



Fundación
Sol y Vida
Quito, Ecuador
www.solyvida.org

Annual Report 2017

Dear sponsors and Sol y Vida friends

At the moment Sol y Vida is taking care of 40 children currently under treatment at the department for oncology of the Baca Ortiz Children's hospital. This is the state hospital of Ecuador in charge of oncological treatment and therefore the port of call for all provinces for diagnosis and therapy of child cancer. The foundation particularly supports children bearing malignant tumours and thus requiring chemotherapy. The most common types of cancer are retinoblastoma, astrocytoma, Hodgkin's lymphoma, carcinoma and osteosarcoma.

Medicines

Compared to previous years, medical staffing at the Baca Ortiz oncological department has remained very stable throughout 2017. The supply of medication for chemotherapy is comparable to previous years, insofar that again the hospital incurred shortages during the first and the last quarter. The medication for the control of side effects of chemotherapy, such as vitamins, dietary supplements, skin lotions etc. have been supplied by Sol y Vida throughout the whole year on a constant basis.

The children we supported:

Firstly, we would like to refer to a very sad outcome for one of our little patients:

Sisa



Sisa, a three-year-old girl was diagnosed with a retinoblastoma as she arrived at the hospital in September 2016. In general, patients with this type of cancer have a good chance of recovery. Sadly, this wasn't true for Sisa. Her parents earn their living from working in agriculture in Tigua in the area of the Cotopaxi. The girl received chemotherapy for seven months and Sol y Vida offered support by financing her medication, dietary supplements as well as food and bus transports. The radiotherapy following the initial treatment was interrupted upon request of the family. One week after discharge from the hospital, the girl returned to Quito with her parents. Sisa's body was badly distorted, as tumour offshoots had developed all through it. In August 2017 the girl died in her parent's home. Our foundation offered further financial support to ensure a decent burial for the girl. The team of Sol y Vida was touched by the cheerful nature of this three-year-old girl and regrets that she didn't have better chances. These are the tough

moments for the team, particularly as one becomes familiar with the little characters during the treatment period. From outcomes like this, we try to gain strength to continue to support the children and we are all the happier for every child which overcomes the tough struggle against cancer.

Here are some stories of our heroes with better chances:

Erik



Four-year-old Erik arrived at the hospital Baca Ortiz in January bearing a malignant cell tumour called Ewing's sarcoma (Sarkoma de Ewing). The subsequent operation was for diagnostic purposes only. Sol y Vida then supported the boy financially during the following five chemotherapy cycles to ensure constant supply of medication he needed. During this trying period Erik also received vitamins and dietary supplements to keep the side effects at low levels. The brave boy has now finished his chemotherapy treatment and we are happy to know that he has a very good chance of recovery.

Ginna



Ginna travelled from Imbabura to Quito in March 2017. She is eleven years old and is one of five siblings. She was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour (medulloblastoma) with consequent hydrocephaly. With an operation, a small part of the tumour was removed. For further reduction of the tumour, the girl had to undergo chemo- and radiotherapy. With the aid of drainage, excess cerebrospinal fluid was lead into her abdomen for absorption. Because of this tumour Ginna lost mobility of her arms and legs. Today she is able to move very slowly again. However, she still depends on a wheel chair and a walking aid. The girl still suffers from very strong headaches, nausea and emesis. Ginna's mother is of indigenous origin and is illiterate. The numerous trips to Quito for ambulatory treatments have been very exhausting for her. Her income from agriculture can barely cover travel costs to the children's hospital. She is glad to receive food vouchers and clothes at the Sol y Vida office. The foundation has so far supported the girl for medication and dietary supplements. Ginna will need further help to overcome the chemotherapy cycles left to conquer the cancer successfully. Ginna's greatest wish is to be able to walk again.

James



James is a three-year-old indigenous boy from Otavalo. In June 2015 he was diagnosed with a retinoblastoma, a malignant tumour in his retina. He had to have his eye removed and undergo twelve chemotherapy cycles and subsequent radiotherapy. James now depends on an expensive prosthesis. Due to his growth, it needs to be replaced regularly in order to avoid deformation of the eye socket. Sol y Vida helps funding his prosthesis thus enabling constant adaption until adulthood. Sol y Vida will remain an important pillar for this boy. He has very good chances that his daily life will return back to normal. In spite of his impairment, James is an active and happy little boy and sometimes likes to perform with a song at the Sol y Vida office. At the moment he is still quite happy to know that his missing eye is a star looking down at him.

Visitors

Just at beginning of this year we still had Johanna with us volunteering to entertain the children, while Lorena joined us for the same purpose in autumn 2017. Both volunteers spent several hours a week with the children at the hospital. With their warm personalities and their empathetic manner both girls managed to spark a little happiness into the hospital routine. The volunteers' fluent knowledge of Spanish was an asset for this task and the children soon got used to the little visits, looking forward to the drawing and the playing. The volunteers of Sol y Vida contribute important moments of distraction to the patients which is also very much appreciated by the parents staying at their children's bedside round-the-clock.

Events

Day of the Book



On April 28, the children and their mothers celebrated the "International day of the Book" at Sol y Vida. A group of 4th course students from Colegio Alemán and their teachers were singing, playing and telling stories to the children, who thoroughly enjoyed the activities. The students donated second hand books in good condition, so that Sol y Vida could start its own little library for the

children.

Christmas Party at Universidad San Francisco



December 9, was the annual highlight for the children: the students of the University San Francisco arranged the christmas celebration for the foundations «Sol y Vida» and «Por una Vida». They prepared various games and opportunities for the



children to participate. One of the highlights was undoubtedly the performance of a famous Ecuadorian singer - the children were singing and dancing with excitement. The families also had great fun with the Fotomat; with funny accessories they were able to create their own christmas photos and take them home. In between, muffins and cotton candy were available and at the end everybody received a small gift. In the arduous and sad daily life which the children are often exposed to, this event is always a joyful and relaxing time-out for them.



SUPPORT THE CHILDREN'S LIFE WITH YOUR DONATION!

If you wish to contribute to our work in Sol y Vida, we THANK YOU!

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A great THANK YOU to all donators!