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On the southern tip of Africa there is an extraordinary hospital for children.

A hospital that will not give up when others already have.

A hospital with dedicated staff who fight against all odds to give children without hope a chance at a normal childhood.

A hospital that gave a desperately ill little girl a second chance in life ...



**Upgrading Ward B2
at the
Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital**

HOPE WHERE THERE WAS NONE

In August 2011, 5 month old Dinao (*not her real name*) was suffering from gastroenteritis, oral thrush and a bad cough that worried her mother, Ella. The local clinic in Khayelitsha, a township just outside Cape Town, had given her medication to treat her symptoms as well as multivitamins to supplement Dinao's poor appetite. After two days, Ella returned to the clinic as little Dinao's condition was not improving.

A week later a desperately ill Dinao was admitted to the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital where she was diagnosed with severe sepsis and dermatitis. Little Dinao was fighting for her life. Ella, a young, unemployed mother who relies on her family to support her and her baby, now found herself placing her faith in the specialist doctors at the Hospital. Dinao was not growing and very weak – this sweet little girl was wasting away. Ella spent weeks sleeping in a chair next to Dinao's bedside while doctors fought to save this little girl's life while running tests to uncover the source of her illness.

Blood tests revealed that both Dinao and Ella were in fact HIV positive – a shock to Ella who had never had an HIV test and never suspected the possibility of contracting it. Both mother and baby were started on Antiretrovirals (ARV's) in the beginning of September.

A SECOND CHANCE IN LIFE

After just 2 weeks there was a dramatic improvement in Dinao's health and she was sent home at the end of September. Dinao will have to visit the Hospital regularly and will need to use ARV's for the rest of her life but has already started gaining weight and is livelier than ever before.

Ella is grateful for the treatment her baby received from caring doctors and nursing staff and tells all who will listen how well they were treated while in Hospital. During their time in Hospital, Ella attended a support group for HIV/AIDS mothers at the Hospital's Family Resource Centre. Managed by the Friends of the Children's Hospital Association (FOCHA), the group helped her accept her status and gave her the courage to tell her family about her HIV status.

SO MUCH ACHIEVED DESPITE LIMITATIONS

Little Dinao received first-world care in a ward that was built in 1956 and has only had minor upgrades since then. Ward B2 is an extremely busy ward specialising in general medical patients, infectious patients, and patients with chronic illnesses just like little Dinao.

The remarkable team, who cared for Dinao, work tirelessly in an area with outdated staff facilities and vital equipment. Ward B2 has insufficient space to accommodate and prevent cross-infection. Parents, just like Ella, have to endure weeks, even months, at their children's bedsides without access to adequate facilities.

Despite being housed in an old facility, Ward B2 provides the best possible training and teaching of all categories of staff and families, with the active involvement in research as well as rehabilitation.

Ward B2 at a glance:

- A patient turnover of 80 to 100 admissions per calendar month with daily occupation of beds running at over 85%
- 32 beds and 5 high-care ward beds
- Patient intervention ranges from critical to palliative care
- Patient condition ranges from critically ill patients to very stable patients
- 65% - 70% of children admitted to the ward are younger than one
- 25% of admitted children are HIV positive/infected and 15% are infected with TB
- 50% - 60% of patients admitted require high-care monitoring and intervention
- Many patients are admitted from the ICU and have community-acquired pneumonia infections that require isolation

UPGRADING WARD B2 - IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES

An upgrade will make the world of difference to the 32 nurses, 12 nursing students and numerous allied health professionals (including physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, social workers, and dieticians) who facilitate the short and long term rehabilitation process.

Benefits of an upgrade:

- Improved patient outcomes
- Reduce the risk of cross-infection with increased isolation and general accommodation space
- Increased emotional support to the children and parents
- Better conditions for children whilst admitted, as well as their caregiver who greatly contributes to their positive prognosis
- Less overcrowding and a better hospital experience (children are already highly traumatised)
- Better facilities for staff and parents
- Provide relaxation and rest space for staff, patients and families that is comfortable, child friendly and attractive
- Eliminate crowded, stressful passages as sufficient space is made available for the entrance, upgraded ablutions, dedicated office spaces and a kitchen facility

A modern facility:

The new modern Ward B2 will house the following areas:

- Ward Entrance
- 32 General ward beds and two 4-6 bedded High-care cubicles located opposite the nurses station
- 5 isolation cubicles to accommodate 2 cots or 1 bed, and fully equipped to manage high-care patients
- 2 additional low-care cubicles capable of managing 5 to 6 patients
- Offices
- Counselling Room: this is essential for ensuring privacy. Looking after the family is very much part of the holistic approach of the Hospital
- Communal Areas: Patients Waiting Room, Patients Day Room, Parents Room, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Gym, Staff Tea and Change Room
- Bathrooms
- Working Procedure Areas: Examination Room and Medicine Room
- Storage Areas, Kitchen and Sluice

THE BOTTOM LINE

The Children's Hospital Trust, fundraiser for the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital and Paediatric Healthcare in the Western Cape, needs to raise approximately **R11million** to upgrade Ward B2 at the Hospital. Equipment is an additional **R2million**. 100% of all donations to the Trust go directly to the Hospital. Not a single cent is spent on administration.

Donors will be given commensurate recognition for their contribution to this project according to the Trust's donor recognition policy. This includes naming rights or part naming rights to the ward, mention on donor boards, media coverage etc, and will be discussed in detail should you be interested in supporting the project.

The Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital is a public tertiary and secondary level State hospital, funded by the Department of Health of the Provincial Government of the Western Cape (PGWC). PGWC currently has an operational budget of approximately R400 million per annum for the maintenance and upkeep of the Hospital. Once this ward has been upgraded it will be the responsibility of the PGWC to maintain it. This is happening at present with all other upgraded wards at the Hospital.

It is the compassion and care of the people on duty everyday that make the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital a very special place. Your funding will help the Children's Hospital Trust provide a facility that matches up to the world-class care given to the many deserving patients at the Hospital. Just ask little Dinao.

CONTACT

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital

The Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital is the only dedicated specialist paediatric hospital serving the children of Southern Africa. It is a national asset and handles the worst cases of disease and chronic illness in children under the age of 12. It is often the last centre of hope for little patients. The Hospital manages approximately 250,000 patient visits each year. The Hospital currently has 290 beds.

The majority of the Hospital's patients are from the Western Cape, with cases from the rest of South Africa, Africa and in rare instances, the rest of the world. The majority of the Hospital's patients are from poor and marginalised communities and one third of the patients treated are under a year old.

Focus areas for the Hospital include renal and liver transplants, specialised burn care, neurosurgery, cancer treatment, intensive care, HIV/AIDS research, TB, re-hydration and co-ordination and management in the care of chronic disorders. The aim of the Hospital is to provide each and every patient with the best medical care, irrespective of parent's income, race, gender, religion or place of residence.

The Children's Hospital Trust

The Children's Hospital Trust was founded in 1994 as the independent Fundraising Arm of the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital when the Hospital was threatened with closure due to lack of funding. Since its inception the Trust has supported the Hospital through upgrading its buildings, purchasing vital equipment and funding critical training and research programmes.

The Trust is funded from an endowment, ensuring that 100% of all donations received are used towards the projects and programmes we fund. Not a cent is used for administration or operational expenses.

The Children's Hospital Trust's expanded its funding focus in 2011 to include funding paediatric healthcare projects in the Western Cape beyond the Hospital's doors which will have a direct or indirect impact on the services and patient load at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital. Our new vision is thus: "to assist the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital by funding their identified priority capital, equipment research and training projects, while funding projects beyond the Hospital's doors, which impact paediatric healthcare in the Western Cape".