



End of year report

2015 Project

ASSOCIAZIONE NICCO FANS CLUB

ADOLESCENT PROJECT

The funds provided to your organisation for the current year by TFWA Care were donated following the approval of the TFWA Management Committee and board. Among the prerequisites for funding by TFWA Care are transparency and accountability. We would be grateful if you could send us a brief summary of the project, the objectives achieved, problems encountered, impact on the local community and indicators of the project's success. We will share the report with the Management Committee at the end of year meeting.

Please do not hesitate to report on the project's successes as well as any aspects that did not go according to plan. This serves to provide a greater understanding of the challenges and issues encountered by the communities on whose behalf your organisation is working. Any quantifiable indicators will also be helpful in your report.

Thank you.



Project details

1. Please summarise in a few words the project supported by TFWA CARE, including the principle objectives and duration.

The “Adolescent Project” aims to create, within the paediatric hospital Meyer in Florence, a dedicated unit for adolescents and young adults (from 14 years of age) with haematological/oncological illnesses. The team will be a multi-discipline team able to take the global responsibility for the young people facing these illnesses, also with regards to the psychological and relationship-wise aspects, areas which can have a devastating impact in this particular age group. The project has a duration of 3 years. An important chapter of this project, to the cost of 50.000 euro, is the research. In particular, in collaboration with the University of Florence, the research will focus on mesenchymal stem cells (MSC) and aims at making these cells act as therapeutic agents with regards to the neoplastic cells themselves. In particular, MSC, due to their intrinsic characteristic of being pulled into the tumour, can be opportunely modified to transform them into real “Trojan Horses”.

2. What activities were carried out within the scope of the project over the course of the year?

The formation to the psychologists, specific to the needs of the adolescents has begun and will allow them to give the necessary psychological support very soon. A specific research scholarship fund has also been created in collaboration with the University of Florence. The research will focus on mesenchymal stem cells (MSC) and aims at making these cells act as therapeutic agents with regards to the neoplastic cells themselves as foreseen in the project scope. Research activities have already started.

Evaluation

3. Has the project been successful? Please outline the success factors for each objective as well as the challenges encountered and solutions adopted to overcome them.

The project is encountering an enormous success and each step is a challenge which is being overcome with the help and support of a very special team of specialists and the group of volunteers who never tire in their efforts.

The most critical factor in the project is the age group of the patients. Adolescence always brings a certain amount of problems and is a delicate transition period normally. When an adolescent also has to add this type of illness to the normal

burden, the psychological impact can be devastating . The project is aiming to make this phase easier and is evolving day by day

Did the work accomplished this year help you learn lessons that will benefit future work?

The work accomplished this year has brought new knowledge in the research field bringing us closer to our goal but above all, it has shed much light on the psychological sphere which will bring extremely beneficial changes to hospitalized adolescents in the future

Sustainability

4. How has the project had a positive impact on the community/ies at the core of the project and what will be the long term benefits? Please explain if the project has helped empower the beneficiaries by providing greater autonomy.

This project, due to its uniqueness, is having an enormous impact on the patients during their hospitalization. The long term results will be even more evident both in terms of the therapy involved and the psychological implications during the hospital stay.

5. Will the project continue in the future or is it now complete? Will further funding be required in the future to complete the work? Please indicate if the initial funding request was a multi-year project. ** (see footnote)

The project is continuing and the investment over a 3 year period was estimated in 300.000 Euro of which 200.000 have been raised. It is not only continuing but is evolving and the investment will increase. This is the first time a project of this kind has been undertaken and the underlying necessities which were not evident are emerging as it takes form.



Finance

6. Please provide a summarised breakdown of how TFWA Care funds were utilised for the project.

The funds received from TFWA have been split in three parts so as to give equal support to the three main aims of the project. One third has been donated to the formation of the doctors on the very specific psychological aspects facing the adolescents, one third has been donated to the scholarship fund in collaboration with the University of Florence to guarantee the continuity of the research and one third has been dedicated directly to the research and experimentation of the mesenchymal stem cells (MSC)

Please attach your latest annual report as well as any pictures you would like to use to illustrate this report.

We would be grateful if you could send this to John Rimmer (j.rimmer@tfwa.com) by **November 6 2015 at the latest.**

** If you would like to submit a request for further funding for a **new project** to be funded by TFWA CARE in 2016, please complete the form on the following page.