

MOTHER & CHILD

report 2016 and project proposal 2017



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ASSOCIATION**

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The “Mother and Child”, being an extremely important project for DAA, bridges among three core institutions run by DAA. For more than a decade now within this project the child hospitalized for the treatment in one of the action place hospitals and the care provider, usually the mother, are taken care of.

In 2016 once again thanks to the dedication and hard work of the DAA staff and the financial support from the SAAT foundation the “Mother and Child” proved to be a truly social project in many respects: social and psychological support, skill teaching in different workshops including crafts and computer operating, an opportunity to learn about the developmental, educational games and make an own copy, communications with other mothers in a similar situation and mutual support, possibility to do common activities with other mothers and between a mother and a child while going through not always easy times of hospitalization.

All the parts of the project are interrelated and the participants are free to move from once workshop to another. For the participants to be able to join different workshops the staff working within the project plans the workshop schedule carefully so that they do not overlap allowing the mothers to take as much advantage as possible through learning different skills.

In 2016 the number of the beneficiaries joining different workshops has increased (see the stats below). Not only the increase and the interest of the beneficiaries in the project, the positive feedback we receive from the mothers participating in the workshops and DAA staff, but also the success stories we see throughout the year once again emphasize the importance of the “Mother and Child” project. In this report we introduce just a small number of the success stories to illustrate the importance of the project for the participants.

DAA administration expresses deep gratitude to SAAT foundation in Switzerland on the name of the beneficiaries as well as DAA staff running the workshops and services within the “Mother and Child” for the continuous financial support to this exceptionally important project.



REPORT 2016 | by “Mother and Child” Project Leader Christine Andreasyan

Action Place: Arabkir MC&ICAH, Yerevan, Armenia
Haematology Hospital, Pediatric Department, Yerevan, Armenia

Participants

The participation and workshop chart for 2016:

N	SERVICES / WORKSHOPS	TOTAL I-XII month
1.	Psychosocial Support Group Arabkir Hospital	75 47 208
2.	Computer Courses	58 4 246
3.	Knitting Haematology hospital	33 10 205
4.	Knitting Arabkir hospital	42 4 200
5.	Baking	126 10 246
6.	Sewing Haematology hospital	55 4 248
7.	Sewing Arabkir hospital	53 3 247
8.	Educational Games Arabkir hospital, nephrology department (sch. age)	323 5 336
9.	Educational Games Arabkir hospital, nephrology department (psch. age)	324 2 328
10.	Educational Games Arabkir hospital, urology department	286 4 302
11.	Educational games, Haematology hospital	193 48 320

Legend

- number of participants
- number of old participants
- number of workshops



WHY AND FOR WHOM IS THE PROJECT IMPORTANT?

The project is aimed at the pediatric patients and their mothers being on treatment at Arabkir MC&ICAH and the pediatric department of the Haematology hospital. Being on treatment in the hospital, sometimes on a long term treatment, the beneficiaries of the project receive free psychological support, gain basic knowledge in computer operating and skills, in baking and table decorating. They also have an opportunity to learn sewing necessary items, such as kitchen towels, hot pot holders, head covers, aprons, etc. The skills in knitting provide the mothers with an opportunity to knit socks, sweaters, scarves, hats, etc. during the lengthy evenings in the hospital or when they sit next to the child receiving necessary treatment and/or medication.

Moreover, during the education developmental games preparation workshops the hospital school teachers teach the mothers how to prepare and use different educational and developmental games. The game that the mothers make during the workshops stay with the children and during the evening hours and the weekends when the hospital school rooms are closed become a pastime for them. The games also provide with the possibility for continuous education and for overcoming the hard times of the treatment with more ease. Playing together is a chance to enhance the interpersonal positive communication, the development of speech and logics.



What Are The Aims Of The Project?

“Mother and Child” is a positive, wonderful project.

The project has three main aims:

- To support the mothers of the pediatric patients in Arabkir and Haematology hospitals
- To teach them necessary skills in crafts and/or computer. It is a productive time spending, since during the treatment of the illness of the child the skills gaining can be very effective.
- To provide the mothers with an opportunity to learn some education games and to make their own copies for and with their children. The educational games can be used with the children with special educational needs by the parents both at the time when they are on treatment in the hospital and back home.

Initially the project didn't pursue socializing aim. However, through the years the scheduled workshops became a chance for mothers to socialize and to support each other in their common situation of having a child on treatment.

The course of difficult times of the treatment seems more or less easy when the child and the mother/care provider are involved in the project where they gain different skills and knowledge. They are not isolated and lonely in their hospital rooms. They have a chance for socialization and overcoming their illness.

When the exhibition-sales are organized the items the mothers made during the handicraft workshops are sold and they have a source of small income. The gained skills also give them an opportunity to have a small income after being discharged from the hospital and returning home. For example, the mother of a 12 year old boy from the dialysis department took part in the table decoration workshop and upon return home in Vardenis (a village in Armenia) for three days learnt that the neighbor's son was getting married and a big wedding ceremony was being organized. For a certain payment she organized the fourshete table decoration for the wedding ceremony of the neighbor's son.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Thanks to the financial support of the project received from SAAT foundation, Switzerland the project doesn't face major problems in the implementation.

This year we had even an increase in the participation. However, it is not always possible to include everyone who wants to take part in the workshops. The number of people who want to take part in the project is great and once the person is involved in one of the workshops they do not want to yield their place to the others since they learn a lot and the workshops are really interesting for them. The issue is that the project runs on a budget and we are unable to have e.g. 8 mothers taking part simultaneously in sewing and knitting workshops in the same month. We try to solve the issue by distributing the participants in different workshops but this is not always possible since we are unable to coordinate the number of the mothers whose children are on treatment in the hospital.

COLLABORATION

The workshop leaders closely cooperate with each other and the project responsible Christine Andreasyan as well as with the hospital medical staff of Arabkir and Haematology hospitals.

Of course, for the implementation of the project DAA cooperates and receives financial support from the SAAT foundation in Switzerland.

WHAT ARE THE SUCCESS FACTORS OF THE PROJECT?

The project success is due to many factors: interest of the participants, care, capacity and dedication of the staff, possibility for the participants to learn something new that is useful for them, individual approach within the working group. The project beneficiaries both the children and the mothers/care providers have an opportunity to make use of all supports of the project and to receive the working material within the workshops: treads, fabric, stationary needed to make the educational and developmental games, etc. Below we introduce some of the success stories of the participants that will better illustrate the success of the project.



Success story N1 – a 14 year old youngster who took part in the baking and table decoration workshop. The workshop leader Gayane Haroutunyan.

The youngster was on a long-term treatment and was involved in the project. He was very much interested in the decoration of pastry, fruit and table in general. As Gayane Haroutunyan, the workshop leader, saw the great interest the young man demonstrated she involved him in additional workshops. The young man was so interested in the course that he made his parents bring him to the course despite the weather conditions, difficulties with the icy roads and the urge of the parents to return home early. Each time after he received his medication he came to the workshop. The gained skills allowed him to take part in a competition of table decoration and to win a price. Moreover, when he was asked what he would like to receive as the New Year present he mentioned that his one and only wish was to receive all the necessary instruments that he could use to make even nicer decorated tables.

Success story N2 – a 13 year old girl who took part in the preparation of educational-developmental games workshop. The workshop leader Ani Hovhannisyan.

The girl had communication difficulties, she was isolating herself and didn't want to socialize with the peers or leave the patient's room. She is an orphan taken care by her grandmother. After a certain time in the hospital she came to the hospital school room out of interest as she said "Just to have a look". The hospital school teacher leading the educational games workshop Ani Hovhannisyan was introducing the game "DINGO" to the workshop participants so that they can make their own copy and play. At the beginning she just sat in the hospital school room and looked what the other children did and then asked the teacher if she could also participate. Ani invited her to join. After the workshop finished the girl asked where she could buy that game from. Ani replied that the game was not available in stores in Armenia and if she was interested she could join the next workshop and make her own copy of the game. At the next workshop the girl made her copy and invited the other children to play

the game she prepared.

The grandmother had mentioned at the follow up visit to the hospital that when they returned home the girl invited her peers to their house and played the game with them. The peers as well as the grandmother were very surprised since she had not socialized with her peers before. During each follow up visit to the hospital after receiving her medication she joins the workshop with Ani to prepare a new game and to take it back home to play it with her peers.

Success story N3 – a 12 year old girl’s care providing grandmother who took part in the knitting workshop. The workshop leader Shushanik Atoyan.

The grandmother took part in the knitting workshop for the first time. The workshop leader Shushanik Atoyan provided her with the necessary quantity of wool and the grandmother knitted a nice vest. During the workshops next month she asks Shushanik to be involved in the workshops again, so following her request the workshop leader involves her in the program and provides her with the necessary material to knit. Her grandchild was on a long-time treatment in the hospital so she asked to be involved in the project for a long time. At the beginning the workshop leader was reluctant, since we try to involve different participants in the workshops so that everyone willing to be in the project can take their turn. However, the educational games workshop leader Ani Hovhannisyan asked the knitting workshop leader Shushanik Atoyan to involve the grandmother as an exception since she was highly interested and learnt a lot in all the workshops. Thus, the grandmother was involved in the project for 7 months and all this period she took part in the knitting workshop. She took the material and knitted but didn’t tell or show her products to anyone. After several months at one of the knitting workshops Shushanik was nicely surprised when entering the ward to organize the workshop she saw that all the children on the ward (about 12 children) had the same kind of knitted hats. She recognized the wool she had provided the grandmother with for knitting. The grandmother who asked so eagerly to take part in the workshops for 7 months had knitted hats for all the children. All these children had lost hair because of chemotherapy and needed knitted hats. In order they didn’t feel shy and it wasn’t unpleasant for them to wear hats the grandmother decided to knit same kind of hats for all of them. This was an important psychological support both for the children and their care providers.

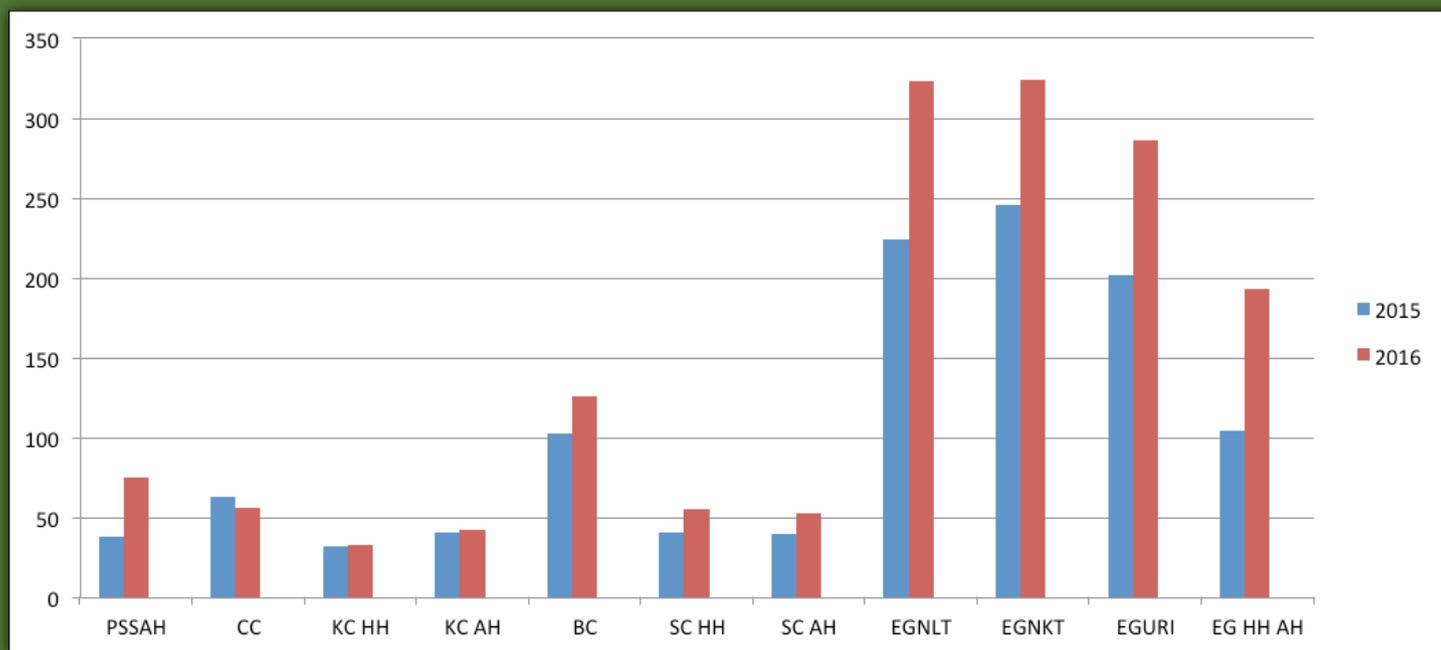
Future Plans And Perspectives

The children on treatment in Arabkir MC&ICAH as well the pediatric department of Haematology hospital as well as their mothers/care providers receive great support through the project. The participation in the workshops whether knitting, sewing, baking and table decoration or preparation of educational-developmental games, allows them to forget their difficult time in the hospital.

The “Mother and Child” project itself is a very positive and important project. Thus, it will be essential to maintain the project needed so much by the beneficiaries and implemented with so much dedication by DAA staff.

COMPARATIVE REPORT

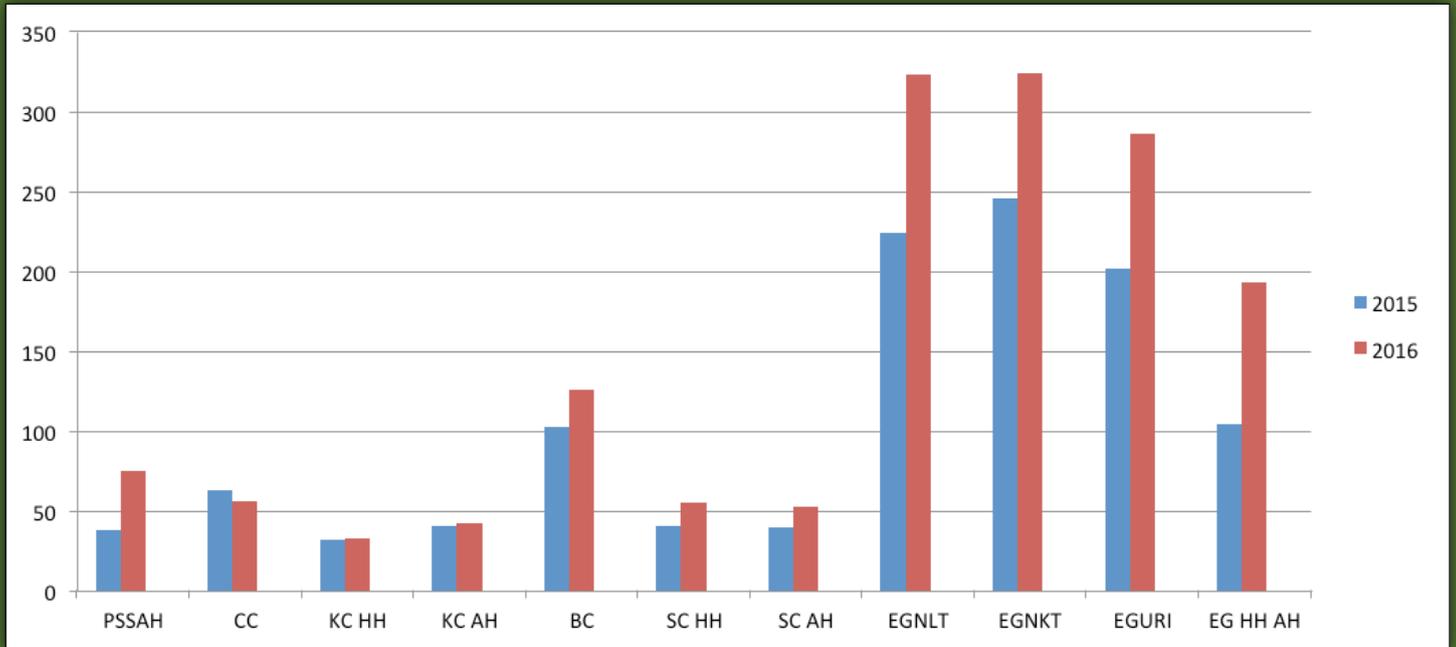
The Number Of Participants On The Workshops



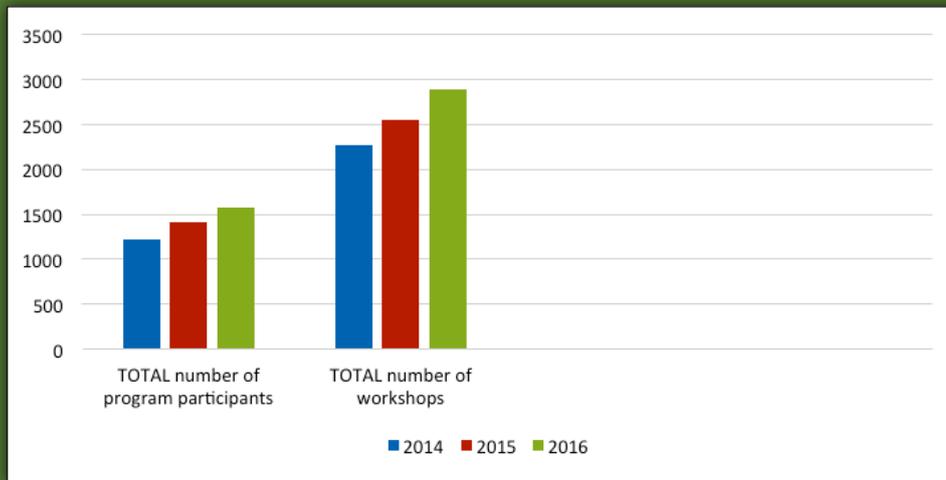
1. **PSS AH** - Psychosocial Support Arabkir Hospital
2. **CC** - Computer Course
3. **KC HH** - Knitting Course Haematology Hospital
4. **KC AH** - Knitting Course Arabkir Hospital
5. **BC** - Baking Course
6. **SC HH** - Sewing Course Haematology Hospital

7. **SC AH** - Sewing Course Arabkir Hospital
8. **EGNLT** - Educational Games Nephrology Lena Tadevosyan
9. **EGNKT** - Educational Games Nephrology Karina Tadevosyan
10. **EGURI** - Educational Games Urology Ruzanna Iskandaryan
11. **EG HH AH** - Educational Games Haematology Hospital Ani Hovhannisyann

The Number Of Participants On The Workshops



Total number of participants and workshops Mother and Child program



Money transfer to:

DAA Direct Aid Association,
NGO Account No. **001-061787-101**
Swift: **MIDLAM22XXX**
HSBC Bank Armenia Yerevan

We are thankful to SAAT Foundation for the ongoing support to the “Mother and Child” project. We re-apply with the request to the Foundation SAAT to support the implementation of the program in 2017 in both of DAA Hospital School action places: Arabkir MC&ICAH and Pediatric Department of Haematology hospital.

**WE WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF YOU
FOUND MEANS TO GRANT OUR REQUEST.**



Hasmik Tadevosyan
DAA President

Christine Andreasyan | Mother and Child Project Leader

Liana Sanamyan | DAA Consultant



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