



June 2016

Mr. Epstein

Leon Black Family Foundation

Re: Sunrise Enrichment and Recreational Activities for Cancer Stricken Children

Dear Mr. Epstein,

Thank you for your readiness to hear about the activities of Sunrise Israel.

Sunrise Israel was founded in 2010 in order to provide an environment where children fighting cancer can still be kids. Sunrise operates unique day camps, leisure and recreational activities, free of charge, for sick children and their siblings. The children come from all parts of the country and participate in the unique camps held throughout the spring and summer vacations. The camps facilitate the much needed integration of adaptive recreational programming with medical oversight, thus restoring a sense of childhood. The children swim, play sports, and enjoy music, drama, arts and crafts, as well as many other recreational activities that healthy children often take for granted.

Every year in Israel, 400 new children are diagnosed with cancer or other Lymphomas. The profound impact on the family unit is accompanied by a host of problems and stress, along with the difficult medical implications. While there are many organizations in Israel that offer programs for children with cancer, none of them offers the specific type of spring and summer programs that we do, in a medically supervised and appropriate environment, together with their healthy siblings.

We are currently seeking funding for the following important needs at Sunrise:

Spring and Summer Day Camps for Cancer Stricken Children

Spring and Summer Day Camps offer an important experience to all children growing up. They learn vital social skills in a setting other than school; they enjoy and experience activities they have never done before. Yet, children with cancer cannot attend regular camps, as their immune systems are extremely low and the camps are not supervised medically.

Therefore, Sunrise Israel offers spring and summer day camps free of charge to all children with cancer between the ages of 5-17 from all over Israel. By overcoming the various logistic problems and challenges that could pose risks, Sunrise Israel has developed an enjoyable experience for children who are undergoing active treatment and have made it possible for them to attend camp every day while returning home in the evening to the comfort and security of their own home and family.

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In the Spring and Summer Day Camp, the children are exposed to recreational fun activities which are often out of bounds for the sick children because of the risk of infection or injury and their special needs. The activities include a variety of sports, creative art classes, activities in nature, group games and activities, music, dance and drama, swimming, special workshops and excursions.

The children are recruited by the social workers of the pediatric oncology departments in seven hospitals and medical centers in Israel- Tel Hashomer, Schneider, Sourasky (Ichilov), Rambam, Hadassah Ein Kerem Soroka and HaEmek.

We are seeking support towards the Summer Camps, which take place during the summer vacation every year and serve children with cancer and their siblings.

The Sunrise Day Camps are operated in Even Yehuda and in Beer Sheva for 3 weeks during the summer vacation. Every year, approximately 200 children take part in our Summer Camp in Even Yehuda, and approximately 100 cancer stricken children take part in our Summer Camp in Beer Sheva.

As part of our efforts to expand our activities, in 2016, for the first time, Sunrise Israel will also offer a 2 week Summer Camp in the north of Israel, in the Zvulun Regional Council. This camp will be provided free of charge to 100 children and youth between the ages of 5-17, who live in Haifa and the northern periphery. Launching a third camp in a new location in the north, will enable us to achieve our primary aim across the country, by serving children and youth from the center, north and south of Israel, addressing their needs and caring for their well-being.

Fun Friday (Shishi Samech)

Sunrise Israel provides enjoyable recreational activities for 300 cancer stricken children and their families. Experienced counselors, who also work during the Spring and the Summer Camps, offer various entertaining workshops, such as cooking, sports and music activities. The Fun Friday activities are provided in Even Yehuda and in Beer Sheva. The Fun Friday activities are provided once a year. In the Fun Friday activities, cancer stricken children and their families spend much needed quality time together in a safe, medically suited and supervised environment, and engage in empowering, positive experiences, which have beneficial effects on the children's health condition.

The Leadership Program

The Leadership Program trains adolescents aged 14-17 who cannot participate in regular counselor training programs, due to medical reasons or the load on the family. The training includes both theoretic and practical training, it instills the youth with leadership skills and it also enhances the youth's self-confidence and sense of worthiness. The Counselor Training Program is implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and meets all the strict standards and regulations. Program graduates not only



serve as assistant counselors in the Sunrise day camps and activities, but they may also work as youth counselors in local camps in their communities, as each graduate receives a Young Counselor Certificate.

The program was provided as part of the Spring and Summer Camps, and so, in addition to the training, the adolescents also enjoyed various social and recreational activities. However, as of 2015, the program was expanded and now holds its activities throughout the year, allowing the instructors to obtain useful knowledge and tools on a continuous basis, year-round. Currently, a total of 12 youths divided into 2 groups (6 members in each group) participate in the program in the Ramat HaSharon Multidisciplinary Community Center, and take part in joint activities with the Center's youth group.

In 2016, the Leadership Program has expanded once again, by the addition of a youth group in Beer Sheva which trains 6 young counselors. The training there also takes place throughout the year and throughout the spring and summer day camps.

Sunrise Activity in Rambam and Soroka Hospitals

This weekly leisure activity is designed for children fighting cancer from the northern periphery, and held throughout the year in the Pediatric Oncology Department of Rambam hospital in Haifa. The activity provides the sick children with a suitable social framework, which is designed to comply with their medical and social needs. It brings fun into the hospital and enables the children to enjoy various leisure and recreation activities; it relieves their stress, enables them to rest and thus provides their families with much needed respite. The activity sequence throughout the year enables the children to relax and express their feelings during the intense time of treatments. The activities are delivered by qualified counselors and volunteers, while the program is run by an experienced and skilled coordinator.

In 2016, we will open similar program in Soroka Hospital in Beer Sheva.

The relationships that we have established with the Pediatric Oncology Departments in various hospitals that refer the children and with the families who have taken part in our day camps testify to the trust and satisfaction of our programs. In 2012 Sunrise Israel received the Award for Outstanding Summer Camp of the Year by the Israeli Ministry of Education which further attests to our achievements in such a short time.

I hope that you will consider supporting one of these programs and will allow us to submit a formal application.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,
Hagar Zakai, Executive Director, Sunrise Israel

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