



TWOWORLDS
cancer collaboration

A close-up photograph of two hands being held together. The hand on the left is older, with visible wrinkles and is wearing several colorful beaded bracelets. The hand on the right is younger and is wearing a blue ribbed sweater sleeve. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with the fingers of the younger hand gently holding the older hand. The background is a patterned fabric in shades of red and white.

Reportage

2023

“
It is unethical to assist people with curing cancer when there is no palliative and end-of-life care available.
”

~ An observation made by
Dr. Stuart Brown, in the early
2000s. Dr. Brown is a director
and founding member of
Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration

Cover photo: Chuck Russell/Two Worlds Cancer

President's Perspective

Dr. Simon Sutcliffe



Welcome to Reportage 2023 highlighting last year's impacts and successes

People the world over have the same health needs and aspirations. The reality is that 80 per cent will never realize those ambitions because of where and how they live.

Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration exists to “close the gap” – to overcome the health disparities between the lesser- and higher-resourced worlds.

The challenge lies with ‘**Doing**’ what needs to be done. ‘**Doing**’ is about change. This change means implementing needed interventions, ensuring accessibility, and providing evidence-informed, and consistent high-quality care.

Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration has good reason to be optimistic and thankful. In 2023, new collaborations with partners in Canada and globally impacted the lives of thousands of newborns, children, adolescents, adults, and seniors experiencing cancer and life-limiting illnesses. Our partnerships today impact the lives of more than 70,000 individuals throughout India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Philippines and Bhutan. Our education program has trained 18 physician specialists and more than 3000 healthcare providers through our online **ECHO** sessions.

From a handful of volunteers in 2010, we are now more than 70 volunteers supported by a small, dedicated part-time staff of three in Canada and one in India. We've grown beyond the personal connections of a few to a network of people and organizations working to narrow the disparities in care that exist globally.

Last year, Dr. Megan Doherty, director of our Sunflower Children's Network, was awarded the **2023 Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians Humanitarian Award**. She is the Pediatric Palliative Medicine Program Director at the University of

Ottawa, and a palliative care team member at Children's Hospital Eastern Ontario and Roger Neilson House children's hospice.

And Dr. Gayatri Palat, our program director in India, was recognized for her role as a leading advocate for palliative care when she was awarded the **Pride of Telangana Healthcare Achiever Award 2023**.

Both, truly well-deserved recognitions.

We achieved many of our goals for 2023. Yet across the globe, people continue to struggle to access effective palliative care and cancer treatment.

As **Reportage** shows, with your support, we have made a substantial impact – achieving compassionate care for individual patients and their families. Our focus now is expanding beyond palliative care to earlier diagnosis and curative treatment of cancers – Closing the Circle.

As a philanthropically-funded, non-profit organization, what we ‘**Know**’ is up to us and our partners. What we ‘**Do**’ is what you – our donors – enable us to ‘**Do**’.

A huge thank you to all who donated to **Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration** for the first time in 2023, many as monthly donors, and to all of you who continue to provide your generous support.

With our sincere thanks and appreciation, from myself and the TWCC Team.

Dr. Simon Sutcliffe.
President, Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration



COLLABORATIONS

Sunflower Children's Network



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The Sunflower Children's Network (SCN) supports 10 regional centres providing children's palliative care in South and Southeast Asia

Last year, our SCN expanded ongoing collaborations and built new relationships with many new partner organizations globally.

Our network now links key regional healthcare centres in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Philippines, Pakistan, and Bhutan, with our international volunteer team providing palliative care education, mentorship, and support.

Partnering with the **Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care (HCPC)**, the SCN is helping build local and regional capacity for children's palliative care. The HCPC is internationally recognized as a centre of excellence for palliative care training and serves as a hub



for hands-on clinical training for doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals from across our network. All of the centres in our network receive tailored support and mentoring, enhancing their capacity to become regional centres of palliative care excellence, thereby supporting smaller centres in their own regions and beyond their borders.

The SCN includes more than 50 health professional volunteers committed to bridging the gaps in global palliative care capacity. In 2023, SCN created many new connections and partnerships with these individuals and many similar-minded organizations across the globe including **Compassionate Communities Bangladesh, Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians, Sri Lanka Medical Association, University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine, Hospital for Sick Children (Canada), St Jude Global Palliative Care (United States), and McGill University (Canada).**

Sunflower Children's Network

SCN is connecting organizations through shared interests within and outside South Asia:

► The **Kanti Children's Hospital (Nepal)** and **Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital (Bhutan)** partnered to co-facilitate online palliative care education in both their regions through SCN.

► The **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU)** team in Dhaka, Bangladesh is partnering with McGill University to develop and assess the economic impact and experiences of the children's palliative home-care programs in Bangladesh.

► In India, this past year SCN partnered with **Tata Memorial Hospital** and the **Indian Association of Palliative Care** to deliver a specialist-level training course on pediatric palliative care.

► In Sri Lanka, SCN partnered with **Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians, Sri Lanka Medical Association, Sri Lanka College of Oncologists, Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children**, and the **National Cancer Institute Maharagama** to deliver an introductory course on children's palliative care.

► Our Network has also launched the first online training program for pediatric palliative care in Bhutan in partnership with HCPC and **Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital**.

► TWCC volunteers collaborated with **Hummingbird House (Australia)** to support the pediatric palliative care department at **National Children's Hospital (Philippines)**, where the local

team hosted the Philippines' first 'Paediatric Palliative Care Symposium'.

► Through our Network, the **University of Ottawa (Canada)** is partnering with **National Children's Hospital (Philippines)** for a medical education short course known as **COMET (Collaborative Online Medication Education Training)**.

Through your generous donations, the Sunflower Children's Network supports:



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► **Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care** – A leader in palliative care training, HCPC is a hub for healthcare provider training in South and Southeast Asia providing online and hands-on clinical education not only to palliative care providers in India but throughout the region.

► **Internationally recognized and endorsed Fellowship Programs** – Three fellows were trained in 2023 through the **Sunflower Children's Network Pediatric Palliative Care Fellowship**: Pediatricians Dr. Biplav Ghimire (Nepal), Dr. Leicel D. Goyena (Philippines), and Dr. Md. Shaidur Rahman (Bangladesh).

Sunflower Children's Network

The fellows attended clinical training with the HCPC pediatric palliative care team and rotated with the pediatric home-care team and saw patients in Hyderabad's regional cancer centre and children's hospital, and at the **Mandara Hospice** for children.

► **Launch of new Nepali virtual training program** – We launched a new online training course on pediatric palliative care for 60 nurses and doctors in Nepal. The course consists of weekly, virtual interactive teaching sessions with small group discussions in "breakout rooms". The program faculty included experts from Nepal, India, Kuwait and Canada. This program was complemented by in-person clinical training visits in October and November when **TWCC** volunteer doctors and nurses visited Nepal.

► **Advanced Pediatric Palliative Care Training Program** – 45 trainee physicians took part in **SCN's** third advanced training program for palliative medicine residents in India and Bangladesh. This year-long virtual program featured weekly video tutorials and interactive online discussions with international experts. This program was initiated with key partners in South Asia including **Tata Memorial Hospital** (Mumbai) and the **Indian Association of Palliative Care**.

For more information on the **Sunflower Children's Network** and extensive highlights from this past year please see the [Annual Report 2023](#).



► **The Sunflower – Palliative Care Podcasts** – In 2023, we launched the first episode of our podcast series. **The podcasts** present children's palliative care through a global lens exploring issues and questions about caring for children and families coping with serious illnesses.



The Sunflower – Palliative Care Podcasts are available wherever you listen to your podcasts. [Listen today](#) and subscribe, and keep an eye on **TWCC's** social media for news of future episodes.



Collaborations

Project ECHO



3182

PARTICIPANTS

55

ORGANIZATIONS

50

FACULTY

3

YEARS

Education and mentorship remain key to TWCC's train-the-trainer approach to building palliative and healthcare capacity in collaboration with our global partners

Today, the majority of our education and mentorship is virtual. Most of you are now familiar with our use of the acronym **ECHO** – Extension for Community Health Outcomes – it's the online education model that **Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration**, along with our partners organizations, uses to deliver palliative care training to healthcare providers across South and Southeast Asia – and beyond.

TWCC volunteers logged more than a combined 500 online-hours providing **ECHO** training. This does not include the hours of course preparation or the support provided to our colleagues on WhatsApp during and after the course sessions.

Today, our online education reaches 1000s of healthcare providers each year and is internationally recognized for its high standard.

In September, **TWCC's** Dr. Megan Doherty, director of our **Sunflower Children's Network**, was invited – along with Drs. M.R. Rajagopal (India) and Max Watson (Ireland) – to participate in a panel discussion at

MetaECHO 2023, a conference in New Mexico highlighting the effectiveness and global-reach of **Project ECHO** virtual-health education.

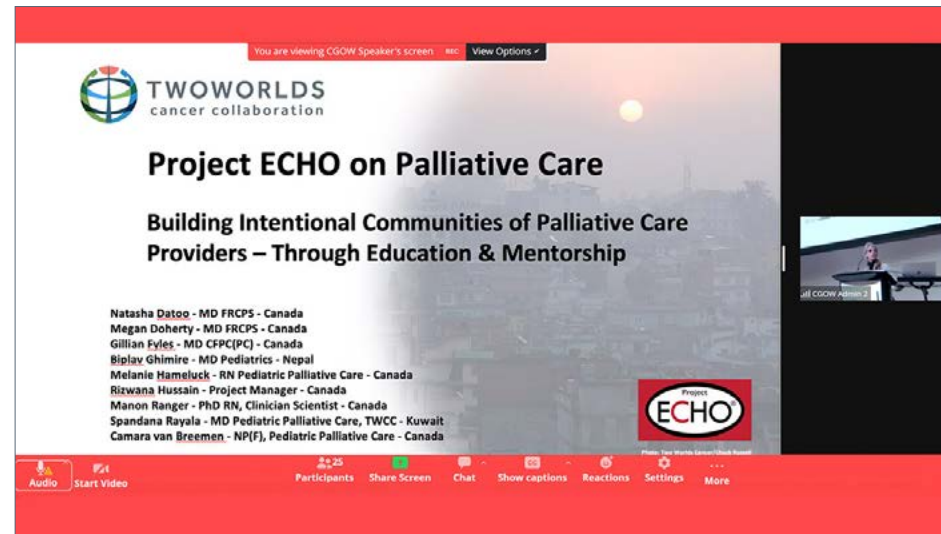
The 2023 ECHO programs your donations helped support included:

► **Advanced Pediatric Palliative Care Training Program** – **SCN** facilitated the third Advanced Pediatric Palliative Care Training Program for the palliative medicine residents in India and Bangladesh. More than 45 trainee physicians participated in this year-long virtual program. This program was a collaboration with key partners in South Asia, including **Tata Memorial Hospital** in Mumbai and the **Indian Association of Palliative Care**.

► **Pediatric palliative care for healthcare providers in Bhutan** – In July, we launched a short course on pediatric palliative care for healthcare providers in Bhutan. The course was a collaboration with **Project ECHO** and **Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences** in Thimphu. The course included more than 50 nurses and physicians from across Bhutan who joined online for six weekly teaching and discussion sessions with our volunteer international faculty.

Project ECHO

► **Children's Palliative Care in Sri Lanka ECHO** – TWCC has maintained partnerships with palliative care providers in Sri Lanka since 2017, but this is our first involvement in children's care in the country. In early September, our network launched the first online ECHO training collaborating with the HCPC, Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians, Sri Lanka Medical Association, Sri Lanka College of Oncologists, Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children, and National Cancer Institute Maharagama.



► **'Community of Practice' supports healthcare providers in Nepal and Bhutan** –

Following up on recent online education ECHO sessions and in-person training provided in Nepal and Bhutan, SCN has started a 10-month online Community of Practice ECHO Program for nurses and doctors in both countries.

► **Introductory Palliative Care for Humanitarian Health Providers** – These courses for healthcare providers working in humanitarian crisis situations were offered in Bangladesh and Africa in partnership with PallCHASE (Palliative Care in Humanitarian Aid Situations and Emergencies), Project ECHO, and other NGOs.

► **Canadian Global Oncology Workshop** – Nine of our ECHO faculty collaborated on a presentation at the annual Canadian Global Oncology Network conference in Calgary (Canada) in December highlighting the impact of collaborative education and mentorship.



Collaborations Closing the Circle



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Moving toward early diagnosis and curative treatment for cancers have always been a long-term goal for Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration alongside building capacity for palliative care

It's a concept we call 'Closing the Circle'. TWCC is working towards this goal with our partner organizations in South and Southeast Asia along with the support of new partner organizations in Canada and internationally.

In 2023, the **Sunflower Children's Network** received a grant through the **Centre for International Child Health** (a BC Children's Hospital global initiative) which helps move toward that goal. The grant is part of a joint research initiative that allows the pediatric oncology team at **Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital** (Nepal) to provide procedural pain medication to children undergoing lumbar punctures and bone marrow aspirates. These procedures are very painful and this initiative means children receiving these procedures

as part of their cancer treatment no longer suffer the pain and trauma from these procedures.

► **Children's Palliative Care** – In October, TWCC volunteers Dr. Natasha Dattoo (Canuck Place Children's Hospice, BC Children's Hospital), nurse practitioner Camara van Breemen (Canuck Place Children's Hospice), and researcher Manon Ranger (BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, UBC Nursing) visited Nepal providing workshops on children's palliative care including procedural pain and pain management at **Kanti Children's Hospital** and **Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital** (both in the Kathmandu Valley) and **Green Pastures Hospital** (in Pokhara).

This trip was part of the research initiative and partnership with SCN, **Canuck Place Children's Hospice**, **UBC Nursing**, and the **Centre for International Child Health** at BC Children's Hospital.

Closing the Circle

► **Oral cancer screening and early detection** – This program is based on the successful rural, oral cancer screening and early detection model developed and piloted with partners in Telangana, India. Last year, planning started for collaborations with partners in Nepal and Sri Lanka. This is a joint venture with partners in the region, **UBC School of Dentistry** and **TWCC**. Oral cancer affects many people in South Asia and is a painful and debilitating disease with poor outcomes as many people are diagnosed at advanced stages. Curative treatments are successful if cancer is detected early. Our partners in both countries hope to start oral cancer screening and early detection programs in 2024. Our projects in Nepal and Sri Lanka will build in economic analysis to help establish regional policy for the implementation of government-funded screening and early detection for oral cancer.



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Collaborations India



© Chuck Russell/Two Worlds Cancer

In India, Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration partners with key organizations advocating for and leading palliative care development in India

From our earliest involvement, Dr. Gayatri Palat and her initiatives with the **MNJ Institute of Oncology & Regional Cancer Centre**, the **Pain Relief and Palliative Care Society** (Hyderabad-based NGO) and the **Hyderabad Centre for palliative Care** have provided the collaborative basis for our programs that you have generously supported.

Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care (HCPC) is now an internationally recognized centre of excellence in palliative care education and a hub for palliative care development. It is seen as a leader in healthcare-provider training through both online and in-person education throughout South and Southeast Asia, and beyond.

Last year, Dr. Palat was recognized for her role as a leading advocate for palliative care when she was

awarded the **Pride of Telangana Healthcare Achiever Award 2023** – an incredibly well-deserved accolade.

Since 2010 Dr. Palat has led our programs in India. Her role with **TWCC** has been supported by the **Rix Family Foundation** endowment of Dr. Palat as the **Don Rix Professor of Palliative Medicine**. The funding for this position has meant that her vision for palliative care in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and beyond has been possible alongside her role in the Department of Palliative Medicine at **MNJ Institute**.

Thanks to generous donors like you, TWCC supported these ongoing initiatives in India:

► **Ongoing support** – Supporting Dr. Palat and other members of her team ensures that inpatient and outpatient palliative care at **MNJ Institute** continues, along with care at the 33 PSKs (community-based hospice) in Telangana, and at both the **Kumudini Devi Hospice** and **Mandara Hospice** (for children).

India

► **Care at home** – Part of TWCC’s mandate is to ensure that grassroots programs we help fund can become sustainable. One of the most successful of these initiatives has been the Home-Care Program in Hyderabad. Today there are 11 van teams providing palliative and end-of-life home care and support to adults and children and support for their families – with two teams dedicated to children’s care.

Each van team has a driver, nurse, social worker. A palliative care specialist joins the teams weekly. Initially, TWCC funded two vans before local NGOs took over the full funding and expanded care capacity to its present level. Today we support the medical and nursing leadership coordinating, training, and supporting the home-care teams.



► **Palliative care in Andhra Pradesh** – Through the support of an anonymous donor, TWCC in partnership with HCPC has provided support for the Palliative Care Unit at **Kurnool Government Hospital and Medical College** in Andhra Pradesh. Building on this donor’s generosity and the groundwork from the team there, Kurnool’s new cancer hospital will have a palliative care unit funded fully by the Andhra Pradesh government.

► **Community-based hospice programs – Palliative Seva Kendra (PSK)** – The success of the district-based PSK program in Telangana led to the start of a similar model in the neighbouring state of Andhra Pradesh in 2022. The PSK in Puttaparthi is supported by Dr. Palat and the HCPC team who train

staff and provide ongoing virtual support. In 2023, the capacity of this PSK doubled with the addition of a second floor to the hospice and today two home-care teams provide palliative and end-of-life care in the community.

► **St. Mary’s Hospital outreach program** – Since 2010, TWCC has supported the rural hospital in Malur, Karnataka – 45 km from Bengaluru. Last year, **St. Mary’s Hospital** expanded the reach of their home-based, palliative care program providing care in 11 villages. The committed healthcare team includes palliative care doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, and community health workers providing care in the villages along with hospital-based care.

► **Nursing leadership and training** – HCPC nursing leader Swarup Immaraju led palliative care training for hospice nurses in the state of Assam. This initiative led to a continuation of training with 10 nurses from Assam visiting Hyderabad during a five-month collaboration. In 2019, Swarup did clinical mentorships sponsored by TWCC at **Canuck Place Children’s Hospice** (Canada) and **Victoria Hospice** (Canada). Through your support of TWCC, it’s palliative care providers like Swarup who have embraced leadership roles as trainers and advocates for palliative care in South Asia.

► **Project ECHO** – The **Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care** is the hub for our online ECHO programs including other countries in the region in collaboration with our international volunteer faculty.



Collaborations Nepal



In Nepal, a new generation of emerging healthcare leaders are providing and advocating for palliative care throughout the country

This new generation of emerging healthcare leaders are working to align this care with Nepal’s **National Strategy for Palliative Care**. Starting in 2017, this strategy was facilitated in collaboration with key Nepali partner organizations, the Nepali government, and **Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration**. It’s the strategy in use today as palliative care capacity builds for people in the cities and more remote regions of the country.

TWCC is helping build on this momentum supporting education programs, working with these emerging leaders to develop extensive virtual and in-person education, and clinical training programs for healthcare providers in Nepal. This will lead to ‘palliative care hubs’ throughout Nepal with healthcare providers trained in palliative care leading care in all seven provinces across the country.

Thanks to donors like you, our programs build on the original relationships and hospice-twinning programs with Canadian hospices in Nanaimo and Victoria and the palliative care units at hospitals in Nepal.

Last year, your generous donations supported these initiatives in Nepal:

► **Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital palliative care** – TWCC volunteers visited our partners in Nepal in April and May. Our Nepal program leads, Dr. Robin Love and Leslie Sundby visited for their 11th and 7th times respectively since their initial involvement with **Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital** (BCH) and the original hospice twinning project – **Partners in Compassion**.

They were joined by Drs. Jacqueline Hui, Christian Mackin and nurse Robyn Dunstan. The team visited **BCH**, and our other partners in the Kathmandu Valley, and Dharan in eastern Nepal to help with palliative care education, clinical training, and further development of palliative care programs.

Nepal

► **Nursing leadership training** – Using a combination of online **ECHO** training and in-person workshops, **TWCC** volunteers have been partnering with pediatric colleagues at **Kanti Children's Hospital** to build nursing capacity and leadership. In October and November, **TWCC** volunteers visited Nepal to conduct a series of workshops introducing key concepts in pain management, communication skills, and palliative care nursing for pediatric intensive care nurses and additional training for general pediatric and surgical nurses at **Kanti Children's Hospital** and **BCH**.

► **Rural palliative care** – Developing rural palliative care combined with rural health outreach has been a priority for **TWCC**. A sustainable project in the Makwanpur District evolved from a three-year pilot program that **TWCC** provided grassroots funding for. Today that model is being adopted in Nepal's Eastern Province 1 and our team met with the local team in Dharan to help build this rural initiative.

► **Hospice care expansion** – Our partners at **Hospice Nepal** are close to their goal of building a new 24-bed hospice facility that will include a five-bed children's palliative care unit. **Rotary** clubs in New Zealand and the United Kingdom are leading the fundraising for this initiative. In late 2023, the construction of the hospice began.

► **Home-based care programs** – Embracing the **World Health Organization's** foundation of hospital-based and home-based care, **BCH** is taking the lead in providing in-home palliative and end-of-life care in the Bhaktapur region.

► **Project ECHO** – Online education sessions continue to provide introductory and intermediate palliative care courses.

► **Palliative care specialist support** – The use of technology, such as WhatsApp, has allowed real-time communication and problem solving of complex palliative care cases. Nepali healthcare providers can reach out to our international palliative care network and share their cases and treatment plans, and seek advice and guidance from network mentors.

► **Closing the Circle initiatives** – In 2023, a Canadian-Nepali research initiative was launched on the effectiveness of procedural pain management for children receiving cancer treatment. Also last year, planning started for an oral cancer screening initiative in the Kathmandu Valley region.



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Collaborations

Bangladesh



© Courtesy Compassionate Narayanganj

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) takes a lead role in providing palliative care in Bangladesh

BSMMU has a well-established adult palliative care program and is expanding the provision of children's palliative care.

BSMMU created an outreach program that provides care in Korail, an informal settlement (slum) in Dhaka. The care model developed for this program is the framework that the **Sunflower Children's Network** has adopted in collaboration with **Compassionate Narayanganj** to provide care in the informal settlements in the city of Narayanganj.

In 2023, your generous donations supported these Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration initiatives in Bangladesh:

► **Palliative care communication skills training** – In the fall, volunteers Dr. Megan Doherty (SCN program director) and nurse practitioner Rachel Neufeld (Canuck Place Children's Hospice) visited Bangladesh providing workshops for medical residents and nurses from the Department of Palliative Medicine at **BSMMU**. The sessions focused on communication skills and enabling better end-of-life care.

► **Community-based palliative care** – Our volunteers also visited the team with **Compassionate Narayanganj** facilitating pediatric palliative care workshops for doctors, nurses and community healthcare workers. **Compassionate Narayanganj** is a community-based palliative care program in the sixth largest city in Bangladesh. With local NGOs, **TWCC** partially funds the program that provides palliative care for children with complex-care needs in informal settlements in the city.



Collaborations Philippines

National Children's Hospital has taken a lead role in children's palliative care in the Philippines

The Palliative Care Team at **National Children's Hospital (NCH)** includes key doctors who were trained and mentored through our Pediatric Palliative Care Fellowship Program.

Last year, their team organized the first pediatric palliative care symposium 'Working together — Improving palliative care for children in the Philippines' in partnership with **St. Luke's Medical Centre, College of Medicine (Philippines)**, **Hummingbird House (Australia)** and **Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration**.

In mid-September, through the **Sunflower Children's Network**, a partnership between **NCH** and the **University of Ottawa** was formed to support the development of specialty training in children's palliative care in the Philippines. The partnership will allow the development of national training and accreditation standards by adapting and learning from established Canadian training programs.

In 2023, your support included these initiatives in the Philippines:

► **New partnership and team support for the National Children's Hospital** – In March, **TWCC** volunteer **Camara van Breemen (Canuck Place Children's Hospice)** visited our partners at **NCH** with a team from **Hummingbird House (Australia)**. This visit was the first partnership between **SCN** and **Hummingbird House**, a children's hospice in Brisbane.

► **Collaborative Online Medical Education Training (COMET)** – **SCN** partnered with **uOttawa** and **National Children's Hospital** to develop and deliver an online course focused on best practices in medical education. **COMET** brings together medical education experts from Canada and the Philippines to learn how to provide high-quality education and training for students and residents. The goal is to develop a pediatric palliative care fellowship-training program in the Philippines.



© Courtesy National Children's Hospital

► **Training and mentoring social workers** – **Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care** provided training and mentorship to a team of social workers from the Philippines who trained in Hyderabad alongside the team there, building on the existing relationship between **HCPC** and **NCH**.



Collaborations Sri Lanka

Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration has maintained partnerships with palliative care providers in Sri Lanka since 2017

In 2023, palliative care activities in Northern Province and Eastern Province began a recovery from the significant impact of the on-going social and economic crisis that affects the country.

TWCC continues advocacy with our partners lobbying local health administration and government for more dedicated clinical time for palliative care with the goal of creating a more sustainable path for palliative care.

Last year was our first involvement in children's care in the country collaborating with **HCPC** and multiple organizations in Sri Lanka providing pediatric care.

Last year, your generous donations supported these **TWCC** initiatives in Sri Lanka:



► **Virtual palliative care education** – In September, our **SCN** in partnership with **HCPC** launched a pediatric palliative care **ECHO** series with faculty and staff from the **Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians**, **Sri Lanka Medical Association**, **Sri Lanka College of Oncologists**, **Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children**, and the **National Cancer Institute Maharagama**.

► **Virtual patient care** – **TWCC** volunteers provide input on individual patient care and ongoing support and mentorship for healthcare providers via Zoom and WhatsApp.

► **Oral cavity cancer screening and early detection** – Due to the economic crisis, **TWCC** and the **UBC School of Dentistry** put on-hold the anticipated oral cancer screening, rural-pilot project. When it goes ahead, this pilot will be based on the success of our collaboration in Telangana, India.

Collaborations Bhutan

Last year, **Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration** was approached by healthcare professionals in Bhutan to build a collaboration around online palliative care education and mentorship

The **Sunflower Children's Network** is partnering with Bhutan's **Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences** and **Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital** to develop this online education. This **ECHO** series is facilitated by the **Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care** and international volunteer faculty.

► **Project ECHO collaboration** – The **HCPC** and **Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital** are providing **ECHO** sessions bringing together faculty from Bhutan, India, Canada, and the United States. These pediatric palliative care training

sessions are strengthening the connections between these healthcare professionals providing mentoring and support both during the course and into the future.

► **A regional ECHO collaboration** – **Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences** partnered with the **Sri Lankan College of Pediatrics** to co-facilitate online palliative care education through partnership with **SCN**.



Financials

Your Donations

When Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration initiates a new program or collaboration our emphasis is on supporting grassroots programs and collaborations that have the ability to become self-sustaining with time

And thanks to donors like you, TWCC helps develop programs from grassroots projects to self-sustaining initiatives with our local partners in South and Southeast Asia.

We have great success stories in India and Nepal where local funders – NGOs, philanthropic organizations, and governments – have embraced funding grassroots initiatives and at times expanded these initiatives well beyond our early involvement.

But to help start these programs and collaborations – until local funding exists – we need your continued support for our vision.

Your generous donations not only provide immediate care for many who live with cancer and other serious illnesses – providing pain relief and emotional support to them and their families. It also gives healthcare providers specialized palliative care training and the opportunity to lead and advocate for care at the local level.

And that means greater numbers of newborns, children, adolescents, adults, and seniors in South and Southeast Asia will receive compassionate care – a basic human right.

In 2023, Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration's operating costs were 18 percent, which means **82 percent** of your donations supported our programs in South and Southeast Asia.

Along with our local partners, TWCC has ambitious plans as our programs and partnerships expand helping shape and build care capacity. In the next five years, we estimate our funding need to be \$2,500,000 to sustain and grow our programs.



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Making an impact and providing the best compassionate care where it's most needed



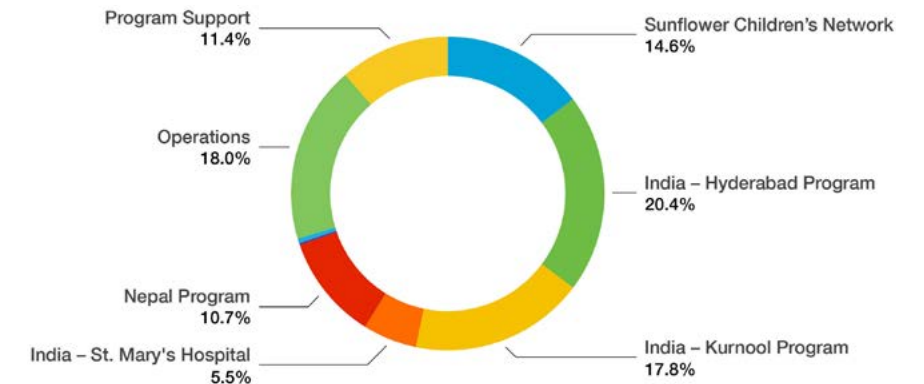
Your Donations

2023 Program Expenses (CAD)

Sunflower Children's Network *	\$ 68,337
India – Hyderabad Program	\$ 95,182
India – Kurnool Program	\$ 83,586
India – St. Mary's Hospice	\$ 25,952
Nepal Program	\$ 50,299
Bangladesh Program	\$ 767
Sri Lanka Program	\$ 4,492
Oral Cancer Screening Program	\$ 2,224
Operations Support	\$ 84,930
Program Support	\$ 52,704
Total	\$ 468,473

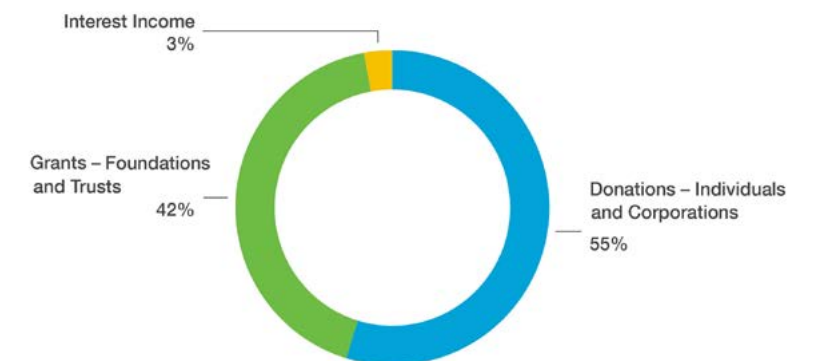


* Sunflower Children's Network supports pediatric programs in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Philippines, and Bhutan



2023 Revenue (CAD)

Donations – Individuals and Corporations	\$ 278,655
Grants – Foundations and Trusts	\$ 215,545
Interest Income	\$ 14,872
Total	\$ 509,072



Directions

Your Continued Support



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As donors, your continued and generous support helps Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration to deliver on our vision

Our mandate is to take the lead from our partners as they know what compassionate care and capacity building is needed locally, and then enable them to implement that care within their countries.

The challenges that many face in lesser-resourced countries include limited access to healthcare and a lack of healthcare providers trained in palliative care, cancer treatment, and specialized, non-communicable disease care. The need for equitable and accessible healthcare is on the rise as populations grow and age, and cancers and chronic diseases increase.

Our relationships with the individuals and organizations we collaborate with in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Philippines, and Bhutan help build impactful

programs that directly improve the care and lives of those of thousands living with serious illnesses.

'Closing the Circle' for TWCC also means closing the gap in healthcare disparity globally through locally-led healthcare initiatives and shared knowledge. It's about enabling human rights and gender equity. TWCC and our partners do this through:

- ▶ Building trusted relationships with patients, healthcare professionals and governments.
- ▶ Learning about and understanding the conditions, circumstances and constraints in lesser-resourced countries.
- ▶ Sharing and exchanging knowledge and 'know how' virtually and in-person.
- ▶ Developing and adapting regionally relevant education programs, skills development, and training and mentorship programs.

Your Continued Support

- ▶ Providing financial and in-kind support for dedicated leadership through joint appointments, fellowships, and observerships for doctors, nurses and pharmacists at national or international centres of excellence.

Today, the growing palliative care programs across South and Southeast Asia are making a real difference. This has happened through the advocacy and sustained efforts of our local partners and with your generous support.

None of this would be possible without your belief in our vision.

As we head into 2024, our initiatives continue to grow:

- ▶ **Children's Palliative Care Leadership Institute** – In 2024, the **Children's Palliative Care Leadership Institute** brings together a diverse group of emerging healthcare leaders from nursing, medicine, and allied health fields. The Institute initiative is a one-year training and mentorship program in South and Southeast Asia.

A dynamic group of 20 emerging leaders in children's palliative care started this program in December. The program included a three-day workshop at the **Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care**, in February 2024.



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- ▶ **Oncology observership programs** – A clinical observership program planned in Canada offers Medical Oncology trainees from Nepal the opportunity to gain firsthand experience in a diverse healthcare setting, enhancing their skills and knowledge in cancer care.

Through continued mentorship, the trainees will continue to receive guidance and support facilitating their professional growth and enhancing their ability

to contribute to cancer care in Nepal. Two doctors will undertake month-long observerships at **Lions Gate Hospital** (Canada).

- ▶ **Pharmacy support program** – As we 'Close the Gap,' it is crucial for pharmacist involvement in health care. This supports care teams to implement, monitor and follow-up on treatment plans assessing necessity, efficacy, and safety for patient needs.

TWCC advocates for clinical practice development so pharmacists can integrate and establish their roles as the drug therapy specialists in their regions.

TWCC currently has four clinical pharmacists, who volunteer their time supporting these efforts through various projects. Our international partnership network includes pharmacists from South and Southeast Asia, Africa, Europe and North America.



Volunteers

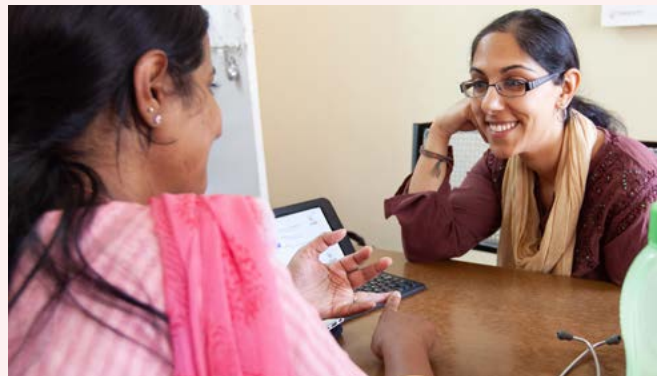
The Heart of Our Team

From a small group of volunteers, Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration's network of volunteer healthcare and allied professionals has grown to 70 individuals from across the globe

In 2009 when Dr. Simon Sutcliffe pulled together a group of like-minded individuals to talk about building collaborations to share palliative care knowledge, few

could have imagined the many individual and organization partnerships that TWCC has fostered globally.

Today, TWCC's team continues to push to expand our collaborations which have impacted the lives of more than 70,000 individuals and their families, living with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses.



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or email executivedirector@twoworldscancer.ca





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