

Dear Prof. Maggie WATSON,

LOSEV is a non-profit NGO, mainly aiming to provide educational and emotional support, financial assistance and health services for children who have leukemia or chronic blood disorders, in order to help them cope with a life-threatening illness. From now on, LOSEV started to give psycho-social support to all cancer patients. That decision had given by LOSEV due to believe in cancer and treatment process has a psycho-social side and affects all areas of patients' life.

In September 24, 2000, LOSEV established LOSANTE – the Hospital for Children with Leukemia, which provides the latest facilities and advantages of modern medicine for children who have leukemia. It gives free treatment service to hundreds of children with Leukemia, with its hematology specialists and general pediatricians. Knowing that Leukemia treatment is very difficult for the children and their families, LOSEV also provides psychological support.

As happiness, morale and attachment to life play as important a role as medicines in the treatment of leukemia, one floor of the hospital has been set aside for use as a theater /cinema. There is a play room for painting, music, games and computer rooms which all give children the opportunity to keep up their education, socialize and enjoy themselves, even in the hospital.

Such is the loving atmosphere at Losante, many of the children do not want to leave the hospital. Our cute kids sometimes do not even want to go home after treatment since they celebrate birthdays and spend holidays with their new-found friends.

In order to ensure that our children reach the same levels of education with children at the same ages, LOSEV provides art, music, English, computer, drama and literature lessons at LOSEV Elementary School which has also opened its doors in 2008 and where 128 students receive education under the curriculum of the Ministry of National Education. All the needs of the children such as their pencils, books, school bags and uniforms and even their transportation is provided by LOSEV.

LOSEV is aware of the importance of psycho-social effect. So we are writing to share our endorsement of the International Psycho-Oncology Society's Statement on Standards and Clinical Practice Guidelines in Clinical Care. We fully support your efforts in revising the guidelines to include both distress as a sixth vital sign, and to include the recommendation of integration of the psychosocial domain into routine care.

We therefore fully support of a new international quality standard, seeing the potential for such an improvement to positively affect the lives of cancer survivors all over the world.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ustun EZER
Board of Chairman
LÖSEV – Foundation for Children with Leukemia
Ankara, Turkey