



2015 | Newsletter | The Rehma Fund for Children

We are pleased and excited to share our second annual update on The Rehma Fund's work and impact.

Since its inception, Rehma's Fund has contributed to the creation and growth of OPENPediatrics, a ground-breaking Educational Health platform, in collaboration with Boston Children's Hospital. The Fund has also helped underprivileged children suffering from cancer in Pakistan to receive world-class medical and Child-Life care and helped children in Vietnam receive treatment for severe vascular malformations that would otherwise have left them permanently disfigured.



It will soon be three years since Rehma left us and since we started this fund in her memory. The Rehma Fund has become a way for her family and friends to celebrate her short but smile-filled life. It is also our response to the difficult circumstances of her loss and the painful and often dishonest narrative about her life and death in the media. The Rehma Fund allows us to focus on creating hope and positivity.

The mission of The Rehma Fund is to Equalize Access to Healthcare for All Children, Everywhere.

Each year we have worked with our global partner organizations to select and fund projects with this mission in mind. Every one of our projects and partners shares common characteristics;

- An established record of working to improve healthcare access for the underprivileged.
- Collaboratively crafting the details of each project and regular impact reviews.
- Investment in sustainable models of care by selecting projects that will continue to benefit children for months and years to come.

Our belief is that one of the best ways to accomplish The Rehma Fund's goals is to invest in the people who are committed to providing medical care to underprivileged children. This year we have funded projects that will enhance the medical knowledge and expertise of pediatric care providers around the world and help them to better serve the children they treat. We look forward to sharing this information with you in our newsletter. Thank you for trusting us, her parents, to carry out the mission of her fund.

With heartfelt thanks,
Nada & Sameer



'The impact of the Rehma Fund is now truly global - the World Shared Practice Forum is viewed in 129 countries and over 1,200 hospitals around the world. For the first time ever, a comprehensive curriculum on Non-Accidental Trauma is bringing together subject matter experts and the latest scientific evidence from the literature. This is a truly astonishing step forward in helping to address this tragic disorder.' Jeffrey Burns, MD, MPH, Director, OPENPediatrics



OPENPediatrics addresses the global shortage of trained pediatric clinicians by making up-to-date knowledge available to everyone and creating a global community for improving the care of children everywhere. In this picture, staff at a Pediatric ICU in Spain gather for a World Shared Practice Forum.

The Rehma Fund, in collaboration with OPENPediatrics, is proud to announce the creation of a World Shared Practice Forum, an annual, virtual discussion forum on Non-Accidental Trauma, to expand awareness and expertise on an issue that affects the well-being and safety of children globally.

The Rehma Fund continues to support OPENPediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital. OPENPediatrics is an online learning community that provides continuing medical education freely and openly, and connects providers in all resource settings—from rural community clinics to large teaching hospitals—in one global community of care.

Since 2013, The Rehma Fund has funded the creation of the Non-Accidental Trauma Module, a unique online curriculum. Through a series of video lectures by medical experts, the curriculum helps clinicians identify possible instances of abuse, manage injuries associated with abuse, and correctly document these findings.

There is a clear need and strong demand for such knowledge sharing as the OPENPediatrics community has grown by over 330 percent since April 2014 and now includes more than 6,400 clinicians in over 120 countries.

As a Capstone to the Non-Accidental Trauma module, in 2015, the Rehma Fund is delighted to provide a five-year grant to fund an annual 'World Shared Practice Forum' on Non Accidental Trauma for 2016-2020.

World Shared Practice Forums are live, monthly, discussion-based, recorded virtual video forums. These are led by international physician and nurse experts and allow users from around the world to discuss current issues and share experiences.

Clinicians gather in their ICUs and clinics to participate in these forums with their colleagues and share their own experiences and approaches. This provides a great opportunity to learn how other critical care providers are dealing with similar issues worldwide and helps develop a standardized set of best practices.

The long term benefit of this degree of interaction and skill-sharing is immeasurable as providers are better equipped to treat children under their care for years to come and will often also pass on their improved knowledge and expertise to their colleagues.

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The importance of Child Life Counselors

Shaima came to ICCH from Afghanistan to receive chemotherapy for treatment of her osteosarcoma. Unfortunately, she needed to have her leg amputated.

Understandably, Shaima was terrified at the prospect of life without her leg. She refused the surgery but continued counseling sessions. The counselors arranged a meeting with another girl who had undergone the same procedure and was now thriving with an artificial limb. They spent time answering her questions and had discussions about athletes and other prominent personalities with artificial limbs who lived fulfilling, accomplished lives.

Shaima eventually agreed to the procedure and was fitted with an artificial limb. She is now in remission and preparing to return to her home country.



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An enhanced and expanded Child Life Program at The Indus Children Cancer Hospital (ICCH) in Karachi, Pakistan will improve the quality of psychological support offered to children undergoing difficult treatment for cancer.

ICCH provides free pediatric cancer care for children from underprivileged families. Our first project with ICCH funded medical equipment that expanded the hospital's ability to meet constantly increasing demand from children in need of treatment. In 2015, The Rehma Fund has focused on helping them build their Child Life Services & End of Life programs to improve the standard of psychological and emotional support for sick children and their families.

Psychological support is a much overlooked, but significant, aspect of providing a high quality healthcare environment. Making a child feel comfortable, relaxed and welcome during their stay at the hospital, managing their anxiety and pain and providing reassurance and comfort to them and their families contributes positively to the results of their treatment and goes a long way towards helping a family heal from a traumatic experience.

The project we are funding has a two-pronged approach. First, we hope to foster a child-friendly environment through the provision of items such as chemo care kits, books and toys, cribs, arts & crafts material and aquariums. Secondly and most importantly, we aim to improve the professional psychological expertise offered to patients and their families by funding staff training as well as the first year of salaries of two counselors trained to offer support to both those children undergoing treatment as well as those children and families facing difficult end of life decisions.

We hope that by providing the emotional and psychological support that underserved children, and their caregivers, need, and by making their surroundings as comfortable and encouraging as possible, we can do our part to alleviate their discomfort and pain.



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The Rehma Fund, in collaboration with the Vietnam Vascular Anomalies Center (VVAC), has created the 'The Rehma Fellowship,' an annual, US-based fellowship training program in pediatric dermatology for a visiting Vietnamese physician.



Most dermatologists in Vietnam are trained to treat adult patients. There is an important unmet medical need to train specialists to care for children with skin disorders. The visiting Vietnamese physician will spend 8 weeks in the US learning from leaders in the field, including Prof Rox Anderson. They will be able to apply their enhanced expertise to improving the level of medical care for children treated at the center. Ultimately, we believe it is vital to support the training and education of pediatric healthcare providers committed to treating underserved children, to ensure a sustainable model of healthcare.

The VVAC in Saigon, Vietnam provides free medical care to treat a multitude of disfiguring skin diseases in underserved children. In many countries, including Vietnam, visible skin malformations are treated as a social stigma and often negatively affect a child's ability to engage with society. Treating these skin conditions can completely transform a patient's life by giving them an opportunity for a healthy, stigma-free life.

Rehma Fund in the UK & Canada



In 2015, The Rehma Fund UK held its inaugural Annual Comedy Bonanza on March 11th. With top TV comedians performing, it was a laughter filled night for a great cause.

The Rehma Fund in Canada and the UK is run by Rehma's aunts and uncles. The money they have raised through charity runs and awareness events since 2013 over the past few years has gone towards the Samaritan funds of the SickKids Hospital in Toronto, Canada and Evelina London Childrens' Hospital in London, UK as well as the Richard House Children's Hospice.

How to Support Us

Donations can be made via credit card at www.rehmafund.org.

Checks should be made out to the National Philanthropic Trust. Please reference The Rehma Fund for Children in the memo line. Checks should be mailed to:

The J.P. Morgan Charitable Giving Fund
c/o National Philanthropic Trust
165 Township Line Road, Suite 150
Jenkintown, PA 19046

Donations to the US fund are tax-deductible in the USA. The Rehma Fund for Children in the USA is administered by the National Philanthropic Trust, a 501(c)(3) public charity dedicated to increasing philanthropy in society.