

A Pioneering Cultural and Charitable Initiative as a Form of Social Solidarity and Support for Children With Cancer in Slovenia: A Bridge between Science, Medicine And Art

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OUTLINE

Solidarity and social support are key to improving the quality of life of children with cancer and their families. Childhood cancer is not only a medical challenge, but also an emotional, social and financial burden for the whole family. During the illness, children and their parents need not only medical support, but also emotional, social and financial support. A community that rallies together in good faith contributes to a sense of security, acceptance and hope. Such support can provide access to better care, rehabilitation and psychosocial programmes designed specifically for young cancer patients. Through solidarity, we create a more compassionate and just society where no child with cancer – and no family – has to walk the journey alone.

ACTIVITY

The project was initiated by Jolanda Ravnika, who has been a volunteer at the Institute of Oncology Ljubljana for 15 years. She first launched the project, which also includes the “*Pesem zate – od srca do srca* (Engl. *A song for you – From hart to hart*)” charity concert, in 2017. Since then, it has united hearts every year with one goal: to raise money for projects and organizations that support children with cancer and their families. Over the years, this highly successful initiative has raised considerable funds for various causes, including the Foundation for the Support of Children with Cancer and Blood Disorders, the Association of Friends of Youth Ljubljana Moste-Polje and the Heroes of the 3rd Floor (from the Department of Paediatric Oncology and Haematology, University Children’s Hospital, University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia).

The donations collected so far have been used to purchase infusion chemotherapy pumps, which are extremely important for the treatment of children. In addition to the pumps, various medical devices for diagnostics and therapeutic aids were also purchased, which are essential for successful treatment. Aids for the daily care of patients are also necessary to ensure humane accommodation and care during treatment. Many children and young people come with their parents or guardians from other parts of the country, so they need to be accommodated appropriately in the treatment area.

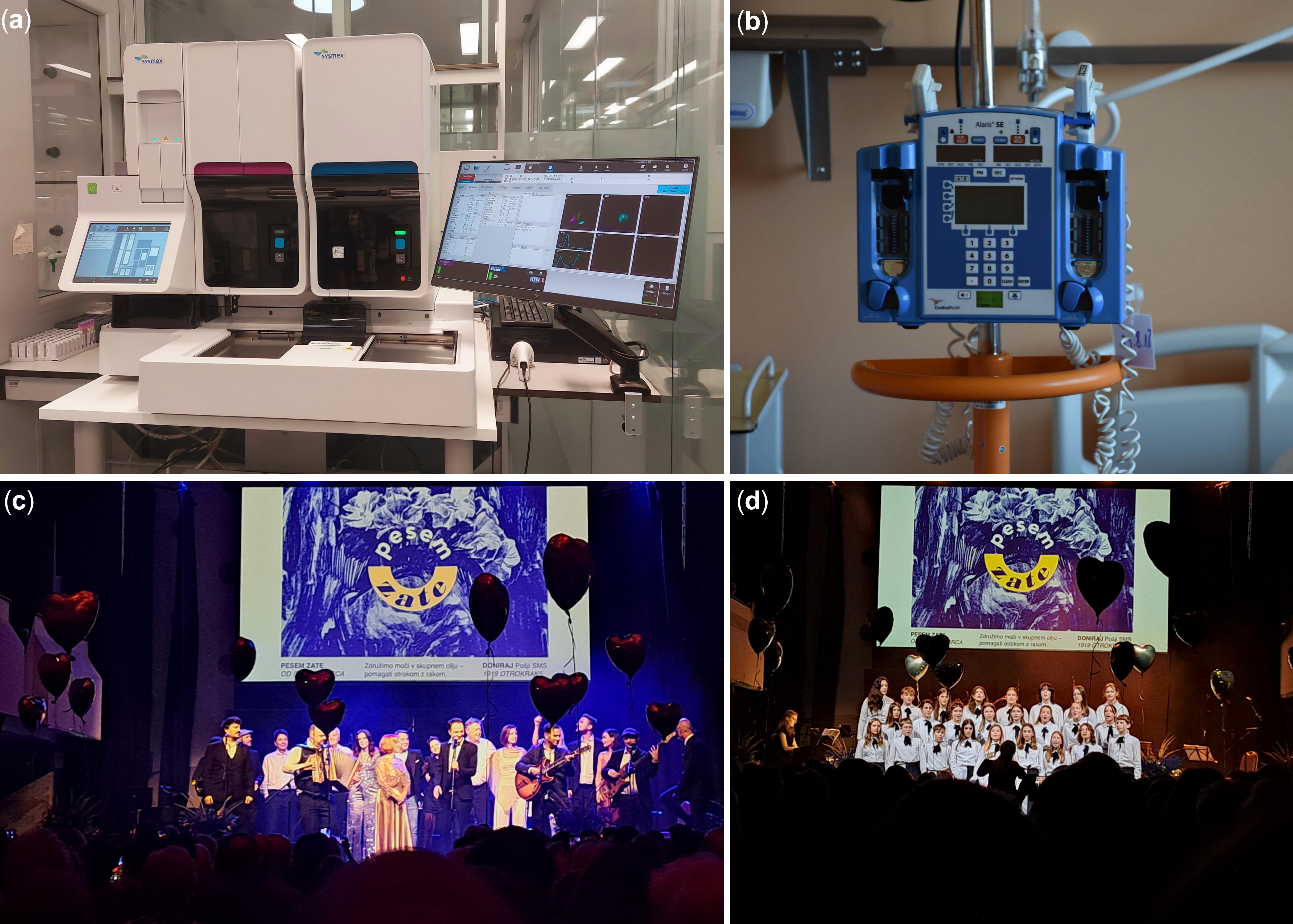


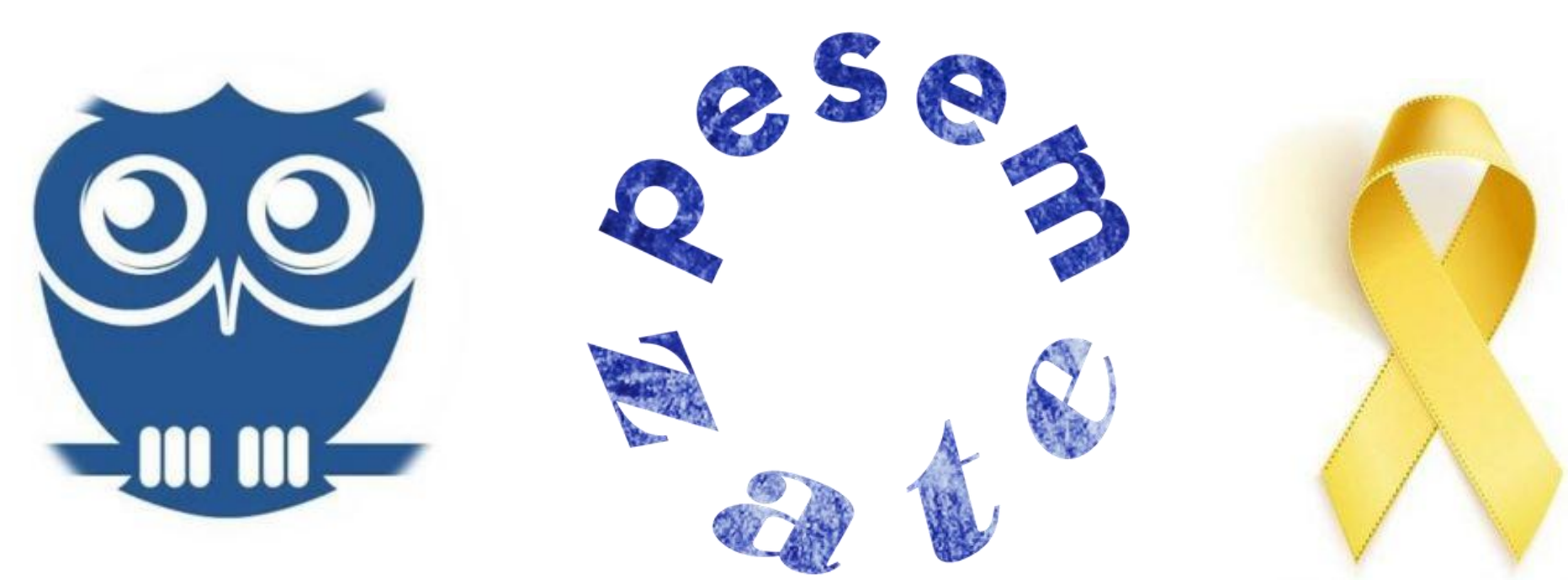
Figure 1: The donations from the “*A song for you*” concert were used to purchase (a) a haematological analysis device for the Clinical Institute for Special Laboratory Diagnostics at the Children’s Hospital and (b) infusion chemotherapy pumps for the Department of Paediatric Oncology and Haematology at the University Children’s Hospital. Highlights of the “*A song for you*” concert: (c) the assembled artists and (d) the youth choir of Glasbena Matica Ljubljana. Together we can help these children and their families to get through the most difficult time and provide them with the best possible care and support. Everyone’s help is crucial to the success of this mission.

The concert is traditionally performed by numerous well-known Slovenian musicians and artists. Children’s choirs and artistic and musical groups of medical staff were also performed.

Photos: (a) and (b) by Jolanda Ravnika, “*Pesem zate*” Facebook page & <https://pesemzate.si/>; (c) and (d) Marko Jeran.

CONCLUSION

The “*A song for you*” concert is not only a cultural event, but also a socially committed initiative that combines art and humanity to support children with cancer. Behind the musical performances lies a deeper message – an encouragement to community, solidarity and active compassion. The initiative, led by Jolanda Ravnika and her organizing team, shows how art can serve as a bridge between the individual and the common good. Through small contributions from individuals, a strong foundation of support is created for those facing life’s most difficult challenges. “*A song for you*” reminds us that each of us has the power to contribute to change – through action, participation and music. In this context, the concert becomes a symbol of hope and a powerful reminder that true connection has the potential to create a better future.



A song for you – From heart to heart, would not be possible without the extraordinary support of dear people, partners and sponsors. A big thank you to the Festival hall Ljubljana, the Ravnika initiative, Eventim, Fužine nursing home, Birografika Bora and our sponsors and partners: Gostišče Jezero, Gostišče Portal, Gostilna Rogovila, Dubočica, Pivnica Kratožil BTC, Vina Belak, Klet Brda, Cvetličarna Butik IN, Slaščičarna kavarna VIKI, Berryshka, Tiskarna Cicero, Hiša Ančka Šenčur, Studio Brane Petrovič, Balonmania, Istenič, Vino Kranjc, Vina Koper, Secret frizerski salon, FOTA - COP, Storck and L-tek, Ltd.

Thank You