

A multi-organizational approach to  
Paediatric Oncology children and  
their families through the  
Childhood Cancer Network in KZN –  
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# A Nigerian Proverb



*It Takes a Village*



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# What led to the start of the KZN Childhood Cancer Network? (KZN CCN)

- Various organisations working with a child and family but not working together
- A lack of understanding and misconceptions of the roles played and services offered by local organisations
- Realising that there are needs that the patient and family has that your organisation and hospital cannot provide
- The need to refer in a more structured way
- To hold organisations accountable in our community and create open communication channels

# Working together! Collaborating!



According to The Independent Philanthropy Organisation of South Africa's 2015 Donor Collaboration Framework - The benefits of collaboration include:

- More efficient use of available resources
- Creation of new partnerships for increased impact and reach
- Access to pooled information and expertise
- Ability to leverage philanthropic resources
- Increased public attention to critical issues
- Opportunity to share the risk with partners
- Potential to achieve greater impact

# How did we move forward?

- A committee was born and represented by 8 local organizations; namely CANSA TLC, Umduduzi Hospice, Reach For a Dream, Rainbows and Smiles, Cupcakes for Kids with Cancer, Lettie Love, Sunflower Fund and CHOC.
- We did invite more to join us but some are not interested and that's okay!
- Numerous meetings were held to decide on the purpose of the committee
- An info session was held for all organization's to learn more about one another and their role and mandate in the community
- A summary was made of the services provided by all and the channels that need to be followed to access the support
- We meet every 2 months but are in regular phone and email contact

# Moving forward...



# Goals of the KZN Childhood Cancer Network

- To assist cancer patients and their families more holistically
- To ensure that organizations work in their focus areas and minimize the duplication of services
- To create an active and healthy referral system where more than one organization is servicing a child and family
- To create open lines of communication and working on cases jointly to ensure the best outcome for the child
- New thinking around sharing cases and becoming open-minded to working with other organizations, instead of working against them
- To encourage mutual respect towards the skills and knowledge of other's and benefitting the greater team by sharing information and skills transfer through training and meetings

# Positive Outcomes of the KZN Childhood Cancer Network

- Communication lines opened between organization's and the referrals and mutual support started. Previously, this did not exist.
- Patients started receiving a well-rounded and holistic service that was not possible by only working with one organization, we needed to work together.
- Relationships between organization's improved and strengthened and we work well together
- Donations received were passed on to other organization's that needed them and a sense of community, respect and care was born

# Conclusion

- In many Low-middle income countries, there is a huge reliance on NGO's to support government services that they are not able to fulfill.
- South Africa does not have the luxury of multi-disciplinary teams available to cancer patients and their families at organizational level or easily available or in working order in the public sector. In order to offer a holistic service, we can no longer work in silo's and in competition.
- To meet the growing needs that add to a cancer diagnosis such as poverty, unemployed parents, transport challenges etc. local organizations need to work together and create a multi-organizational approach so that everyone can stay within their mandate and refer when necessary to ensure the best outcome for patients and their families

# Thank you!

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