

Leisure in the hospital and family holidays to cheer up children with cancer

LOCATION: Jerez de la Frontera (Cádiz)

DURATION: 1'56"

SUMMARY: Cancer took away Eva's son from her and it was then when she made a promise to herself: she would do her best to bring happiness to children who were in the same situation his son went through. That's how she created the association 'Por una Sonrisa' or 'For a Smile'. They have promoted the creation of a games library in the Jeréz's Hospital, where volunteers organize workshops with children. Their intention is spreading similar initiatives to the rest of the hospitals of the province of Cádiz. In addition, they raise funds for the summer holidays of these children and their parents.

VTR

Here at Jerez's hospital Paola and Sheila are playing. They laugh because they have never lost their smile despite they have cancer and have been subjected to a hard treatment for years. This is possible thanks to their vitality and an association called 'Por una Sonrisa' or 'For a Smile'.

EVA LEDESMA
Founder 'Por Una Sonrisa'

"So no children who is going through this hard disease does it between the four walls of a hospital, without a place to play, without feeling like a child."

NATALIA FÉREZ
Volunteer 'Por Una Sonrisa'

"So when they are here, as they come for important things, at least they can be happy and laugh during those hours."

To make this a reality, the association has opened this games library in the haematology unit.

JUAN JOSÉ PELIGROS
Volunteer 'Por Una Sonrisa'

"It is financed and provided with human and material resources thanks to the association."

Natalia and Montaña are the volunteers who are teaching them how to make crafts. That's how Sheila entertains until it is time to visit the doctor.

ANA MARÍA MONTERO
Sheila's mother

"She would like to stay longer but when we have to go we have to go."

CRISTINA BLÁZQUEZ
Oncologist Jerez's Hospital

"It isn't just for kids, it is also for adults. It is very important that children are more cheerful and happier, it helps them dealing with it."

SHEILA

"I would stay the whole day."

According to the Spanish Paediatrics Foundation, one thousand paediatric cancer cases are diagnosed in Spain every year. Ismael receives Eva's visit. Cancer took his son Emilio away from her a few years ago. It was then when she decided to create the association to bring smiles to these children's faces.

EVA LEDESMA
Founder 'Por Una Sonrisa'

"And there's nothing more honest than the smile of a child."

That's why the association promotes spaces like this one in other hospitals of the province of Cádiz; but also organizes and finances summer holidays for children and their parents. Their reward: being able to see smiles like this one.