

News Release for the Editor's Desk

Children's Cancer Foundation's largest caseload consists of children between 0 – 6 years old

They constitute 50% of the Children's Cancer Foundation's 2004 caseload

Singapore (7 February 2005) – Based on the Children's Cancer Foundation's caseload in 2004, in which we serviced beneficiaries between 0 – 17 years of age, children between 0 – 6 years old constituted the bulk of children with cancer – 50%.

Last year, Leukaemia was still the most common form of childhood cancer for children between 0 – 17 years old – 44%. 16% of the cases we saw were diagnosed with Sarcomas and 13% were diagnosed with Brain & Spinal Tumours. The rest comprise Lymphomas, Non Malignant Diseases and other Solid Tumours.

The Children's Cancer Foundation had 15 children who underwent bone marrow transplants in 2004, which was an increase of 15% compared to 2003. These children and their families benefited from the individualised programme conducted by their respective social workers and counsellors, as well as receiving financial assistance from the Foundation's Childhood Cancer Marrow Transplant Programme Fund.

To raise awareness of childhood cancer, the Children's Cancer Foundation is organising the Gold Ribbon Campaign. 100,000 gold ribbon pins have been produced, and members of the public are encouraged to make a pledge online, and wear the pins on 15 February 2005, which is designated as International Childhood Cancer Day. The gold ribbon pins are given away free-of-charge for the public to pledge their support at www.ccf.org.sg towards children with cancer and their families.

Said Mr. Simon Lala, Chairman of the International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organisations (ICCCPO), "The Children's Cancer Foundation in Singapore plans to commemorate International Childhood Cancer Day on 15 February by the free distribution

of gold ribbon pins. It is hoped that Singaporeans will become aware of the plight of children with cancer all over the world. It is estimated that globally, 250,000 children are diagnosed with cancer annually, yet only 20% receive adequate treatment.”

He continued, “I am proud to report that the Children’s Cancer Foundation in Singapore is a leader in the Asian region in supporting children with cancer and their families. I believe all children with cancer in Singapore receive first class treatment and care, much of which can be credited to the work of the Children’s Cancer Foundation.”

Notes to Editor

International Childhood Cancer Day

The International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organisations (ICCCPO) was founded in Spain in 1994, and International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) was declared in Luxemburg in September 2001. There are about 76 ICCCPPO members in 56 countries and each country will be organising their own events to commemorate ICCD.

The gold ribbon is the official ribbon of children with cancer worldwide. It is supported, recognised and promoted by hundreds of organisations and treatment centers, families, friends, and caregivers including the National Childhood Cancer Foundation, Association of Paediatric Oncology Nurses, Children’s Oncology Camp Association, the Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation and its chapters worldwide.

About Children’s Cancer Foundation

Children’s Cancer Foundation (CCF) has helped more than 1,100 children and their families since its inception in 1992. CCF is an independent Voluntary Welfare Organisation (VWO) that helps children with cancer below 17 years old. Its mission is to improve the quality of life of children with cancer and their families through enhancing their emotional, social and medical well-being.

Among the free services CCF provides are

- Counselling and Casework
- Therapeutic Play
- Parents Support Groups
- Financial Assistance
- Back-to-School Programme
- Childhood Cancer Marrow Transplant Programme and
- Bereavement Programme.

CCF has two Family Support Centres (FSCs) where counselling and other related activities take place. The FSCs are located just outside the childhood cancer ward of both the KK Women’s & Children’s Hospital (KKH) and the National University Hospital (NUH) for easy accessibility by children and their families.

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