



**Fondation
CHU Sainte-Justine**

Pour l'amour des enfants

**Proposal
Project Funding**

**Event:
Kurling for Kids**

February 2014

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INTRODUCTION

Kurling for Kids has been a valued member of the Sainte-Justine family for 15 years now. During this time, your organization has raised an incredible \$785,000 for the young patients at Sainte-Justine. Over and above this financial contribution, however, Kurling for Kids has served as a shining example of what the community can do to support the caring, committed team of professionals at Sainte-Justine as they strive every day to develop better ways to heal more children in Quebec.

The Dr. Clown program clearly reflects the values espoused by Kurling for Kids. Dr. Duval, the head of pediatric oncology at Sainte-Justine, confirms its popularity: “Many of our families try to arrange their outpatient appointments to be there when a Dr. Clown is scheduled to come in. We’re always happy to accommodate them. We feel very strongly that they are an invaluable source of support for our entire team of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals and help young patients and their families get through some very trying times.”

Unfortunately, the Dr Clown program does not receive any government funding and thus requires constant financing from the community.

HUMANIZING HEALTHCARE WITH DR. CLOWN

At Sainte-Justine, we are committed to developing the human aspect of the work we do with children, teens, mothers-to-be and the community as a whole. One of our key goals in this regard is to enhance and adapt our services by making sure they are delivered with a personal, caring touch. The Dr. Clown program is an excellent way of putting this philosophy into practice at Sainte-Justine.

Mission

The mission of the Dr. Clown program is to help improve the quality of life of patients and their families with a prescription for a healthy dose of TLC. This is achieved through a team of therapeutic clowns who reach out to children and their families in order to make their condition and their time at the hospital less frightening, through a combination of imagination, humour and gentle play.

Criteria for success

- Connections made between therapeutic clowns and patients
- Impact on families and staff
- Acceptance by healthcare professionals to incorporate therapeutic clowns into the overall patient care plan
- Compatibility of the Dr. Clown program with the services already offered at Sainte-Justine

Signs of success

- Interactions with **5,232** young patients at Sainte-Justine in the last year
- Interactions with **5,133** families and friends in the last year
- **10,000+** smiles and counting!

The Dr. Clown program has had a real impact on children and their families. As the head of the intensive and cardiac care unit explains, therapeutic clowns are important partners in the healing process: *“They work together with the healthcare team, using music, stories, magic, games, TLC and imagination to delight and entertain children and make their experience at the hospital less traumatic.”*

CONCLUSION

We believe that this project is in keeping with Kurling for Kids' mission. As many people have observed, the Dr. Clown program makes a tangible difference in the lives of Sainte-Justine's young patients.

By supporting Dr Clown, Kurling for Kids will contribute to developing the human aspect of the work this wonderful organisation does at Sainte-Justine with children, teens, mothers-to-be and their families.

Thank you for your commitment to the children of Sainte-Justine!