



MOTHER & CHILD

REPORT 2017 AND PROJECT PROPOSAL 2018



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“MOTHER AND CHILD”

PROJECT REVIEW BY DAA CONSULTANT LIANA SANAMYAN

The “Mother and Child” has been for many years an extremely important project for DAA serving as a strong link among all three core institutions run by DAA. Within this project the child hospitalized for the treatment in one of the action place hospitals and the mother or the care provider are taken care of within a number of workshops organized in the program.

In 2017, with the continuous support of SAAT foundation and thanks to the dedication and hard work of the DAA staff the “Mother and Child” served its aims of being a truly social project in many respects: social and psychological support, skills 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.

The workshops of the program are interrelated and the participants are free to move from one 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.

Recently I came across an article¹ based on a research discussing the benefits of social support network to the mothers having a child on intensive care unit. Though only intensive care unit patients were studied in the research, I think looking at the beneficiaries of

the “Mother and Child” program the benefits mentioned would be true in all the cases for the mother and the paediatric patients who are hospitalized.

The first benefit mentioned was the sharing of experiences as a mechanism of coping with pain and suffering. The second benefit attributed was the support to the family of the hospitalized child by the network formed by the mothers of the children on the treatment in the hospital as an essential strategy to cope with this difficult period in life. Both benefits concluded after the research almost fully coincide with the exact aims pursued by the “Mother and Child” program. We are happy the importance of this program and support is emphasized not only based on the results of the program, the positive feedback of DAA staff and the program beneficiaries, the number of success stories we had throughout the program (some of which are reflected in this report), but also on a research done far away but within the same context.

We at DAA administration would like to extend our big thank you 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 support to this exceptionally important project.



REPORT 2017

BY “MOTHER AND CHILD” PROJECT LEADER KRISTINE ANDREASYAN

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

Participants

The participation and workshop chart for 2017:

N	SERVICES / WORKSHOPS	TOTAL I-XII month
1.	Psychosocial Support Group Arabkir Hospital	44 35 184
2.	Computer Courses	55 5 234
3.	Knitting Haematology hospital	32 10 200
4.	Knitting Arabkir hospital	43 5 195
5.	Baking	106 10 242
6.	Sewing Haematology hospital	50 7 240
7.	Sewing Arabkir hospital	54 5 263
8.	Educational Games Arabkir hospital, nephrology department (sch. age)	332 2 336
9.	Educational Games Arabkir hospital, nephrology department (psch. age)	312 4 319
10.	Educational Games Arabkir hospital, somatic department	75 1 84
11.	Educational Games Arabkir hospital, urology department	245 8 263
12.	Educational games, Haematology hospital	226 38 307

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 paediatric patients and their mothers/care providers on treatment at Arabkir MC&ICAH and the paediatric department of the Haematology hospital. Being on long-term treatment in the hospital, the beneficiaries of the project in the first place receive free psychological support, gain basic knowledge in computer operating skills, in baking and table decorating. They can also learn sewing necessary items, such as 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, the hospital school teachers teach the mothers how to prepare and play different educational and developmental games. The games that the mothers prepare stay with the children and during the evening hours when the hospital school rooms are closed become a pastime for them and provide with the possibility not only for continuous education but also for overcoming the hard times of the treatment more easily. The educational games also enhance the interpersonal positive communication, the development of speech and logics.



WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE PROJECT?

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.

Especially when the treatment course is difficult it seems a little easier when the child and the mother/ care provider are involved in the project gaining different skills and knowledge. They do not stay isolated and lonely in their patients' rooms, on the contrary they have an opportunity to communicate and overcome the difficulties of the illness together.

When DAA organizes exhibition/sales the items the mothers prepared during the workshops are exhibited and sold, thus providing at least a small income. Moreover, the gained skills and knowledge become a source of further small income through things they can make and sell after being discharged from the hospital.



“Mother and Child” is a wonderful social project with three main aims:

- To support the mothers of the paediatric 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 child the skills gaining can be very effective.
- To provide the mothers with an opportunity to learn

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Thanks to the continuous support of the project received from SAAT foundation, Switzerland over many years now the project doesn't face major problems in the implementation.

One of the major issues of the project is the inability to involve all the beneficiaries who want to participate in the workshops. This number constantly grows. Once a person takes part in one of the workshops she doesn't want to yield her place to the next person. The issue DAA staff faces here is how to involve all the interested people since the project runs on a small budget and we can't involve



e.g. simultaneously 8 mothers to take part in the sewing or knitting workshop within one month.

This October DAA visiting teacher Meri Abrahamyan joined the project (being back from the maternity leave). Since then she organized the educational games workshop in the general paediatrics department of Arabkir MC&ICAH.

COLLABORATION

The workshop leaders closely cooperate with each other and the project responsible Kristine Andreasyan as well as with the hospital medical staff of Arabkir MC&ICAH and Haematology hospitals. The implementation of the project is possible with the continuous financial support from the SAAT foundation in Switzerland, for which both the beneficiaries and DAA staff are endlessly thankful.

WHAT ARE THE SUCCESS FACTORS OF THE PROJECT?

Many factors influence the success of the “Mother and Child”. Some of the most important factors are: interest of the participants, staff dedication and care, the capacity of the staff to teach the participants something new that is useful for them. The participants work within the workshops but they get individualized approach. The project beneficiaries: the children and the mothers/care providers have an opportunity of using all the project supports and to receive the working material within the workshops: threads, fabric, stationary needed to make the educational and developmental games, etc.



In continuation “Mother and Child” project staff introduces some of the success stories of the participants that will better illustrate the success and the results of the project.

SUCCESS STORY N1

A 26 YEAR OLD YOUNG WOMAN TOOK PART IN THE KNITTING WORKSHOP. THE WORKSHOP LEADER SHUSHAN ATOYAN.

Ten years ago this participant having leukemia was on treatment at the paediatric department of Haematology hospital. At that time the "Mother and Child" program had already started running and she had had the opportunity to take part in the program. She especially liked and attended the knitting workshops where she knitted beautiful things in different techniques and even had sold them. Ten years had passed since she was discharged from the hospital. She got married and had a baby. Unfortunately, the illness repeated and she appeared again in the hospital, but this time in the department of adults. She didn't lose her contact with the paediatric department; moreover, when possible she had spent her day there. Since in the past she was a pupil of the hospital school, it was decided to allow her to attend

the knitting workshop within the "Mother and Child" program. The patients from the paediatric department learning her story and seeing the beautiful pieces she made gave her orders to knit. These orders allowed her to have a small income which was used towards some of the expenses of the treatment in the hospital.



SUCCESS STORY N2

A 7 YEAR OLD GIRL AND THE MOTHER TOOK PART IN THE PREPARATION OF EDUCATIONAL-DEVELOPMENTAL GAMES WORKSHOP. THE WORKSHOP LEADER YELENA TADEVOSYAN.

This program enhances the close communication between the child and the mother. It is like a bridge that helps to understand the child better, his/her needs, fears and expectations. When the mother takes part in the preparation of the developmental game and plays the game with her child she becomes closer to the child. The developmental games included in the program workshop have educational aim and are directed towards the general education. The 7 year old girl from Yerevan together with her mother prepared and played the games "I play with the

numbers" and "11" that helped her to understand the number arrow/sequence and to compare the number and the quantity to each other. The mother helped the child during the game preparation. This is when the child felt the interest and the warm attitude of the mother towards her and her interests. After the preparation of the game was finished everyone took a turn in playing the game. The most important fact for the child was that she took the games home with her. As the mother mentioned such games help in the realization of education purposes.

SUCCESS STORY N3

A 4 YEAR OLD GIRL AND THE MOTHER TOOK PART IN THE PREPARATION OF EDUCATIONAL-DEVELOPMENTAL GAMES WORKSHOP. THE WORKSHOP LEADER ANI HOVHANNISYAN.

The child didn't know the numbers, colors and the names of some animals. The teacher asked the mother how she taught things to the child. The mother replied that they could not buy games and toys because of the hard social conditions they lived in. Moreover, the mother mentioned that she hadn't realized that she had to care for the child's development at such an early age. The teacher Ani Hovhannisyán informed the mother about the program and the educational-developmental games workshop where she could prepare the games together with her child since at the age the girl was in the mother had to care for the educational process and the development of the child. At the beginning they started preparing the game related to teaching the colors. The child stated

coloring the images, cutting and gluing them to the cardboard with pleasure. After the game was ready she played it with her mother and as a result started to recognize the colors and attribute the names to the colors. The next game prepared was the "Mother and baby" which contains animals and their babies. Through the game the child learnt to recognize the animals. An interesting fact to mention: during the course of the game it became clear that there were animals the mother also didn't know. The mother was very grateful as they took part in the program while the child was hospitalized, prepared all the games related to her age group and took them home after discharged from the hospital.

SUCCESS STORY N4

A 15 YEAR OLD GIRL TOOK PART IN THE PREPARATION OF EDUCATIONAL-DEVELOPMENTAL GAMES WORKSHOP. THE WORKSHOP LEADER MERI ABRAHAMYAN.

After the first meeting, acquaintance and talk the visiting teacher found out that the girl has quite some psychological complexes. She had missed the school for a long time because of her health situation, was falling behind in some subjects, moreover, her interpersonal communication with the peers was very poor or was close to none. The work with the girl within the program started through the preparation of the math games. At the beginning the participant resisted

to participate in group games and work. However, the game preparation and talks had positive results. She started taking part in all the group work with pleasure. The math games also helped to improve her math skills and knowledge, especially the times tables which she didn't know at all. The result was that she started to socialize with the peers with more confidence, her self-esteem rose and she became more courageous.

In both hospitals the paediatric patients on treatment and their mothers/care providers receive great support by the means of this program. Whichever workshop they take part in: knitting, sewing, table decoration, educational-developmental games preparation or computer operating courses; it makes them forget at least for a short time that they are in the hospital. A big thank you to SAAT foundation and personally to Marianne and Claude Ruedins.

FUTURE PLANS AND PERSPECTIVES

The mothers and the children on treatment in both hospitals/action places of the project implementation receive great support and gain skills and basic knowledge in a number of areas through the project.

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

Presenting the report on the “Mother and Child” project 2017, DAA administration would like to ask the SAAT foundation for a possible support of the project in the year 2018. We would like to mention that the data included in the annual report of the program as well as the feedback from the participants throughout the year shows the importance of this project for DAA beneficiaries.



REQUESTED BUDGET

2018

PLACE OF WORK	ITEM	USD PER MONTH	USD PER YEAR
Atelier	Material and running costs		
	Knitting and Sewing	310	3'720
	Baking and Table decoration	310	3'720
	Atelier workshop material	330	3'960
DAA Kitchen and Kitchen in the PFH	Preparing meals for the socially underprivileged, planning and budging	250	3'000
Computer workshop	Paper, toner, maintenance	100	1'200
Educational developmental games	Stationary, books, games	350	4'200
Staff financial support		1.100	13'200
Infrastructures	Administration, transport	100	1'200
Social events	PR, invitations of family members and medical staff	67	800
TOTAL		2'917	35'000

Money transfer to:

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

On the name of the "Mother and Child" program beneficiaries we express our gratitude to SAAT foundation for the ongoing support of the project. We reapply with the request to the foundation SAAT to support the implementation of the program in 2018 in both of DAA Hospital School action places: Arabkir MC&ICAH and Paediatric Department of Haematology hospital.



We would be most grateful if you found means to grant our request.

Mother and Child Project Leader **Kristine Andreasyan**

DAA Consultant **Liana Sanamyan**

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