



HELPING CHILDREN BEAT CANCER

2020 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



Welcome!

Thanks to you, Gift of Life supporter, in 2020 we continued to help children and young adults being treated for haematological, oncological, immunological diseases in Russian hospitals.

With the arrival of the global pandemic, the life of the whole world has changed dramatically. But unfortunately other serious illnesses didn't disappear during this time, and child cancer has no borders and stops for no one, including COVID-19.

It's our priority to ensure children with cancer continue getting the most effective treatment despite difficult circumstances and new challenges.

During 2020, 36 children received the support of the foundation, and our programme costs for medical expenses exceeded £532,082. We are especially grateful to everyone who, even in this tough time, found an opportunity to help our patients. Thank you so much!

We'd love to share with you not just some numbers and headline achievements of our programme work, but also the stories of some of the children who have been given the chance to recover and look forward to a long and healthy life. You've helped shape these lives.





Chulpan Khamatova

co-founder of
Podari Zhizn

Photo: Olga Pavlova-Lavrenkova

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All throughout this most challenging of years we've not just seen but also really felt your support. And it's thanks to that support that we've been able to continue purchasing essential medicine for Russian clinics, pay for consultations and treatments with foreign doctors for sick children in Russia and so much more. It's truly touching and humbling to know you remain part of our cause of helping children beat cancer; illness doesn't stop during lockdown. Thank you so much for being by our side.

Gift of Life at a glance

Since 2011 with your generosity
we've managed to:



SUPPORT nearly 550 applications
for 'life-saving' medicine and
non-medical treatment



HELP over 460 children and young
adults with cancer and other blood
diseases



PROVIDE education programmes for
nearly 50 doctors



RECRUIT over 110 UK volunteers
to help our mission for Russian
children

Our mission

Gift of Life was established in the UK in 2011 as a sister charity to Podari Zhizn, a leading Russian children's cancer charity founded by actresses Chulpan Khamatova and Dina Korzun.



Our mission is to ensure children and young adults with cancer and haematological disease in Russia can receive the most effective and modern medical care, and non-medical support.



Our programmes

We support international programmes of Podari Zhizn, including:



Foreign
medications
purchase



Bone
marrow
search



Surgeries
performed by
international
specialists



Educational
programme
for Russian
doctors

'Life-saving' medications unavailable in Russia in 2020

As always, foreign medications remain our major expense. The purchase of vital drugs, often unavailable in Russia, continued throughout 2020. Thanks to Gift of Life's help, 32 children directly received life-saving treatments.

The drugs include Defitelio, Foscavir, Sildenafil and Probenecid. Doctors call them 'emergencies', as these medications are often urgently needed to deal with dangerous complications after bone marrow transplantation.

So, in 2020, Gift of Life purchased Foscavir twice for ten-year-old Kira Spis, who was born with a serious violation of the immune system. Kira underwent two bone marrow transplants, and by autumn she felt well enough to go home. For the first time in her ten years of life, Kira has the chance for a full recovery!



Kira Spis
10 years old

This year, Letemovir was added to the 'emergency' medicines. Our donors helped to purchase it for two patients, sixteen-year-old Ilya L. and three-year-old Mikhail Kh.

In addition, thanks to your support, the foundation was able to pay for antifungal drugs to fight serious fungal infections: Noxafil (some patients need a special form of this drug, not available in Russia) and a completely new drug, Kresemba, which was recently registered but has yet come to the Russian market.

The children also received therapy for the most common diseases. As before, in 2020, through the help of our donors we purchased Oncaspar, needed to treat children with leukaemia. State provision of this drug to Russian patients was achieved only at the end of summer, and even then not in full. Your support has helped secure Oncaspar for seven-year-old Archipp Arsenov, undergoing treatment in Ryazan. Now Archipp has completed the hospital stage of treatment, he was discharged for maintenance therapy, and this autumn he has started school! Due to the risk of COVID infection, Archipp is being home schooled, but this has been a leap forward unimaginable earlier this year.



Archipp Arsenov
7 years old

Among other anticancer drugs purchased this year there were Xaluprine, Eto-Gray and Ixoten. Eighteen-year-old Yegor Korkishko, who received the latter medicine recently completed his treatment and is thriving.

With the help of our donors we were able to pay for few courses of Qarziba for seven-year-old Valery Patashuri from the Moscow region. It is a highly effective immune therapy to fight a dangerous tumour - neuroblastoma. Also this year, Gift of Life began buying a new drug - radioactive iodine MIBG, which is also used to treat neuroblastoma. The first purchase was made in the spring, and the drug prescribed to three-year-old Grigory Krost.

One of the most important purchases of this year was the anticancer drug Tepadina. This medicine is actively used in bone marrow transplants. Unfortunately, it's not in continuous supply in Russia and for many patients the only chance to receive this medication is to buy it abroad. Gift of Life secured the drug for fifteen-year-old Sasha Zazhigin, who is battling a mixed germ cell tumour.

In total, our expenditure on medicines not currently registered or available in Russia reached £468,388 in 2020.



Grigory Krost
3 years old



Sasha Zazhigin
15 years old

How we help

At each and every step we feel your continuing support



The Podari Zhizn medical experts approve an application for a medicine to treat a certain child and send it to Gift of Life

1



2



Gift of Life raises funds through direct appeals or takes it from the budget of the charity

3

Gift of Life orders the requested meds from a UK or an EU pharmacy and pays for it



4

The pharmacy sends the meds directly to a patient in one of the clinics in Russia by a trusted courier



5



Once the patient receives the meds, the treatment starts

Surgeries performed by international specialists in 2020

In March, a German surgeon, Professor Ingo Melcher flew to Moscow to perform complex surgery on one of our patients, sixteen-year-old Olga Levi. Olga had a sarcoma and required simultaneous removal of the tumour and complex bone reconstruction. She's continuing therapy at the Dmitry Rogachev Centre in Moscow. Olga's surgery cost £5,333, and was a success; there are no further signs of tumour growth.

Her mother Marina is grateful to everyone who supported Olga:

"The operation went without complications, on the tenth day Olga already could walk. Of course, there's still rehabilitation ahead, but everything is going as planned. The fact that she stands on her feet is truly amazing and I'm so grateful for it. The doctor arrived in March, even though the borders had already begun to close due to quarantine. We managed to have an operation, and literally the next day everything was shut. Huge thanks to all the donors, we couldn't have done it without you!"



Olga Levi
16 years old

Search for bone marrow donors and graft harvesting in 2020

Earlier this year, the foundation paid for several bone marrow transplants from donors unrelated to the children. Donors provide their cells free of charge, but the costs associated with finding a suitable donor in foreign registries, collecting cells, and transporting them to Russia are significant.

Thanks to your generous support, Gift of Life has helped three children with such transplants. Savely Elistratov had a very severe case of leukaemia (and the boy's parents could not become donors for him for medical reasons), Kira Voronina and Nastya Veselova have genetic diseases that require bone marrow transplantation from an unrelated donor. Nastya needed transplantation for Fanconi's anaemia, a serious disease of the haematopoietic system. A suitable donor was found in the USA. In February 2020 her transplant took place, everything went well, and in May Nastya was discharged home.

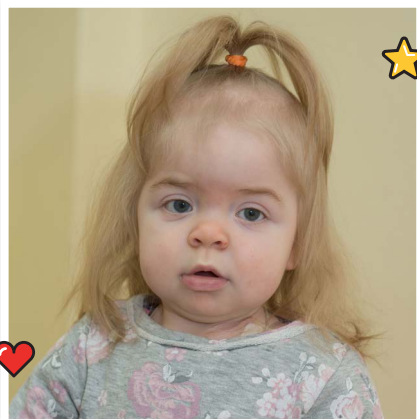


Artem Bondarenko

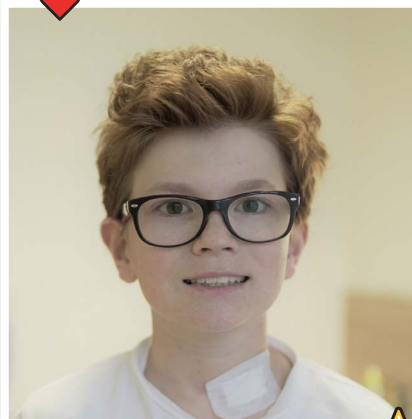
The foundation spent £53,319 to help these children



Nastya Veselova
12 years old



Kira Voronina
2 years old



Savely Elistratov
14 years old

Educational programme for Russian doctors in 2020

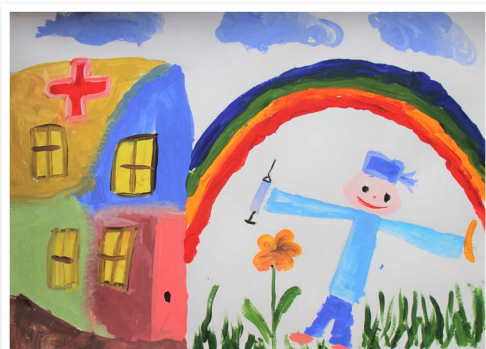
The pandemic left a significant impact on this programme, with some of the major scientific congresses and conferences cancelled or postponed to the next year. However we didn't give in to the circumstances and still managed to provide lots of support to doctors online!

The 46th annual meeting of the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) which was due to take place in Madrid in spring took place online in August.

Registration cost up to £180 and eight doctors from Moscow, Yekaterinburg and Krasnoyarsk took part in it, which allowed them to widen their knowledge of cellular and stem cell-based therapies and complications of bone marrow transplantations to save and improve the lives of patients with blood-related disorders.

In addition, eight resuscitation experts from the Dmitry Rogachev Centre presented at the online congress of the European Society of Intensive Care.

The total cost of this programme in 2020 was £5,040. The meetings and conferences postponed to 2021 have been paid and are due to be confirmed.



Dmitry Frolov

Our plans within the new reality

In 2021, Gift of Life will continue helping children and young adults with haematological and oncological diseases, focusing on creating a medicine fund for our patients. This invaluable monetary reserve allows us to react quickly as the need arises to purchase 'emergency' drugs. After all, **children don't get sick on schedule**, treatments are highly individual and every moment counts.

At present **Podari Zhizn needs £3 million a year** to fund 'life-saving' medicines currently unavailable in Russia. Gift of Life already contributes a significant portion of this cost, providing around **£800,000 for medicine annually**.

Only with the regular support of our donors is there a chance for us to pay for these vital treatments, and for the children we help to return to a healthy, fulfilling life.

**Thank you for being
our friend and for
giving these children
hope and care!**



What your help means



£15,000

Pays for sixty vials of Foscavir which is often prescribed as part of antiviral therapy after a bone marrow transplant



£20,000

Pays for a bone marrow transplant from an unrelated donor when no medications and other methods of cancer treatment are effective



£30,000

Pays for sixty vials of Defitelio, a drug which supports liver function after a bone marrow transplant



£5,000

Pays for a surgery required as a part of Ewing's sarcoma treatment and performed by a specialist surgeon from Germany



£50,000

Pays for ten packs of Erwinase for the treatment of patients with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and who have developed hypersensitivity to widely used chemotherapy drug Asparaginase



Our financials



Medicine - 88%
Bone marrow - 10%
Surgeries - 1%
Education - 1%

*Based on accounts report on March 2019-2020
You can view our full accounts report on March 2019-2020 at the charity commission or company house. You can also request a personal detailed copy from info@gifttolife.eu

| | |
|---|----------|
| Programme expenses (Medicine/Education/Surgeries/Bone marrow) | £476,043 |
| Raising funds and awareness of child cancer** | £156,251 |
| Support/Operation costs | £109,132 |

**It's our standard practice to ensure this budget line is fully covered by our partners and fundraising event sponsors.

You can trust us



We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator, which stands up for best practice in fundraising, in order to protect donors and support the vital work of fundraisers. In registering we agree to fundraise according to the regulator's strict set of codes and adhere to the Fundraising Promise, ensuring that our fundraising is legal, open, honest and respectful.

How we raise funds

Gift of Life raises funds through regular events, direct appeals and volunteer fundraising.

The major income of the charity is gained via our signature fundraiser – the Old Russian New Year's Eve Gala, which takes place in London on 13 January each year.

In 2020 the gala accounted for over 60% of our annual income with over £720,000 raised during the evening.

All production costs of this charity event are covered by our generous corporate partners, which means all the funds raised during the evening go directly towards our programmes for children with cancer.

Our volunteer initiatives allow us to connect with a wide range of Russian-speaking audience based around Europe.

In 2020 over 300 people supported Gift of Life's volunteer fundraising campaigns. Together with volunteer fundraisers and smaller charity events we've been able to collect almost £30,000.

Donors not just from the UK, but also Switzerland, Germany, France, Spain, Portugal and Finland joined Gift of Life campaigns and events to help children with cancer in Russian hospitals.

Over £217,000 was raised via direct appeals and general donations.



Together we can do more!

Thank you so much for being our supporter, there are real children behind the stories we bring you and your generosity and kindness really does make life-changing miracles happen.

Our dedicated and compassionate specialists, who do so much every day, really wouldn't be able to make these stories possible without your donations.

Please make a donation today so that we can help make sure their wonderful work can continue, and that children are given the most precious gifts of all – the gift of life.



Ways to support

Making a donation is now as simple as tapping your screen. You can donate via both Apple Pay and Google Pay, or by using a credit and debit card, as well as PayPal.



www.giftoflife.eu/donate-now

If you would like to donate to Gift of Life via bank transfer, please use the account details below. Your bank will provide you with a receipt as proof of payment.

Bank details:

Bank: HSBC Bank plc

Account name: **Gift of Life**

Account number: **62818779**

Sort code: **40 35 34**

IBAN: **GB29HBUK40353462818779**

SWIFT/BIC: **HBUKGB4B**

REF: **Donation**

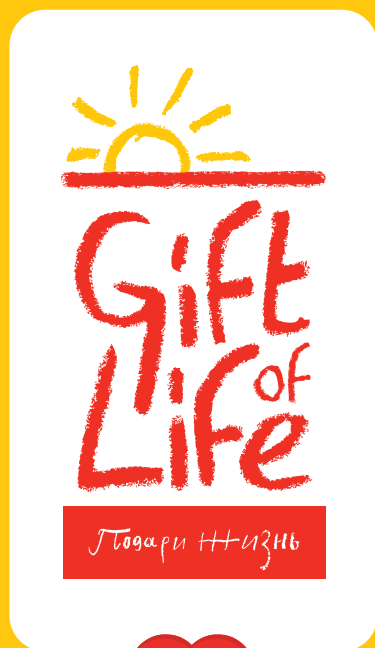
If you need any help with making a donation or would like more information about donations in general, please get in touch with us at info@giftoflife.eu



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Thank you for your support!

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