

Annual Report of Activities 2023-2024

Beginning with the name of the Beneficent and Merciful Allah, it is my privilege to present the Annual activity report for the financial year commencing July 2023- June 2024. This year total number of Executive Committee meetings which took place was twelve (12), number of Emergent meetings held was two (2), Administrative Committee met once and the Annual General Body also met once. The Elections were also scheduled this year, hence the AGM and the elections were held on 18th November '23.

During the period between July '23 and June '24 total number of registered cases was 513, Number of patients seen in OPD was 6458, number of patients off treatment was 957 and number of mortality cases was 19. A number of events took place during the duration of this year starting with Independence Day celebrations. As always Independence Day is celebrated with the children who have successfully completed treatment as well as those under treatment at the Cancer Center of Child Aid Association. This year we were pleased to have Mirza Babur Baig, EVP & Divisional Head CSR of National Bank of Pakistan gracing the occasion. The members of the executive committee who were present to welcome the esteemed guest and children were President, Child Aid Association Mr. Tariq Shafi, the General Secretary at the time Dr. Salman Burney (late), Joint Secretary Mrs. Fawzia Pathan, Treasurer Dr. Soofia Ahmed, executive member Dr. Zeba Batool Attar, and Executive Director NICH Dr. Nasir Saleem Saddal who is also member of executive committee.

Before commencement of proceedings Mr. Baig was taken on a visit of the Oncology ward by Mr. Tariq Shafi. Thereafter the President and Chief Guest addressed the children and guests followed by distribution of gifts among the children. The event ended with a cake cutting ceremony, the cake was courtesy "Pie in the Sky" bakers. The month of September is designated globally for Childhood cancer awareness known as Gold September and Child Aid Association also undertook a few initiatives to raise awareness about Childhood cancer. Following activities were held during Gold September; Distribution of 16,000 leaflets on Childhood Cancer awareness, its symptoms and precautions, was undertaken in various schools of Karachi. Banners and standees for Gold September were placed during the Children's festival at Art Council Karachi. Radio slots on Health shows HOT FM 105, Radio Pakistan FM 101 were booked where Dr. Uzma Imam In charge Oncology unit participated, highlighting importance of childhood cancer awareness.

Well known TV artist Mr. Khalid Anum also visited the Children's Cancer Center and spent time with the patients in the Oncology unit. The Elections and Annual General Body meeting of Child Aid Association were held on 18th November 2023. The election committee was headed by Mr. Muhammad Aslam with members Mr. Pervez Iqbal and Dr. Rubab who scrutinized the papers submitted by applicants. Following members were elected as office bearers; Mr. Tariq Shafi (President), Mr. Tariq Siddiqui (Vice President), Dr. Salman Burney (General Secretary) Mrs. Fawzia Hasan Pathan (Joint Secretary) and Mr. Hafiz Amir (Treasurer).

In the first meeting of the new executive committee it was decided that an Administrator be employed to manage and oversee the running of the Children Cancer Center supported by Child Aid Association at NICH, Karachi. On 1st December, '23, Dr. Zeba Batool Attar, a senior pediatric surgeon with a Masters in Health Professions education, who had stepped down as member of executive committee earlier joined as Administrator. Other than events our ongoing Voluntary Community services program for school and college going students ran during July and December school holidays. Total of 35 students participated which included, Mama Parsi School, Habib Girls school, City School PAF chapter and AMI school.

In late December Child Aid Association faced an unfortunate setback with the sudden demise of its General Secretary, Dr. Salman Burney. He had joined CAA as life member in 2005 and remained its honorary secretary from 2005 -2007. Thereafter he held the post of General Secretary till 2021 and later from November 2023 till December '23 , serving Child Aid Association in this capacity till the end. Dr. Salman Burney's services for Child Aid Association will be remembered for long. Thereafter the executive committee nominated Dr. Nasir Saddal to fill the post of General Secretary.

The International Cancer Day is observed on February 4th and our social workers organized activities for the children. Additionally DAWN newspaper took out a supplement on this occasion in which Dr. Uzma Imam's article on the subject was printed. The International Childhood Cancer Day is observed globally on 15th February 2023. This year the theme for the International Childhood Cancer Day was "Unveiling Challenges". The Children's Cancer Center, Child Aid Association also observed the day. Many activities were planned in the ward by our social workers with the children, their attendants and staff. Cake cutting ceremony was also held on the occasion. To commemorate this day the Avari Towers, Cluster General Manager Hans - Joerg Kreitner hosted an event inviting the Executive committee, also attended by their department heads. The President Child Aid Association, Mr. Tariq Shafi was presented a donation cheque and gifts for the children of the Oncology unit which had been collected by the staff of Avari Towers and its vendors. As in the past this year too the Ramzan campaign was run during the month of March-April, 2024 for raising zakat and donations. The campaign covered appeal in print media, radio channels, distribution of flyers, standees in banks and billboards. This year English Biscuit Manufacturers donated four of their prime billboard sites to Child Aid Association and also facilitated printing of the artwork. We are extremely grateful to them for their kind and generous gesture. Additionally a successful fund raising campaign was run during Ramzan by the Caa USA wing to help raise funds for the HVAC system in the under renovation Oncology unit. The Caa USA team has been instrumental in the recent past with the valuable support of Syed Imran Ali in conducting donation drives not only in Ramzan but throughout the year due to which Caa has been able to purchase costly items like reagents, kits and parts for the flow cytometry machine. On behalf of the executive committee I would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation for their dedication in helping us achieve our targets.

This year too like every Eid gifts were distributed among the children under treatment received through various donors. We are greatly obliged and grateful to the Sind government for the continuation of their annual grant of Rs.100 million. This has given us a huge boost in improving and extending our facilities to a larger number of children suffering from cancer.

This year following workshops were conducted; 'Patients counselling and breaking bad news 'and 'Ethics in medical practice' by Administrator Dr. Zeba Attar ; 'Infection control in a pediatric cancer ward' by Head nurse Shama Naila ; 'Empathy in nursing care' by Dr. Hana Khan and 'Advancing Strategies in BNHL treatment' by In charge Oncology unit Dr. Uzma Imam.

We extend our thanks to the Director, NICH, Dr. Saddal for donation of antibiotics, general medicines ,disposables and the support of the radiology and surgery department in treatment of oncology patients. Here we would like to mention a special thanks to PWA as well as SADA welfare trust for providing blood products for our patients.

We are grateful to all our honorary consultants namely, Consultant hematologist Dr. Khalid Zafar Hashmi, Dr. Rizwan Naeem, Director Molecular Pathology and fellowship programs at Montefiore Medical Centre Rye, Mr. Arshad Warsi for legal advice, Mr. Pervez Iqbal for his guidance during our Ramzan campaign and our auditors Messrs. Muniff Ziauddin & Co. Chartered Accountants for timely completion of audit.

We extend our appreciation and thanks to our Administrator Dr. Zeba Batool Attar as well as the staff in each department, especially in the Oncology unit who have worked tirelessly with dedication throughout the year and helped in achieving our targets.

We now eagerly await the completion of the Oncology unit renovation In sha Allah by years end which will improve upon the facilities, treatment and care of our patients.



Dr. Nasir Saddal
General Secretary, Child Aid Association