**Title of Project**: Save A life

**Project Duration**: Ongoing and continuous requirement

**Project Scope**: Provide Bone Marrow Needles, Chemo Port Needles and Medicines to the needy children undergoing treatment at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore, India.

Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology is a 675 bed Regional Cancer Centre partly funded by the Government of India, it is in Bangalore and was originally a project by the Government of Karnataka until 1980. Today it caters to cancer patients mostly belonging to a lower socioeconomic status. Patients come from far and near to gain access to high quality health care at nominal fees.

About 80% of patients undergoing treatment at Kidwai are residents of Karnataka. Non-residents of Karnataka are mainly from the neighboring states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and from the eastern states of Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar and Manipur. For the people of Karnataka, Government schemes are available for the underprivileged who have proof of the same, such as ration cards provided by the government. But most of the patients are illiterates and do not possess these cards.   
 There are a total of around 18,000 new patients each year out of which about 3,600 will not be eligible to receive any financial aid from the government. They have to pay for all the investigations and medicines and for blood requirements in the case of leukemia patients, most of whom are children.

Approximately 500 new children get admitted to the children's ward at Kidwai. Most of them are ALL (Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia) and AML (Acute Myeloid Leukemia) patients. The children stay in the wards for 3 to 4 months approximately and undergo 4 cycles of chemotherapy. They require periodic bone marrow examinations- bone marrow biopsy is an important test done 5 times during this period. Subsequently the children are on maintenance for 5 years. They are sent back home and they have to come for regular follow up once a month for the first year and once in a quarter for the subsequent years. Each child requires about 18 needles for this five year period.

Around **3000** needles are required in a year for the pediatric patients alone.

Needles are not provided under any government scheme and all the patients have to purchase it. Most of them cannot afford it. A few NGOs donate on a regular basis but there is a shortfall of **150 -170** needles a month on average. The cost of the needle (MRP) is Rs 1732, after discount, it is available for **Rs.990** at the Kidwai Cancer Drug Foundation. Assuming these rates, for the remainder of this current financial year, there is a requirement of **Rs. 13.5 lakhs** for biopsy needles.

At Sanman we initiated the idea of Project Needle and at present are generating donations from friends and families to support the pediatric patients with the needles. (Please find in the table below, the figures for the period from April to July 2016).

Another area of need is the chemo port needles. In developed countries, chemotherapy is given through chemo ports only but in our country it is a luxury and many people cannot afford it. In Kidwai, only small children below the age of 5 are given chemo drugs through these ports. The chemo port surgery is conducted at Indira Gandhi Hospital for Child Welfare and the port needles have to be changed every five days. It is usually available after discount, for **Rs.200** at the Kidwai Cancer Drug Foundation. We need **600** needles for the remainder of this financial year, assuming these rates, there is a requirement of **Rs.1.2 lakhs** for chemo port needles. (Please find in the table below, the figures for the period from April to July 2016).

Regarding chemotherapy medicines, around 80 to **100** patients need financial help for medicines every year. Medicine costs around **Rs 7000 – 14,000** per cycle.  So each child needs around **Rs. 28,000– Rs. 56,000** and funds of about **Rs. 4,000,000** would cover this requirement.

For the testing and cross matching of blood samples from other banks, the cost is about Rs. 500-**600** per unit. The estimated requirement for the remainder of this year is 500 units or approximately, **Rs. 3,00,000**.

For the needs of the **children**, therefore the requirement for the rest of the year (i.e. 8 months) is

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| **Item** | **Amount (Rupees)** | **Amount (USD)** | **Sanman spent over 4 months** |
| 1400 Biopsy needles | 1,350,000 | 20,000 | Rs. 255,126 |
| 600 Chemo Port Needles | 120,000 | 1700 | Rs. 43,000 |
| 4 chemo cycles each for about 80 children | 4,000,000 | 60,000 | Rs. 240,000 |
| 500 units of blood(testing and cross-matching) | 300,000 | 4,200 | Rs. 100,000 |

The families are helpless if they are unable to pay for the treatment and the children suffer as they spend more of their precious childhood days in hospital beds. With funds for treatment, the lives of many children will be brought back on track. Sanman believes in, and is able to maintain constant contact with patients, careful monitoring of funds given and the progress of patients and our reward is the difference that we make.