network news
Issue 15
September 2011
icpcn
international children's palliative care network

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Dear Friends ,

In the southern hemisphere, September heralds the beginning of Spring. New life is all around us in blossoms, spring flowers and new leaves.

It feels as if we are in springtime for the ICPCN, with so much that is new! As we celebrate the official registration of the ICPCN as both a company and a charity in the UK, our sincere thanks go to Mike Palmer and Richard Carling who worked so hard to make this happen. As the administrative hub for the ICPCN is situated in South Africa, to meet the legal requirements to employ ICPCN staff, we also have a new board, the ICPCN in Africa, registering in South Africa. Our thanks go to all the new board members for being prepared to take on this responsibility. Each one will be represented on our committees and Prof Hanneke Brits will represent the ICPCN in Africa on the international board.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Dr Liz Gwyther (CEO) and her staff, Barbara Campbell-Ker (Chair) and the Board members of the Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa for hosting the fledgling ICPCN until this time. "Thank you so very much!" It has not always been easy for you, but without your support we would not now be able to fly.

We had another 'parent' as we developed, the Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance, and we are delighted to welcome Sharon Baxter, CEO of the Canadian Palliative Care Association and an incredible advocate for palliative care, as their representative on our international board.

Our sincere congratulations go to the new giant of children's palliative care in the UK. ACT and Children's Hospice UK have merged into one organisation and we congratulate Barbara Gelb, Chief Executive, Lizzie Chambers, Deputy Chief Executive and their Boards for this merger in the best interests of children requiring palliative care in the UK. This has been carried out with great thoughtfulness, respect and wisdom and could be a model for mergers in palliative care everywhere.

Saturday 8 October is World Hospice and Palliative Care Day and to celebrate and raise the voice of children requiring palliative care worldwide, ICPCN will be bringing out a book of unique stories, written in both the child's own language and English. "Touching Rainbows" is the title and I thank Sue Boucher and Julia Downing for all the work that has gone into producing and editing this book. A very special and heartfelt word of thanks to the children and families who so willingly shared both their stories and their lives with us. We are so blessed to be allowed into their worlds and to hear of the journeys they have taken. However, be warned - you will need to have tissues nearby as you read their stories and poems and look at the photographs and artwork of these beautiful children. May all who read it be strengthened and inspired by this book.

Whilst we celebrate success and growth, we are also aware that there is still much to be done and we need to work together to spread a safety net of quality palliative care services for the children we serve, that stretches around the world. They deserve nothing less.

My good wishes to each one of you,

Joan

FOUNDING OF ICPCN IN AFRICA - FIRST MEETING OF THE BOARD

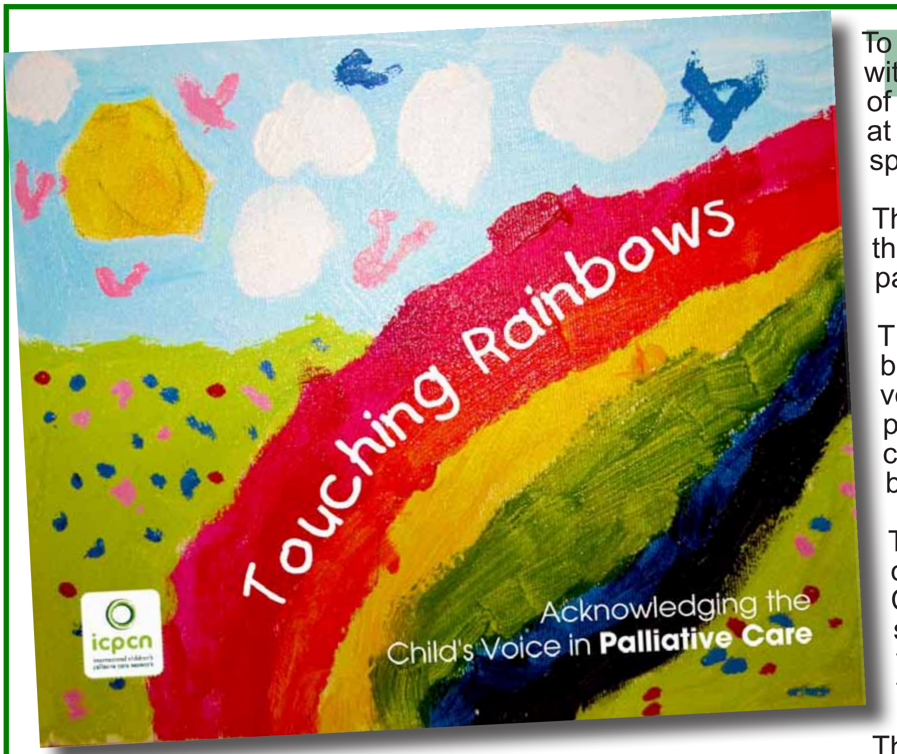
Back row L to R:
Rikus Buys; Dr. Nico Nortje; Prof. Hanneke Brits; Dr Rene Albertyn; Dr. Jan du Plessis
Front row L to R:
Barbara Steel; Sue Boucher; Edwina Fleming; Joan Marston

On 23 and 24 July the newly constituted ICPCN in Africa board met for the first time in Bloemfontein, South Africa. Also present were ICPCN staff members and Joan Marston, ICPCN Chief Executive.

Ojectives of the African Board

Long term objectives include Networking, Information Sharing, Advocacy, Research & Education and Sustainability. Short term objectives include registering the ICPCN as a charity and non-profit company in South Africa; management of funds and overseeing the day to day projects of the organisation; to oversee the day to day operations of ICPCN and to employ and supervise staff. At this meeting Dr. Nico Nortje and Prof. Hanneke Brits were appointed as co-chairs and Rikus Buys as Treasurer.

WORLD HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE DAY



To mark World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2011, with Voices for Hospices (8 October 2011), thousands of people in around 80 countries will be coming together at more than 1,000 events to celebrate, support and speak up about hospice and palliative care.

This year's World Hospice and Palliative Care Day theme is 'many diseases, many lives, many voices – palliative care for non-communicable conditions.'

The ICPCN decided to use this day to launch its new book 'Touching Rainbows - Acknowledging the child's voice in palliative care.' Through this book we have the privilege of hearing the voices of some of the many children whose lives, and those of their families, have been affected by life-threatening conditions.

The children tell their stories with honesty and openness, through stories, poems and pictures. Children and their families from across the world share their experiences, either from the child themselves or from those who love them, such as their parents or brother and sister.

The stories, told in the child's own language wherever possible and with an English translation, are an inspiration to us all. It is hoped they will touch and enrich the lives of many, encourage those travelling a similar path, and instill a sense of courage and joy, despite the many challenges and heartaches.

"Children are born with rainbows in their hearts, and you'll never reach them unless you can reckon with rainbows." Carl Sandberg

Copies of this book will be distributed around the globe for advocacy purposes and can be bought through the website. All proceeds from sales will be used for the printing of further copies.

To purchase your copy, go to: **www.icpcn.org.uk**

LIFE BEFORE DEATH

"Paediatric Palliative Care"

A film on Paediatric Palliative Care is film 21 of 50 in the LIFE Before Death documentary series about the global crisis in untreated pain and the dramatic life changing effect palliative care services can deliver to patients and their families around the world.

In this short film we discover that the barriers to paediatric palliative care are very complex and children's pain is often under treated. We learn that providing good care is crucial to the quality of life for the child but that support needs to be extended to the whole family.

"I think that in the paediatric population pain is more frequently under recognized and under treated than it is in the adult population, though the medications are available, sometimes the training for physicians is a little bit inadequate and physician's feel unsure in their ability and concerned about the medications," reflects Dr Kim Bower (USA).

"You know I always say, if you think doctors are frightened about giving morphine to an adult, put a child or a baby in front of them and ask them for morphine and they go tearing out the door because you just don't do that," states Joan Marston (South Africa). "Children can't raise their voices, they can't tell you how they're feeling, they can't tell you how much pain they've got."

Joan Marston recounts the story of a young girl being denied morphine by a pharmacist who felt she must be an addict until he actually went to the girl's bedside to see for himself, only to realise how wrong he was.

Hear this and other stories of children's lives being changed by accessing palliative care.

Featuring:
Dr Kim Bower (USA)
Joan Marston (South Africa)
Dr Henry Ddungu (Uganda)
Jareal Bantilan (Singapore) Jessica, Hendra & Esther (Indonesia)

50 Short Films have also been produced which are being released at a rate of one per week, they are currently available to watch at:

www.youtube.com/lifebeforedeathmovie

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2011

More information and contact details for all these conferences, courses and events can be found on our website. Go to www.icpcn.org.uk

October

5	Practice and Principles of Intravenous Therapy including Parental Nutrition	Derian House Children's Hospice, Chorley, Lancashire, UK
6 - 8	2011 Clinical Team Conference: The Hospice IDT	San Diego, California, USA
6 - 7	Neonatal Nurses Association of SA 4th National Conference	Pretoria, Gauteng, South Africa
8	WORLD HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE DAY	Worldwide
11	ACT Conference, 2011	Deaf Cultural Centre, Birmingham, UK
19	Moving and Handling (Physiotherapy)	Derian House Children's Hospice, Lancashire, UK
20 - 22	The 5th International Conference - Children's Palliative Care in Eastern Europe	Minsk, Belarus
20	Neonatal Palliative and End of Life Care Conference	London, UK
22	Music Care Conference	Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
26 - 28	Spirituality in Pediatrics	Texas Medical Centre, Houston, USA

November

1 - 3	22nd CHI World Congress	Landmark Bangkok Hotel, Bankok, Thailand
10 - 12	21st Asia Pacific Cancer Conference 2011	Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia
10 - 11	Palliative Care Nurses New Zealand (PCNNZ) Conference 2011	James Cook Hotel Grand Chancelor, Wellington, New Zealand
16 - 19	7th World Congress of the World Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases	Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, Australia
17 - 19	1st NUS-NUH International Nursing Conference	Orchard Hotel, Singapore
23	Overview of Family Bereavement	Derian House Children's Hospice, Chorley, Lancashire, UK
30 - 3/12	AORTIC 2011 Conference (African Organisation for Research & Training in Cancer)	Cairo, Egypt

December

1 - 2	1st PNAE Congress on Paediatric Nursing	Istanbul Congress Centre, Turkey
6 - 7	Brisbane Playful approaches to Grief Counselling	Brisbane, Australia
7 - 9	Foundational Approaches, Contemporary and Educational Issues in the Field of Nursing Ethics	Leuven, Belgium
14	Caring for yourself, caring for others	Derian House Children's Hospice, Chorley, Lancashire, UK

Save the Dates

The first annual Paediatric Palliative Care Symposium of Zambia will take place in Lusaka, Zambia. This will be the first of its kind in Zambia and will focus on all aspects of paediatric palliative care; medical, psychosocial and spiritual. It will play a crucial role in the scaling up of paediatric palliative care services in the country.

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation is sponsoring the Symposium, in association with Tiny Tim and Friends Zambia (TTF), PEPFAR, the Dept. of Health and Human Services,USA, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Palliative Care Association of Zambia (PCAZ.)

Contact: tinytimandfriends@pclink.com

Find out more: http://www.tinytimandfriends.org/

Child Bereavement Charity

Neonatal Palliative and End of Life Care Conference

Moving forward and working together

Thursday 20th October 2011

20 Cavendish Square, London, W1G 0RN

9.30am to 4.30pm (Registration from 9am)

This event is accredited by the Royal College of Nursing Accreditation Unit

Supported by:

Bliss

ACT

5th International Conference of the Belarusian Children's Hopsice

Paediatric Palliative Care in Eastern Europe

Place: Minsk, Belarus

Dates: 27 −29 October 2011

Aims:

- Promotion of child palliative care: modern approaches, programmes & services in palliative care
- Learning best international practices on child palliative care
- Sharing experiences
- Adaptation of European Models to local practices

Contact: if you have any questions contact Tamara Reshko: hospice.belarus@tut.by

Find out more at: http://www.hospice.by

Children's Hospices UK and ACT to form a new organisation

Children's Hospices UK will merge with ACT to become one organisation. This follows the outcome of the vote by the full members of Children's Hospices UK and the ACT Board vote to approve the merger.

This means that there will be a new charity - and one voice - on behalf of children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions and their families.

The new charity, which in the first instance will be called ACT & Children's Hospices UK will start its work on 1 October 2011.

Robin Knowles (currently Chair of Children's Hospices UK) will be the Chair of the new organisation with Heather Wood (currently Chair of ACT) as Vice Chair. Sir Alan Craft will be President. The new Board consists of eight Trustees from the ACT Board and eight from the Children's Hospices UK Board.

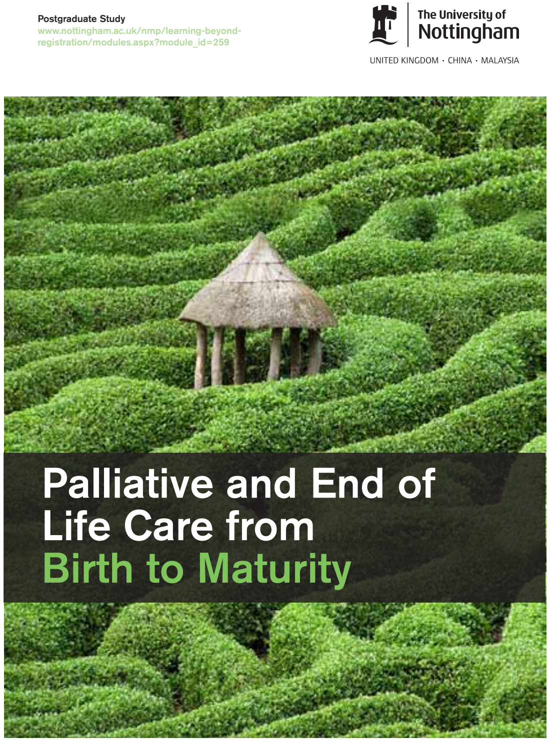
All existing staff will be transferred to the new merged charity, led in the interim period by Barbara Gelb as the Chief Executive and Lizzie Chambers as Deputy Chief Executive.

The new Board had its first meeting on 22 September where it considered the key priorities for maximum impact for the new organisation for its first six months of operation until April 2012. There will be no changes to the services respective members currently receive.

As individual charities Children's Hospices UK and ACT have much to be proud of. As one unified organisation they feel strongly that they are in the best place to address the unprecedented and major opportunities and potential facing them at this time of great challenges and change.

Find out more at:
www.childhospice.org.uk

New Training Available


Postgraduate Study
www.nottingham.ac.uk/nmp/learning-beyond-registration/modules.aspx?module_id=259

The University of Nottingham
UNITED KINGDOM · CHINA · MALAYSIA

Palliative and End of Life Care from Birth to Maturity

'Palliative and End of Life Care from Birth to Maturity' is a well established 20 credit level 4 online/distance learning module which can be taken on a standalone basis or form part of an MSc or Post Graduate Diploma. The module is aimed at professionals from a multi-disciplinary background providing care for families who have babies, children and young people with palliative care needs either within the UK or in an international context. Applicants must have access to a computer capable of Skype and be available to access an on-line discussion forum on Wednesday afternoons.

Pre-requisites
Applications are welcome from UK and International students who can demonstrate that they are able to work at level 4.

For further details or to apply see:
http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/nmp/learning-beyond-registration/modules.aspx?module_id=259

CONGRATULATIONS

"Our most sincere congratulations to Dra Margarita Ramonet, President, and the "Sociedad Argentina de Pediatria" (the Paediatric Association of Argentina) who celebrated their Centenary at a very successful Congress in Buenos Aires in September.

Thanks to Dr Rosa Germ of our Scientific committee, Joan was invited to represent the ICPCN and participate in the Congreso del Centenaria de la Sociedad Argentina de Pediatria.

Dra Ruti Kiman from the Board and Advocacy committee ensured that successful meetings took place during the congress and we look forward to stronger ties with Latin American countries."

Applications are now open for the **2012 STARS Impact Awards**

The 2012 STARS Impact Awards recognises outstanding organisations working in children's health, education and protection in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Pacific.

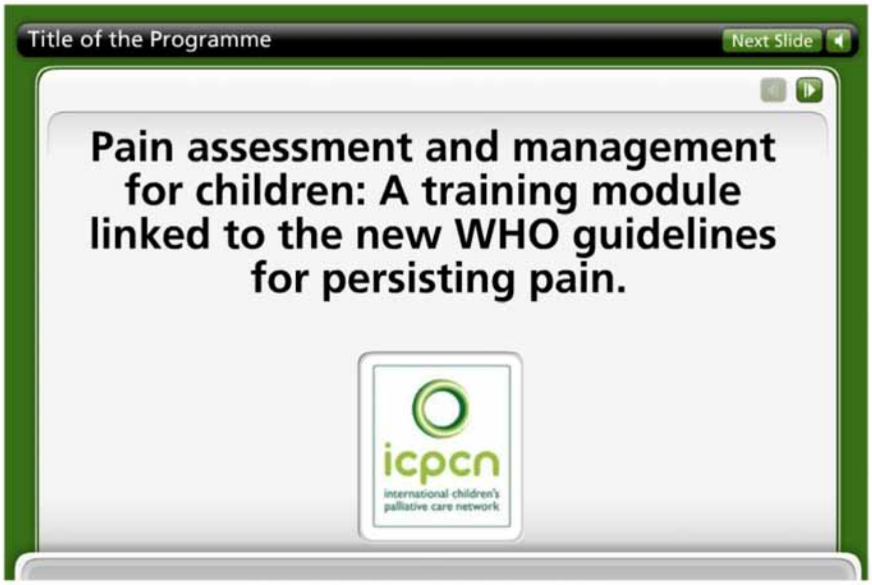
This year STARS has increased the number of Awards it intends to offer to 14. Of these, 6 Awards are made up of US$100,000 of unrestricted funding and additional consultancy support and the other 8 Awards will range in value from US$15,000 to US$60,000.

For information on previous Award recipients please visit the website. **www.starsfoundation.org.uk**

A unique experience, the sixth biennial Conference on Spirituality in Pediatrics explores the impact that pediatric care providers can have on the spiritual needs and concerns of children and their families during illness.

ICPCN'S PILOT ELEARNING PROGRAMME

PAIN ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT FOR CHILDREN: A TRAINING MODULE LINKED TO THE NEW WHO GUIDLEINES FOR PERSISTING PAIN IN CHILDREN



Pain assessment and management for children: A training module linked to the new WHO guidelines for persisting pain.

The ICPCN has recognised the need to make training in children's palliative care more accessible and affordable to those who need it around the world. Thus we have developed an initial pilot elearning programme as part of a longer term strategy of providing elearning programmes in children's palliative care.

What is the programme all about?

The programme looks at pain assessment and management in children and links in with the new WHO guidelines for persisting pain in children which are due to be published in the near future. Following a brief introduction to the programme, there are discrete modules addressing palliative care in children, pain in children, pain assessment, pain management and the new WHO guidelines. Some resources and a glossary of terms has been included and there is a multiple choice assessment for students to complete. Certificates will be awarded for those participants who get 80% or more in the assessment. Due to the nature of the topic and the need for clinical practice, some guidelines for a clinical placement have been included and participants are encouraged to organise a placement and achieve specific competencies in pain assessment and management in children.

Who is the pilot programme aimed at?

The pilot is aimed at doctors, clinical officers and nurses. We hope to develop one for social workers, counsellors, teachers etc. at a later date. For the purposes of the pilot the course is only available in English, although in future we hope to have multilingual programmes.

Why was this topic chosen for the pilot?

We decided to choose this topic for the pilot as we are keen not to ‘reinvent the wheel’ and as the guidelines are not yet published there are currently no existing training programmes addressing the changes in the guidelines. We therefore thought that this may be beneficial to both health professionals experienced in children's palliative care as well as those new to the field.

What is the purpose of the pilot?

The purpose of the pilot is to not only inform participants about the new WHO guidelines and teach them about pain assessment and management in children, but also to look at the feasibility of ICPCN using elearning for training in children’s palliative care. Participants undertaking the pilot are expected to complete an evaluation form once they have finished the module and submitted their assessment. This is important, as feedback on the programme will feed directly into the next stage of our elearning programme development.

How can I be involved?

The course is free for anyone to participate. Ideally we would like people from around the world to take the course so that we can get as much feedback as possible. All that we ask, is that all participants complete the evaluation form for the programme.

The course will be available from the 17th October and can be accessed via the ICPCN website. If you have any questions please do contact Julia Downing, the Research and Education Consultant for ICPCN.

Prof. Julia Downing
E: julia.downing792@btinternet.com

THE WINNERS!

Congratulations to the following two lucky members who have each won a $50 AMAZON.COM voucher for completing the ICPCN Survey on Training and Training Needs.

Faith Kinaitore Kobia from Meru Hospice in Kenya

Dr. Anush Sargsyan from Erevan, in Armenia

BUTTERFLY CHILDREN'S HOSPICES - CHANGING LIVES IN CHINA

I am the mother of a child who was moved to a palliative care unit. Today, she is here with me in our home - a joyful, giggling and somewhat feisty child, with a passionate heart and a hunger for justice. I know I should be in awe of this – her life is a gift, and I should remember that every moment. But to be honest – I forget. She is my child, both delightful and exasperating in the same moment, as children everywhere can be. I don't look at her each morning and hold my breath because she is here - I ruffle her hair, scoop her up in a hug and get on with the day.

Maybe I forget because I wasn't there. My child was completely alone when she was admitted for palliative care. She had been born overseas, in a place where medical care cannot be taken for granted. She weighed less than 1.5kg, and was premature. I have seen pictures and she looks like a tiny anatomical doll, with veins marked out on her transparent skin. She was found in the early hours of the morning, but it was evening before a decision was made about her future. In her situation that night -born too early, no parents, and an orphanage doing the best it could with the resources available – her chance of survival was low. The medical staff at the orphanage had seen these babies before, and knew that she would certainly die.

I'm so thankful this decision was made, because it meant our daughter was moved to a newly established palliative care ward in a building on the orphanage grounds. Working at the unit was a volunteer nurse from the UK, Lyn Gould. Lyn assessed our daughter and could see that she wanted to live. She was cold, hungry and tiny, but that feisty nature was keeping her going. I don't believe it was easy, but Lyn worked hard to turn our little girl's story into a story of survival.

We adopted our daughter at three years of age, and slowly pieced her history together. While it breaks my heart a little that we were not able to be with her when she was so tiny and fragile, I am forever thankful for people like Lyn: people who will go to the hard places and give so much of their lives for children with so little hope.

Today, Lyn and her husband Alan, are Directors of Butterfly Children's Hospices. They care for children who are given 6 months to live, in a country where palliative care provision is patchy at best. Sometimes the children are little miracles, like our Ruby, who go on to thrive in new families. Sometimes the miracles are different: love and acceptance, relief from pain, and a life which is cherished no matter how short. It is hard work, and heartbreaking some days, but I can see the difference they are making. I have seen a little girl live a joyful life, despite her terminal liver condition. I have seen a terrified child relax in loving arms and die a beautiful death. And I have seen my magical daughter embracing life and blessing the world with her unique presence. It is hard work, but oh so worth it.

Fiona McNeil, thankful mother of Ruby

Alan and Lyn Gould with children from Butterfly Children's Hospices

Butterfly Children's Hospices care for children with a life expectancy of 6 months or less. These children are mostly abandoned by their parents who are frightened by the diagnosis, or overwhelmed by medical costs. Plans are in motion for a community palliative care centre, where whole families can be supported as they face a terminal illness with their child. It is our belief that with provision of care, information and choices, many families will choose not to abandon a child at this time.

Since opening in April 2010, the Home has welcomed 37 children. Many of them arrived soon after their abandonment, critically ill, and drained of all hope. Of these dying children, 5 have received vital surgery, 2 are healthy at another home, 1 has been adopted and 6 are awaiting adoption. Twenty one children have died peaceful deaths in a loving environment. There are 13 children at Butterfly Home today, and only four of those are still considered palliative. All 13 children are living joyful lives.

We believe every child's life to be valuable, no matter how long or short. Their value is not dependant on their contribution to society. Rather, every child deserves to feel loved, protected and encouraged by those who care for them. For a terminal child, this love and care should extend all the way to the time of their death – allowing them a dignified death surrounded by love. For every child – we are committed to helping them live each day joyfully and reach their full potential, whatever that might be.

To see the work of Butterfly Children's Hospice, please visit:
www.butterflych.org
To enquire about volunteer positions, please contact Lyn at
Lyn@butterflych.org

Acorns Children's Hospice offers support to Asian mothers

When Acorns hospice opened in Birmingham England in 1988 only a small percentage of families using its services were from black and minority ethnic groups. Over the years Acorns has worked hard to raise awareness of its work to families, consultants and other professionals to ensure the differing cultural needs are sensitively and adequately met. Now more than 35% of families are from south Asian communities and are from other minority backgrounds.

The Asian Mothers group has met regularly since 1992. Its members are both mothers caring for ill children and mothers who have lost a child. The aim of the group is to provide the opportunity for Asian mothers to meet in a safe and supportive environment. The group allows these mothers to exchange stories, share experiences and pass on practical advice and care and other issues. The group produces a biannual newsletter sharing information and personal stories of the mothers involved. The Asian mothers groups have provided support to over 200 Asian women.

Not every Asian mother chooses immediately to be part of the Group. One woman, who does not wish to be named, explains why she was at first reluctant to join and how the Group has helped her through difficult times.

'*I am a mother of three deceased children, one boy and two girls who passed away over the years with a rare genetic disorder called Pena-Shoklier Type II. The illness meant that my children couldn't gain weight, had stiff limbs, limited vision and had problems feeding. When my babies were ill I didn't think of asking for help, as my extended family was always around to offer me help and support.*
I found out about Acorns from my daughter's consultant. She was my second child; my first son had already passed away. From the minute I set foot in Acorns I sensed peace and tranquility such as I hadn't felt for a long time. I then met Hardev and my community team worker, both visited me at home. After a couple of visits, Hardev mentioned the Asian Mothers' Group but I assumed it was for mothers who couldn't speak English so I never got involved.

When fate dealt me the same blow a third time and I lost my third baby my beautiful daughter - Hardev was once again by my side. When she next mentioned the Asian Mothers' Group I told her why I didn't feel it was suitable for me to join. She soon convinced me that it was for all Asian mothers. Hardev persuaded me to attend just one meeting and then there was no looking back.
Seeing mothers in the same boat as myself - and some in a worse situation gave me the courage to fight on. Here in this Group, I didn't have to act strong if I didn't want to. Listening to these mothers talking, laughing, crying, complaining, all at the same time, made me realise I was not the only one suffering. We could tell each other what was in our hearts without worrying that we would hurt anyone in the process.
I've been going to the group for 12 years now and it still helps me. When I'm feeling low I know I can pick up the phone to Hardev or one of the other mothers and get things off my chest so that I can feel strong and ready to face the world again.
If any Asian mother reading this is thinking about joining a group, I would say do so now - you will never look back. You might just make some good friends who will help you throughout this most difficult time.'

Acorns Mother

Find out more at:
http://www.acorns.org.uk/

WHO's Research Agenda for the Treatment of Pain in Children

The World Health Organization aims to revise and publish an updated version of the 1998 guidelines Cancer Pain Relief and Palliative Care in Children with an addition of other medical conditions with persisting pain: later this year, the WHO Guidelines on the Pharmacological Treatment of Persisting Pain in Children with Medical Illnesses will be published.

A part of this guideline entails WHO's research agenda, which highlights critical research topics of paediatric pain treatment. The research agenda was recently published. The article calls on researchers to focus their studies on one of the proposed topics.

Research areas that need critical attention are: clinical studies on paracetamol, NSAIDs and opioid analgesics; clinical studies on adjuvant medicines (antidepressants, gabapentin, and ketamine) for neuropathic pain; safety and dosing of non-opioid and opioid analgesics in different age groups as well as dose conversion of opioids; and pain assessment tools for children.

Milani BA, Magrini N, Gray A, Wiffen P, Scholten W. ***WHO Calls for Targeted Research on the Pharmacological Treatment of Persisting Pain in Children with Medical Illnesses.***
Evid.-Based Child Health 6: 1017– 1020 (2011)
DOI: 10.1002/ebch.777

Wolfson international bursaries 2011

The Wolfson international bursary grant programme is to increase and improve the provision of palliative care in commonwealth resource-poor countries.

Eligible individuals can apply for a bursary of up to to £1,500 to attend one of the listed courses.

There are no deadlines but applications must be received before the start of the course or the next academic year if the course lasts longer than twelve months.

As the budget is limited, once the funds have been allocated the programme will close. From initial application to funding decision could take up to six weeks.

For further information about eligibilty and how to apply for this funding, please visit:
http://www.helpthehospices.org.uk/our-services/grants/internationalgrants/wolfson-international-bursaries/

FOCUS ON AFRICA

Introduction to Children's Palliative Care Training for 42 Paediatricians, Doctors, Nurses and other Health Professionals held in Kenya

Under the auspices of the ICPCN and with funding from The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and The True Colours Trust, a most successful week of training in an Introduction to Paediatric Palliative Care Certificate Course was recently held in Nairobi, Kenya. The five day course was organised by KEHPCA and was attended by 42 health professionals, mostly paediatricians, doctors and nurses from over 18 hospitals, hospices and other health facilities in Kenya. Attendees included doctors from the Ministry of Medical Science and the Ministry of Health.

This is the first time that such a course was presented in Kenya and it is hoped that with the knowledge gained, there will be greater focus on the needs of children in palliative care.

The photo shows both participants and trainers.

WHEELS FOR THE UMODZI TEAM IN MALAWI

With great pleasure I would like to show you the branded Umodzi vehicle which has been made available to us as a donation from ICPCN with funding from Grünenthal, a German pharmaceutical company. This has uplifted the profile of Umodzi and increased our capacity to reach out to many children who need palliative care services.

Umodzi is very thankful for this gesture. We know that this could not be possible if it was not for you, Joan, who has always been thoughtful of Umodzi.

Fred Chipatula
Umodzi Team Leader
Blantyre, Malawi

TRAINING IN CPC IN DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

This group of professionals have recently completed their training for the six month course in CPC. Martha Kamuhabwa, one of the trainers from the Beacon Centre, is on the right of the picture.

Martha Kamuhabwe and Rose Kadesha of the Beacon Centre in Paediatric Palliative Care at PASADA in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania are thrilled to have recently completed their fourth round of training for the six month course in Children's Palliative Care. Participants of this course can be seen on the left.

The group on the right are volunteer Home Based Care workers who have also recently attended a week of training in Children's Palliative Care.

A group of volunteer Home Based Care workers who have completed a week long introductory course at PASADA in Dar es Salaam. Rose Kadesha, one of the traininers, is kneeling in front.

ICPCN is a registered charity in England & Wales (number 1143712) and a registered company in England & Wales (number 7675172)

Should you wish to contribute to or advertise in ICPCN Network News please contact the Editor, Sue Boucher
Email: sue@icpcn.co.za
Cell: +27(0)82 897 4420

The True Colours Trust
ICPCN acknowledges with gratitude the funding received from The True Colours Trust for the furtherance of its work in promoting the development of paediatric palliative care worldwide.
www.truecolourstrust.org.uk