

# RX Radio Progress Report

The Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital  
(2017- 2018)



RX Radio is a radio station run by and for children operating from the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital. It is the first radio in the world to involve child reporters broadcasting from within a hospital. So far 76 young reporters (ages 4 to 18) have participated in RX Radio training, 67% patients at Red Cross and 33% siblings or friends. A team of five staff, volunteers and former reporters (ages 18+) work behind the scenes to train, coordinate, and support the reporters. The children are always behind the microphones and are active participants in the production as they design their own shows, choose the music, invite guests and write interview questions.



On weekdays, RX Radio broadcasts pre-recorded shows from 10:00 – 22:00 and on weekends from 09:00 to 21:00. Every second and last Saturday of the month, live shows are broadcast from 09:00 – 15:00, then from 15:00 – 21:00 pre-recorded shows and music. The station transmits audio and a live webcam through the hospital's internal television system to all wards and public spaces in the hospital. The same content on the website and mobile app, and frequently updated on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).







## How the Programme works

Magazine-format shows consist of music, interviews, stories, news, weather, traffic and sport updates. Children in the hospital can also participate in the shows through song requests, dedications, live games and prize giveaways by calling or interacting with social media.

To become an RX Radio reporter, children complete a week of workshops on life skills (e.g. listening, storytelling), radio reporting and production skills. At the end of the week, children produce a five-minute audio-visual "radio diary" where they tell a story of their choice, and many narrate their experiences in hospital.

After basic training, they are given the choice to become an official RX Radio reporter. They can then participate in ongoing advanced radio training (workshops facilitated by staff and guest facilitators from a variety of fields) to become well-rounded reporters. Training also occurs during the live shows and pre-recorded shows. Each time young reporter prepares for her/ his show or researches the news, weather and sports to be read by a presenter, there is an opportunity to 'learn by doing' and to put into practice the knowledge and skills acquired during the workshops under the support and supervision of the RX Radio staff.





## Children who have benefitted from the Programme

Patients / Siblings / Friends who received basic radio training	2016	2017	2018
Patients	5	25	21
Siblings	1	4	8
Friends	-	12	-
Sub Total	6	41	29
<b>Total</b>		<b>76</b>	

## Comments from some of the Children

### Zaahra - RX Radio Reporter

*"To me RX radio means we are a big family and it's very important to me and I like it here. I've always been talkative, but RX Radio just made me more confident and it took my fears away of sharing my story."*

### Kanyo - RX Radio Reporter

*"I'm in Grade 5. RX Radio has helped me to feel impressed with myself and my self-esteem. Thank you."*

### Cole - RX Radio Reporter

*"RX Radio means good to me. First, I wasn't a talker, I never talked to the doctors. But now I do because of radio, RX Radio."*



## Patient Story : Kauthar - RX Radio Reporter

I am 18 years old, from Bontheuwel in Cape Town, South Africa, and am currently in Grade 12 at Rosebank College in Mowbray. For as long as I can remember, I have been coming to The Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital. I was just 7 years old when my mother noticed my body was swelling and my face became puffy. I was diagnosed with **Nephrotic Syndrome**, which meant that my kidneys did not function normally and I needed a kidney transplant. I spent weeks in the Hospital on dialysis until I received a portable machine to use at home, while I waited for a donor kidney."

"I was 11 years old, I can't recall much, everything just happened so fast, it felt like I was in a maze. While I was still on dialysis, I suffered nine seizures which was caused by a clot in my brain and led to a stroke. At this moment, **my parents thought I was going to die**. My mother told me, she cried and was extremely anxious about my condition. I spent a few days in ICU, while in an acoma. When I recovered, I was transferred to the renal unit."

After an anxious wait for 8 years, a kidney was made available. "The kidney transplant changed my life, as I no longer required dialysis. Today, I still come to the Hospital for my regular check-ups and I hope to always inspire others and help the Hospital through **RX Radio**. I never stop thinking about the Hospital because the staff have saved my life so many times. "

"RX Radio helped me deal with my illness by giving me the platform to share my story. I listened to the radio when I felt down and sad because the stories of other children changed my life. I always felt inspired and motivated, after listening, I believed that If other children can get better, I can too."

"I am proud to be an RX Radio presenter and apprentice, I visit the radio three times a week where I learn about radio and the studio, interview doctors, nurses and important guests, which helped me mature and see the world differently. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity"



Kauthar was one of the very first patients to be interviewed at the launch of the RX Radio station on the 20th of May 2017. Since then she has received training to become a radio reporter herself. She started interviewing other patients and medical staff, including doctors and by the end of 2017 she had interviewed Minister Nomafrench Mbombo, the Provincial Minister of Health in the Western Cape.





## Conclusion

Our heartfelt and sincere appreciation extends to each and every one of our loyal donors for contributing to **RX Radio**. Your support of this Project has so far positively impacted all the children who have become radio reporters at a very young age, and all the tuned in listeners (patients, parents and medical staff) tuned in at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital.

**Thank you so much for your generous and ongoing support.**

*Thank You!*

[www.childrenshospitaltrust.org.za](http://www.childrenshospitaltrust.org.za)

