

A CHILDOOD CANCER EXPERIENCE FROM KIDZCAN ZIMBABWE

Tanaka Kangarangadza

History



Tanaka was born on 4/9/2004 in Harare. Father has nothing to do with her in terms of upbringing. She stays with her mother and sister in Zengeza. Tanaka's sister Tariro is nine years old and has her own father. Their mum used to work as a domestic worker but has since stopped due to Tanaka's illness. Tanaka is a Christian, goes to the Anglican

Church. She is a quiet girl and loves dancing and singing. Has a very good relationship with mum and sister (the image to the right).



Past Medical History

In her childhood the only time she was sick was when she had a sore throat at the age of 9. She also had a swollen right cheek and painful teeth ,was treated at the local clinic and the swelling and pain disappeared. However since then every winter she would complain pain in that cheek into her teeth.

Present Situation

It started in February 2018 when she complained of toothache and swollen gums. Tanaka started by taking pain killers as any other person as parents would recommend to their children. However, this did not improve or change anything. The cheek continued to swell and they decided to go to the local clinic where she was referred to a dentist.





The Mother opted for Parirenyatwa Dental Clinic which is a tertiary hospital. After being seen by the dentist she was referred to Sekuru Kaguvi Hospital which is an eye hospital due to the swelling the dropping eye.

Doctors at Sekuru Kaguvi hospital requested an X-ray/scan which was done then patient was sent back to the Dental clinic. At the dental clinic the doctors decided to biopsy swelling. The results came out on the 9th of March this 2018 and confirmed lymphoma. Tanaka was then referred to A4 Special (Which is supported by Kidzcan Zimbabwe). There was no admission that day, mother and daughter proceeded to home where they sought the help of traditional healers. She started taking herbal treatment issued out by one herbalist who forced her to drink 17 tablets at once daily.

Despite all this, nothing changed resulting in the mother stressing even more about her daughter's condition. Mai Tanaka decided to stop the treatment. Someone approached them and shared about some prophetess in Chiweshe which and she decided to go and try she says she was desperate mother.

Tanaka and her mother travelled to Chiweshe where they stayed for two weeks at the homestead of the prophetess. During these two weeks, her treatment was that of being rubbed with onion that was dipped in some oil twice a day. On the 18th of

April 2018, she had a massive nose bleed which the prophetess confirmed was saying that the herbal treatment was working and cancer was coming out



However, Tanaka took a turn for the worst. She was very weak, pale and could not talk. Because of the condition, the mother decided to take Tanaka to her father's family as someone had advised her that as it was the whole illness was culturally related and she needed her own people to do some rituals. They travelled to Juru where her dad comes from and they stayed at the home for a

month. The elders of Tanaka's paternal family tried some Herbal treatment as well but it failed. Tanaka then complained of severe pain Mother decided to give up and go the medical route. She then decided to take her to the hospital she. Her First call was at the eye Hospital who referred to A4 WARD and Admitted was admitted. Mother and daughter received counseling and information regarding the diagnosis, treatment and possible disease process.

Whilst in A4 Special, necessary tests were done. Treatment commenced a week later. While in the





ward Tanaka received psychosocial support and once pain had subsided she was able to mingle and play with other children in the play room. She also continued with her school work with the help of the Volunteer teacher. She managed to write her end of term form 1 examinations and completed knitting a winter scarf. She would like to knit for other children.

Tanaka has since received 3 cycles of chemotherapy and the swelling has dramatically reduced. She will need to see an eye specialist at a later date but at the moment, she is looking forward to going home on chemo break, and she will have to come back for her scheduled chemotherapy treatment.

With the help we receive from donors all over the world, Tanaka is making a full recovery and we are so very proud of her. We thank all those kind hearted individuals who continue to support childhood cancer in Zimbabwe. We urge you not to stop giving, for you are making a difference

#no more excuses

THANK YOU FROM ALL AT KIDZCAN ZIMBABWE