



**Touching Rainbows: Acknowledging the Child's Voice in Palliative Care** is an ICPCN publication in which children and family members of children living with life threatening or life limiting conditions, and sometimes their carers, share a slice of their difficult journey with great courage, honesty and openness. This is done through stories, poems, artwork and pictures.

These inspiring stories come from across the world and, where possible, have been written in the writer's own language with an English translation. 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 that come with this journey. These children and their families pass through many storms and dark days, but still somehow manage to aspire to reach out for the promise and beauty of the rainbow.

The Foreword is written by Sr Frances Dominica, the Founder of Helen & Douglas House, and of the modern children's hospice movement and each story is beautifully and sensitively presented using photographs, original art and pictures.



The get-together before and after the events are the best part. We get the chance to have experiences that other people our age have. We don't miss anything at home by going to the hospice, although Kyle misses his dog. We have good friends in the staff group and with other young people who use the hospice. The Hospice for us is a place for the living. **Sean and Kyle Kelly, Robin House Children's Hospice, Scotland**

The compassion, the caring and the understanding is something that never had to be verbalised, it is just a state of mind and is just "felt" when you are there. **Tania Wall, Roger's House, Canada**



Finally the monitors were not that important! Gradually we understood the importance of every second of Alex's life. He was a blessing from the Universe to this world. **Sofia Gomes, Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Ireland**

I am even more grateful for the Hospice nurses who visit me when I am not well and assist my granny. If it was not for Hospice I would not be who I am, or even know my status. **Chilane Saliwa, St Bernard's Hospice, South Africa**



Well, I think that you being sick with leukodystrophy is a bit like being on our own bear hunt. It's sometimes exciting, sometimes difficult, and often scary, and just like those things in the story: We can't go over it, under it or around it but have got to go through it. But we are not alone, there are friends who walk with us, and like the family in the book, we will hold hands and stick together. **Judy Machine, Kinderhospiz Balthasar, Germany**



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