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abstract

Parents' Corner

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SIOP ASIA 2025 SAUDI ARABIA

Parents' Corner

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Introduction: For families of children undergoing cancer treatment, access to treatment often requires long-distance travel and extended stays away from home. This can lead to significant financial and emotional burdens, with many struggling to afford accommodation near treatment centers. To address this issue, the Association Always with Children established Parents' Corner in 2018. This initiative provides free housing near the Institute for Oncology and Radiology of Serbia.

Methodology: Since its inception, Parents' Corner has offered temporary housing to families in need. The space includes a fully equipped apartment with a kitchen, two bedrooms, a living area, and a shared bathroom. To assess the impact of Parents' Corner, parents are surveyed about their experiences after their stay. The survey evaluates their overall satisfaction with the facilities. Additionally, a video testimonial was collected from a mother who shared how having free accommodation affected her family's treatment journey.

Results: In 2024, Parents' Corner housed 26 families. In 2023, it was at full capacity for 260 days. Since 2018, Parents' Corner has provided free housing for 49 families from Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia, and Republika Srpska. Many children have stayed multiple times due to ongoing treatment or follow-ups. Parents highlight the financial relief and emotional support it provides. Beyond accommodation, families value the welcoming environment, which fosters connections with others facing similar challenges, offering comfort and strength during their child's treatment.

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Conclusion: Providing free accommodation near treatment centers significantly reduces financial burdens for families of children battling cancer. As demand for Parents' Corner continues to grow, sustainable funding and expansion remain critical to meeting the needs of more families. Strengthening partnerships and advocacy efforts will be key to ensuring that no child is denied treatment due to financial constraints.