells, rung by children at the time of discharge.
Year 2020 was devoted to professional development of nurses

The Nurse School became the key project of the year. Particularly, it relates to the independent Leadership School for senior childhood oncology nurses. 22 senior nurses from Kyiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, and Lutsk took part in the Leadership School’s trainings. 5 online trainings taught them personal effectiveness, strategic and operational management, human resources management, finance management etc. At the end of the course three participants received from the Foundation grants for running their own projects at their departments:

- Oksana Shevchyk from the Western Ukrainian Specialized Children’s Medical Center and Svitlana Vasylevska from the Volyn Regional Children’s Clinical Hospital in Lutsk — grants for repair and equipping of the rest and training room for nurses.
- Oksana Usenko from Okhmatdyt in Kyiv — grant for repair and equipping of a procedure room at the department of neurosurgery. Now children will go through the procedures having less fear and feeling less pain.

Because of these grants nurses who spend 24 hours per day at the department will have more comfortable working environment. This will have a positive impact on their emotional state and thus on treatment quality and emotional state of children.
In 2020, there were 215 healthcare workers participating in the educational program

In 2020, we developed the field of our own practical seminars. Thanks to online format, more healthcare workers had an opportunity to participate, and geography spread to 16 regions.

- The Successful Doctor Academy course taught 22 doctors from all over Ukraine to communicate with patients, manage their careers, finance and time.

- Anna Horchakova, Director of Belarusian hospice, conducted training for oncologists of Okhmatdyt on how to tell bad news to parents and children.

- During a fundraising training, 26 healthcare workers learnt to invite charitable contributions for development of their departments. After the course had been completed, the teams of two departments announced charitable fundraising.

- Educational course for the Volyn Regional Children’s Hospital was developed following a request from the healthcare workers of this institution. 24 doctors and nurses from the department of neurosurgery were mastering soft skills necessary for their work.
5-year-old Ivanka is being treated for blood cancer at the Kyiv Regional Oncology Dispensary. During her first winter at the hospital Ivanka with her mother cut paper snowflakes and gave them to nurses as a present. On Saint Valentine’s Day, she made paper angels. Then Ivanka’s father made her a paper watch, and now the girl is learning to tell time.

Time is of value for children with cancer. There is no excuse for the delayed treatment if you have cancer. In 2020, there were 19 departments under our care similar to the department where Ivanka is being treated. Thanks to you, children in these departments received their treatment timely and adequately.

You provided hospitals with medicinal products, supplies, special food, laboratory reagents. You helped to make the departments comfortable and well-equipped. **Such a systematic help to hospitals makes your contributions even more important.**
With a background of increasing demand for medicines and quarantine in 2020, we cut the equipment costs by ten times. At the same time, there was an increase in the amount of medicinal products and protection means purchased.

Our partners helped to protect children and healthcare workers during the pandemic. For example, Robert Bosch Ltd repaired 7 artificial lung ventilation apparatus for Okhmadyt. Uber and Ciklum supported the initiative of the Ministry of Health Doctor at Work. And provided doctors and nurses with 9,220 free rides when the public transport had stopped.
Targeted help

8-year-old Daryna from Zhytomyr. The girl's blood cancer was so aggressive that she was referred to receive treatment in the national specialized hospital called Okhmatdyt. Daryna spent there a number of months and received a bone marrow transplant. Daryna celebrated her victory together with everybody from the department — with a unicorn-shaped cake, medical staff's applause and presents. When discharging, Daryna saw her father and her older sister for the first time in half a year. Her emotions made her cry during the whole celebration.

During the whole year you provided children like Daryna with the things they needed for treatment. You did it in a targeted way, following the requests from parents. You did not let childhood to escape from children while they were staying at hospitals. You were here at the time of victory and in sorrow. Thank you for that!
In 2020, targeted help in the form of medicines, supplies, special food, coverage of the costs of examinations done in Ukraine, as requested by parents, was offered to 231 children.

32 families lived in 6 apartments for patients receiving outpatient treatment, that are located near Okhmatedyt and are rented by the Foundation for families who are not from Kyiv. Once the child’s condition permits it and he/she does not need a 24-hour medical surveillance anymore, the child is discharged from the hospital and transferred to the apartment. This makes it possible to treat at Okhmatedyt more children from all over the country with severe cancer cases during one year.
Examinations and treatment abroad

Yet, not every child can be cured or fully checked in Ukraine. In 2020, 97 families received help for examination and treatment abroad. In particular, you helped to send bio-materials of 49 children abroad for testing which is not available in Ukraine. The results of these tests allowed Ukrainian doctors to compile the most accurate prescriptions.

In the middle of the global lockdown the child under our care whose name is Kolia took a flight to Italy to receive a bone marrow transplant from an unrelated donor. He had a very dangerous and rare immune system disease. Back in 2019, the transplantation was agreed with the clinic of Verona. The boy just needed to grow a bit. Kolia had grown, but the borders were closed. To delay the treatment meant to reduce the chances for recovery.

In early May, the Ukraine International Airlines (UIA) charter flight was organized by the joint efforts of two Ukrainian ministries, as well as embassies, charitable foundations, hospitals and volunteers from both countries. On July 13, 2020 Kolia successfully received a transplant and now he stays in Verona under medical supervision.
In the best European and American hospitals children live their childhood as fully as possible. Having your support, we are making this possible in Ukraine.

Despite quarantine, we and you made families staying at the departments feel positive emotions. And our partner Dila cared for safety — prior to having contact with children and healthcare workers every person had undergone a free COVID test at the laboratory. Thanks to you, there were in 2020 the following changes in hospitals:

- 7 hospital libraries opened in Lviv, Mykolaiv, Poltava, the Kyiv Regional Oncology Dispensary and three departments of Okhmatdyt.
- There was a light show organized under the windows of Okhmatdyt on the occasion of Children’s Day. *This is how it was.*
Having no break for quarantine, you continued to congratulate the birthday boys and girls with presents and filled the chests of bravery with toys.

Children had two picnics in Mezhyhirya park, went to the cinema, had a boat ride, made an excursion climbing up on the roof of the Gulliver shopping center, and played bowling.

Starting from October 2020, every discharge from the department of bone marrow transplantation of Okhmatty initiates by doctors transformed into a festive show. Ten children celebrated victory in the period from October to December.

Beauty days, performances of hospital clowns, tea ceremonies with mothers were reintroduced from November.

All 19 departments under our care received New Year’s decorations before the holidays.

In December children who went through eye removal due to retinal cancer started to receive inclusive dolls. These toys are created for each child individually. The doll’s eye can be removed, and the doll itself resembles the child.
Palliative care program

Every child deserves to have a normal childhood, no matter how long it lasts. Palliative care program of the Foundation takes care of children who cannot be cured from cancer, as well as of their families.

Thanks to you, children live in comfort. They have special food, hygiene products, anti-bedsore mattresses, wheelchairs, oxygen concentrators. Parents are supported by doctors and psychologists. By making presents you bring happiness to ill children, their little brothers and sisters. You make children’s dreams come true.

It’s because of you Mykyta who had no time to wait for the New Year, was able to meet it in October — with a New Year’s tree and presents.

In autumn we opened up a new rehabilitation field — dog therapy. It is communication between children and a dog trained in a special way.

A dog supports children and their relatives emotionally and psychologically, helps to distract from the disease, arouses positive emotions. Classes are composed and adjusted for each child individually. A Miniature Schnauzer Lika works with the children under our care. At the end of the year, Lika and her handler Olha Smirnova conducted 12 classes for two children.

In 2020, there were 59 families under the Foundation’s care. It is more than in previous years. Doctors are becoming aware of our palliative care program and recommend it to families more often when discharging a terminally ill child to home. Thanks to you, families are not left alone with cancer and death.
After a child dies, his/her parents attend psychological support groups. 14 meetings were held in 2020. These meetings help parents to cope with grief, to feel support and to realize that they are not alone. Starting from 2020, in addition to a physiologist for parents, the meetings have also been attended by a pediatric psychologist, who works separately with little brothers and sisters of the deceased children. In August, the offsite meeting of the support group traditionally took place in the Carpathian mountains, with all security measures in place.

However, the annual Memorial Day which unites much more families became an online event. But like in previous years, we were together recalling memories about the children who died of cancer. A magic and unexpected effect of going online — the parents who were initially timid and joined with their cameras and microphones turned off, were step by step entering the conversation.

For the first time on the occasion of Memorial Day we shot a film. It tells about the life of parents after the loss. You can watch this film on our YouTube channel.
Psychosocial rehabilitation

The cancer regimen does not fall on the day the child is discharged from the hospital. The disease goes away, but its psychological and social consequences may last for years. Infants adapt to normal life quickly. The process is more difficult for teenagers and parents.

In 2020, we launched our psychosocial rehabilitation program. It helps families, first of all children who have overcome the disease, to get rid of fears and to fit into the community.

Children are scared to face “the big world”. They prefer to be included into a society of their own people where they feel safe. That is why we organized communication clubs for them led by a psychologist. One club brings together children aged 9-12 from different cities and towns online. The other one is targeted at teenagers aged 13-17 and holds meetings in Kyiv, mostly offline.

These clubs are a bridge between the hospital and the daily life “as before the disease”.

Today there are other projects done at the base of the communication clubs: a club of online travel with volunteers, meetings with children’s story writers, online collection of children’s games, and family events.
Dreamed, ran, ate chocolate — all for children!

Only together can we defeat cancer. During the whole year you supported charity events and helped children to get over their disease. We thank every partner and every benefactor who makes charity a norm in the Ukrainian society. Your help varies greatly, but all kinds of it change children’s lives.

It concerns me! How about you?
10.4 million UAH

The largest-scale charity event of the All-Ukrainian Charitable Foundation ATB and ATB-market network united all Ukrainians for helping children. And showed that to provide help is as simple and usual as to go to the store after work. Thanks to the event, during the period from November 2020 to February 2021 help was offered to children from 10 oncology centers of Ukraine. Detailed report.
Gifts of health
3.3 million UAH*

The traditional New Year event of the Foundation was supported by 3,300 benefactors. Some of them are employees of the companies which also participated in the event.

*a part of funds was actually transferred in January 2021

How do I live on your money
2 million UAH

On the occasion of Children's Day Ukrainians raised one million hryvnias for helping children in less than one month. The event partner Borys Lozhkin's Foundation doubled this sum for children to receive twice as much help. And this is how Artem “lives on your money” for the sixth year after the disease.

DreamBIG Forum
1.5 million UAH

In February, guests and speakers of a large-scale educational and motivational event held a charity auction in favor of our wards.

DobroRun
1.1 million UAH

On the occasion of its 25th anniversary, the law firm Asters, which has been supporting the pro bono foundation with services for many years, held a charity race for the benefit of children with cancer.
Year in numbers

Due to typical higher receipts in December, the Foundation entered the new year having a solid financial base. Owing to these reserve funds, children were protected in 2020, when the pandemic suddenly made the needs of children we cared for increase, and for a few months we were providing help amounting to larger sums than we obtained from the charitable contributions. Help was offered to each family which needed it and contacted the Foundation.

Structure of incomes

- 82.7 млн грн Children received help
- 92.9 млн грн You transferred for the benefit of children

Cost structure

- 37.6 million UAH targeted help
- 28.8 million UAH help for departments
- 2.0 million UAH educational program for healthcare workers
- 2.4 million UAH psychosocial support
- 0.7 million UAH protection of rights of children with cancer
- 11.2 million UAH non-program costs:
  - 4.9 million UAH fundraising costs
  - 3.2 million UAH administrative costs
  - 3.1 million UAH communication costs

- 55.2 million UAH contributions of individuals
- 37.0 million UAH contributions of legal entities
- 0.7 million UAH other incomes

- 40% 60% 59% 1%
Thank you for making so many things possible!

You protected the rights of children like Nazar

You stood by children like Daryna

You helped the healthcare workers who treated children like Misha to develop professional competencies

You supported the departments where children like Ivanka received treatment

You made closer the future where every child with cancer would get over the disease

You are incredible! Thank you!
Keep on donating bravery on tabletochki.org