

Charity begins.....in Paphos

In 2007/8 the Cyprus Mail was able to report that thanks to the generosity of many parents, teachers and students at The International School of Paphos, as well as residents and business owners of Paphos and a female diplomat stationed in Israel, seven year old Jasmitha Maharajasingh was able to be treated for aggressive brain tumours at the Edmond and Lily Safra Children's Hospital in Israel.

Following chemotherapy and radiotherapy, Jasmitha returned to Cyprus in 2009 and has enjoyed continued support from her school. During the past year a group of volunteer classroom assistants have been helping her with her lessons.

In June 2010 Jasmitha was presented to Pope Benedict when he visited Agia Kyriaki, the Church of St Paul's Pillar.

Two years on from her original operations and it has been the turn of medical and other specialists in Paphos to donate their time and expertise. They have carried out, the very necessary, routine examinations to ascertain whether there has been a recurrence of the tumours or deterioration in Jasmitha's health.

Dr G. Vorkas, a specialist at the Iasis Hospital, carried out an MRI scan which showed no residual or recurrent tumour. Dr Meropi Toumba, Paediatric Endocrinologist also at the Iasis Hospital, has agreed to treat Jasmitha with expensive hormone treatment to aid her growth development.

Dr Martin Phillips, School and Clinical Psychologist, has carried out psychological tests to enable the school to develop some educational strategies to help Jasmitha in the classroom during the next academic year.

Amalia Sophocleous, a specialist orthoptist in Paphos, has been monitoring Jasmitha's eyesight and a specialist from Moorfields Eye Hospital London also sees Jasmitha when he visits Cyprus.

Pauline Davidson, an Ear Care Nurse Specialist, provided some initial ear treatment for Jasmitha prior to her visit to the audiologist.

Mr Donald Farrell, an audiologist from Alternative Hearing in Coral Bay, carried out hearing tests and his company, Alternative Hearing and Starkey, have very kindly donated a state of the art hearing device normally costing over €1000. A previous device proved inappropriate as Jasmitha was hearing too many “unwanted” sounds however, this latest digital device will enable Jasmitha to focus on the teacher without having distracting background noises. Mr Farrell will continue to supply all the batteries free of charge as well as giving regular check ups.

It is enlightening to know that, even in these difficult financial and economic times, there are so many professionals prepared to give so freely of their time and expertise to help a little girl lead a normal life again.



Donald Farrell fitting 11 year old Jasmitha’s digital hearing aid

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