



MAHAK
Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer

NGO with Special Consultative Status with the Economic and
Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC)

Five Year Report 2001-2005

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Managing Director's Message

To reduce the fatality of children suffering from cancer is MAHAK's primary goal and our greatest success since our work began has been the reduction of such fatalities, which had always been high in Iran, down to 24% which is in line with international statistics. MAHAK has been able to take an even bigger step and build a specialized hospital with the help of donations from the public. Located in 18000 square meters of space dedicated to diagnostic and remedial activities, the hospital was built in less than three years. Within two years, this 120 bed hospital was ready for operation, with the latest medical equipment.

MAHAK Hospital and Rehabilitation Complex celebrated its opening in a grand ceremony on 22nd January 2005, attended by the deputies of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education as well as the Dean of the Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences. The Emergency Room, the Laboratory, Radiology and CT-Scan and MRI sections plus a 16 bed ward were made ready for the use of patients. We hope that in the next few months and hopefully before the end of 2006 all 120 beds will be ready for use, in order to meet the needs of not just children with cancer but also other patients regardless of age who may need specialized medical care.

MAHAK has also succeeded in establishing an important presence both in the Middle East and the greater international arena. Supporting refugee children with cancer and co-operating directly with UNHCR are amongst MAHAK's regional success stories. As well as being a member of the International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organizations (ICCCPO), MAHAK has succeeded in establishing and maintaining a satisfactory relationship with the United Nations in the vital role of raising public consciousness in Iran on Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The fourth goal of this manifesto, the reduction of child mortality rate, is directly in line with MAHAK's own stated goals.

As the managing director of this organization I see it as my duty to thank each and every one of our compatriots whether inside or outside Iran who have supported us both financially and morally in the difficult path that we have embarked upon.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my gratitude to all our staff members, nurses, social workers and volunteers who readily take on all the difficulties in order to serve the children who suffer from cancer and wish them all health and happiness. We are proud that today, with the support of the almighty and the help of our friends, *no child who suffers from cancer in Iran will lose the fight to cancer because of poverty.*

Samad Taheri

Managing Director

MAHAK, Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer

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Introduction to MAHAK

About two decades ago a mother who had experienced having a child with cancer and had witnessed first hand the difficulties faced by her child, pledged to set up a center that would act as a refuge for children and their families in a similar situation. With the assistance of the same friends and relatives who had helped her through her own ordeal, a board of trustees was selected and MAHAK Society to Support Children suffering from Cancer was set up as a non profit, non-governmental organization and was registered under number 6567 in 1991. MAHAK has been active from that day on in helping children with cancer and their families.

The organization's pillars are:

- The Board of Trustees

- The Board of Directors

- The Managing Director

- The organization consists of the following sections:

- Social work

- Recovery

- Psychology

- Administration

- Fundraising

- public relations

- International relations

- Accounting

At the start of its activities MAHAK was solely run by volunteers but later a dedicated group of staff were employed as the organization's work expanded. By the end of 2005, 63 full time and 4 part-time staff members were working in MAHAK Mega Complex, the Chizar office, the Mellat Tower office and the Sattar Khan Welfare Center. In addition to these, there are 19 members in the Founders, Trustees and Board of Directors and approximately 200 active volunteers who work for the organization.

Mission and goals of the organization

The goals of the organization are as follows:

- supporting children with cancer with financial aid for both their medical treatment and non-treatment needs in order to raise their standard of life.
- Training and assistance to children with cancer and their families in order to alleviate physical and emotional suffering.
- Guidance in therapeutic matters as well as offering financial and pharmaceutical assistance nationwide.
- Establishing contact and co-operation between the families of children with cancer to help them exchange information to improve the quality of life for the children.
- Increasing public awareness about Cancer and its prevention through mass media.
- Providing accommodation for children with cancer and up to two members of their families from the provinces in Tehran during treatment.
- Creating better means and facilities for looking after children with cancer in hospitals and arranging programs for their entertainment and enjoyment.

Activities

According to its charter, MAHAK 's activities, as a non-profit organization, are defined specifically to support children with cancer . .To this end, the organization is involved in the fields of Medical Treatment, Research, Prevention, Remedial and Hospital services and Welfare.

In order to achieve the above goals, the organization feels the following are also pertinent to its duties:

- Providing relevant information for the parents about the disease and its treatment.
- Establishing direct contact with the medical team in charge of the care of the children covered by MAHAK.
- Creating hope and a positive attitude in the child's family and helping to maintain the structure of the family
- Collating the material concerning cancer and its distribution throughout society.

In order to achieve its goals, MAHAK 's executive plans include:

- Creating the facility to introduce patients from villages and provinces to treatment centers.
- Establishing contact with treatment centers in the provinces and supporting these centers to avoid patients traveling to the capital.
- Facilitating transport for those patients who must travel to the capital for their treatment.
- Providing adequate information about Cancer from national and international sources to the children and their parents
- Assessing the capabilities in the country whether potential or practical.
- Obtaining the necessary permits from the Ministry of Finance in order to provide tax deductibility for contributing companies and organizations.
- Building of specialized hospital and convalescence centre for children with cancer.
- Assessing further regional and international facilities that can assist MAHAK's goals.
- Establishing contact with internal and foreign organizations active in similar field.
- Assessing the demographic spread of patients in the country, their situation and problems.
- Participating in the project to register Cancer in the country and pushing to do so as soon as possible.
- Drawing the attention of those in positions of responsibility on our patients' issues and pressing the government for more supportive laws.
- Supporting efforts to establish similar centers in the rest of the country.
- Canvassing the support of universities and their associated organizations to the need for building a specialist cancer Hospital.

MAHAK Hospital and Rehabilitation Complex

a) How it began

At the start of its activities, members of the organization were involved in the oncology departments of seven hospitals in Tehran. It wasn't long before they found themselves facing a broader range of demands. The need for creating facilities to help children with cancer became the long term goal of the group. At the same time it became evident that those children arriving in Tehran with their families from the provinces desperately needed accommodation and support

facilities during their treatment period. The municipality of Tehran provided a place in the west of Tehran(2) for MAHAK to accommodate such patients. The space was quickly furnished and began work immediately but the need for a larger space with specific and specialist capabilities was yet to be realized. With the help of one of the friends of MAHAK and the board of directors of the time, a piece of land, located in Darabad heights, was purchased through the Urban Land Organization.

The project was left on hold however, due to lack of funds and the size of the project, until the board of trustees approved a budget of about US\$ 200,000 for the construction of a 2000 Square meter of space for a rehabilitation center. At this stage, a generous donor joined MAHAK and provided funding to the tune of four times the original budget for the project enabling the expansion of plans from 2000sqm to 8000sqm.

After subsequent discussions, an executive committee was set up consisting of a member of the management board of MAHAK, The managing director, donors' representative ,a selected consultant engineer, the managing director of a construction company who agreed to supervise the construction of the complex free of charge the head of the Cancer Institute and the Founder of MAHAK.

With the help of these friends the project began its work and progressed with incredible speed.

The speed with which the building project was progressing led the major sponsor to commit further funds to ensure the conclusion of the project and its further expansion to the limits set by building regulations. This increased the size of the project to twice the original plans. At first the expansion plans seemed impossible as 50% of the project had already been completed but with the special efforts of the building's technical staff, readjustments were made and the construction schedule got back on track.

A Planning and Management Committee was set up at the same time with the aim of research, design, planning and organization for the running of the complex

Finally in 2003 MAHAK 's Hospital and Rehabilitation Center , in Darabad, was completed. The center is situated above the city's northeastern heights and boasts an 18000 square meters building with 120 rooms equipped to accommodate patients accompanied by one member of the family. The center houses diagnostic and treatment wards of the highest standards comparable to those seen in developed countries.

Within the center there is also further facilities offered such as a Clinic, a Chemotherapy Laboratory, Radiotherapy section, Physiotherapy ward, Hydrotherapy section, Operation rooms, M.R.I and CT-Scan, Radiology, ICU, Library, Children's playroom, Restaurant, Amphitheatre and a Shopping center. These various parts of the complex have been furnished with the help of charitable individuals and in way of thanking them each section has been named after the donor.

b) Rehabilitation Ward

The two Rehabilitation wards in MAHAK were set up and made operational with the help and coordination of the nursing group and social work department.

The wards were equipped and began operation in August 2003 and the first patient was admitted as part of a trial period. The Rehabilitation ward began operating officially in October of the same year.

The Rehabilitation Ward is laid out over two floors, with 15 rooms on the first floor for children accompanied by a female member of their immediate family and another 15 on the second floor for those children who need to be accompanied by a male family member. There is also a playroom and a sitting area provided for the children and families who come to Tehran for treatment.

At present, this ward is run by 14 nursing graduates in three shifts around the clock. Two social workers offer their services in two shifts of morning and afternoon and two psychiatrists are available in the afternoon shifts. In the afternoons a number of volunteers visit the ward to play with the children.

The activities of the Rehabilitation Ward are of an extensive range and began from the first day of its operation. The playroom is one such activity. Under the supervision of the psychology department and with the help of a group of young volunteers known as the "Communication with child Program", this room has now begun to operate more efficiently and scientifically. The playroom has one resident psychologist and every day the volunteers from the child contact group are available to occupy the children with games, art, story-telling etc. Another group of volunteers now teach dance and movement to children; an activity that brings joy and liveliness to the playroom's atmosphere.

The volunteers have also transformed the ward with paintings and beautiful handicrafts, making it more like a children's playground than a hospital.

In addition, the nursing staff are sent regularly to other hospitals to attend specialist courses. A volunteer doctor also conducted a year long weekly refresher course for the nursing staff.

Celebrations for the New Year and Yalda (the longest night at the time of the winter solstice) are held for the children and their families, and at present a monthly joint birthday party is held for the children resident in the rehabilitation ward.

The following table shows the number of children registered since the beginning of the ward's activities up to the preparation of this report at the end of 2005. Please note that the same

statistics were published in the biannual report 2003-2004, but in the new table the number of patients has been recorded separately from the number of admissions.

Statistics for the children and parents hospitalized from August 2003 till the end of 2005:

	August 2003 till the end of the year 2003	2004	2005
Children Hospitalized	75	216	242
Accompanying Parents	150	367	418
Number of Hospitalization	250	611	750

At the time of preparing this report, the cost of medical treatment and residency per child according to the number of visits to the centre is estimated at 15,000,000 Rials equal to US\$ 1670. Under the 'child cover program' charitable people can undertake the cost of as many children as they wish by paying a sum of 1,250,000 Rials equal to US\$ 139 for each child.

Members of the public, interested in seeing the work of the centre first hand, can arrange to visit the centre on Wednesdays of every week from 10-12 am with prior arrangement.

Social Work Department

Throughout MAHAK's life, the social work department has been at the forefront of the organization's goals. This department is in direct contact with the families of children covered by MAHAK.

Each child who is under 14 years of age -whose pathobiological test shows that the child is suffering from cancer- and is being treated in a governmental or university affiliated hospital, can be covered by MAHAK. In such cases, the child is registered and from that date along with the family can enjoy the moral and financial support of the organization.

In 2000, the Social Work department was active in seven hospitals as well as having a base in the offices of the organization in Chizar Square.

Between 2000 and 2005, they expanded their activities to 9 governmental-university hospitals in Tehran. At present, a special office has been allocated for the use of MAHAK's social welfare officers in three hospitals; the Children's Medical centre, Ali Asghar Hospital and Mofid Hospital.

Patients and their families can contact MAHAK through these offices. Moreover, all governmental and university hospitals Nationwide that have a hematology section, are aware of MAHAK 's activities, and are in direct contact with and inform the organization of the existence of eligible patients in their hospitals who after assessment, can be covered by MAHAK immediately. Certain M.R.I and CT-Scan centers now offer their services free of charge to MAHAK patients, which

means that those children covered by the Society receive the best medical care available by national standards.

The social welfare office is at present based in Darabad Complex and is run by 8 dedicated members of the staff. The Chizar office continues its activities for receiving patients, donations and volunteers. This section is run by 65 volunteers, all ladies, who hold their co-ordination meeting in Darabad every Saturday. This group is in contact with the nine hospitals and centers listed below:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1- Ali Asghar Hospital | 6- Bahrami Hospital |
| 2- Mofid Hospital | 7- Cancer Institute |
| 3- Children Medical centre | 8- Shariati Hospital |
| 4- Shohada Hospital | 9- Golestan Hospital |
| 5- Imam Khomeini Hospital | |

The social work department is a very active department in its own right over and above its coordinating role with the other departments.

In 1999 following a major campaign by the organization, MAHAK was officially recognized by UNHCR as the organization which helps refugee children (Afghan and Iraqi) with cancer outside refugee camps. A separate report charts the activities of the organization in collaboration with UNHCR.

If a child is not covered by medical insurance, the social welfare's first step is to insure the child and all her family. One of the main duties of this department is to liaise with the financial department to facilitate the payment of the child's medical and non medical costs.

Medical costs include medication, surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, prosthesis, diagnostic tests, insurance and all associated costs.

Non-medical costs include cost of transportation, New Year aid for the families, New Year clothes, stationary for school, consulting services etc. Since 60% of the children covered by MAHAK transfer to Tehran from the provinces, should their condition require it, the social work department arranges for their transfer by ambulance or airplane, from their city of residence to Tehran.

As the majority of the children are from the poorer section of the society, the Social work department also undertakes to look after the numerous problems that the families face by putting them in touch with the related charities, which can relieve their hardship.

One of the side-effects of having cancer in teenagers is depression and a sense of hopelessness; a lack of interest in conducting a normal life which is rooted in known psychological reasons.

Being aware of this problem, the social welfare department encourages the teenagers in all aspects of their lives until they gain enough confidence to return to their normal lives.

Financial help for university fees and creating contact with the relevant charities for obtaining grants for marriage costs are amongst the extra help this department offers the patients. So far 17 patients covered by MAHAK have entered University after treatment and are continuing their higher education. Other children and teenagers have succeeded in gaining places in sport and art competitions .Amongst these success stories the story of Ali Beikmohammad Nejad stands out. In 2003, this seventeen- year- old, having beaten Hodgkin's disease, won the top prize in the international teen wrestling championships.

The following table shows the number of children covered by MAHAK according to type of cancer:

Cancer Type	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
ALL	1037	1148	1270	1395	1473
AML	104	124	125	155	157
CML	14	22	25	35	36
HD	213	233	255	258	259
NHL	208	209	218	207	220
Retino	55	74	70	82	83
Wilms`	95	108	137	140	144
Germ Cell	34	38	48	44	42
Osteo Sarcoma	46	44	53	73	99
MMI	67	69	83	91	94
CNS Tumor	143	171	211	253	278
Hicthocytosis	27	38	46	53	57
Ewing's Sarcoma	23	29	42	56	64
Other	48	67	70	104	105
Total	2114	2374	2653	2946	3111

The total statistics of children covered by MAHAK during the past five years according to type of cancer:

Year	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Boy	Girl								
ALL	639	398	710	438	778	492	845	550	875	598
AML	66	38	72	52	77	48	92	63	96	61
CML	5	9	12	10	13	12	19	16	20	16
HD	161	52	182	51	199	56	194	64	191	68
NHL	151	57	152	57	166	52	162	45	175	46
Retino	37	18	45	29	41	29	51	31	44	39
Wilms`	38	57	49	59	65	72	69	71	75	69
Germ Cell	12	22	16	22	15	33	13	31	16	26
Osteo Sarcoma	23	23	24	20	28	25	41	32	54	45
MMI	36	31	41	28	43	40	55	36	60	34

CNS Tumor	95	48	108	63	134	77	159	94	184	94
Hicthocytosis	15	12	23	15	28	18	33	20	35	22
Ewing's Sarcoma	14	9	15	14	20	22	33	23	39	25
Other	27	21	43	24	44	26	54	50	53	51
Total	1319	795	1492	882	1651	1002	1820	1126	1917	1194

The following table shows the overall number of children covered by Mahak in the past five years and has been prepared on Jan 2006, and it might have some changes due to changes in the children's treatment protocol:

year	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Number of Children Covered by MAHAK	3118	2953	2661	2382	2119
Number of Children Under Treatment	1945	1607	1247	961	781
Number of Treatment Terminated Cases	971	1000	1048	1037	959
Number of Deceased Cases	202	346	366	384	379

a) Child Sponsorship Program

MAHAK is a charity and a NGO and all its income is spent on helping to cure children with cancer. With escalating costs, MAHAK's reliance on charitable friends increases almost daily.

Considering such a reality, a new scheme was approved in 2003 in which charitable friends can sponsor a child and pledge to pay for the cost of his medication and residence. They can undertake to sponsor a child's needs for one month or more, the monthly cost being calculated as an average mean. The new scheme was announced publicly during the opening ceremony of the hospice when the first child benefiting from the scheme was admitted. The scheme is now fully operational.

At the time of writing this report, the cost of medication and residence for one child for one month was set at US\$139. The cost for one year is set at US\$1670.

Please note that sponsorship forms are included at the end of this report.

b) Co-operation with UNHCR

Regional conflict and instability in neighboring countries, specially Afghanistan has resulted in many people crossing the border into Iran as refugees. MAHAK wished to help Afghan children with cancer from the very beginning of its activity, however because refugee children are not covered by any medical insurance system, the cost of their treatment was astronomical. Despite this major obstacle, MAHAK would cover refugee children even in the early years trying by various means to address their needs. With the increase in the number of refugees, the number of refugee children with cancer naturally grew, and MAHAK decided that in order to best serve the needs of these children, the help of international bodies was needed.

As a result of the efforts made by the Social Work department, MAHAK succeeded in signing a three sided agreement with UNHCR and the Ministry of Interior in order to be able to address the needs of refugee children living in Iran outside refugee camps.

According to this agreement (reference number 00/AB/IRN/LS/704U) MAHAK receives a sum from the UNHCR to help refugee children with cancer outside the refugee camps .At the end of each year, MAHAK delivers a comprehensive report to UNHCR and the basis of the funding for the following year is decided in an annual meeting.

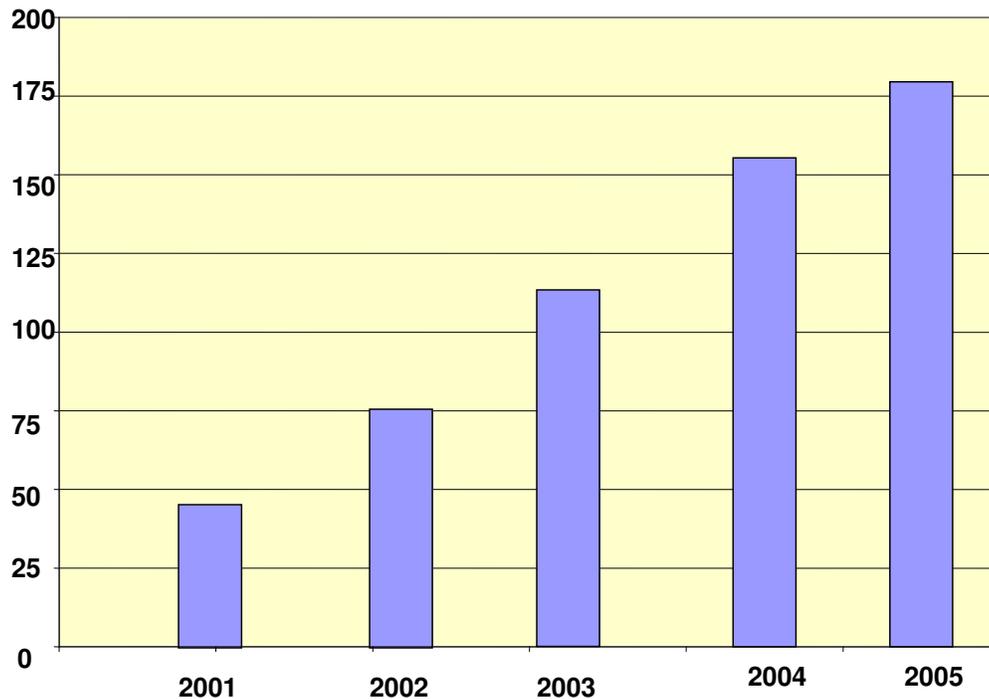
As well as receiving financial help from the High Commissioner, the two bodies have been co-operating in social and cultural activities, such as the Ceremony for ' Donation boxes ' opening in September 2005. During this ceremony, organized by the Social Work and International Relations departments speeches were delivered by the managing director of MAHAK and the assistant representative of UNHCR. To mark seven years of co-operation, commemorative plaques were exchanged between the two organizations and the UNHCR made a donation to MAHAK. The day was marked with a drawing competition organized by the UNHCR with the title of 'Courage'.

The number of refugee patients in the past five years.

year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Number of Children Covered by MAHAK	92	113	137	143	154
Number of Children Under Treatment	52	58	86	68	98
Number of Treatment Terminated Cases	29	41	38	60	42
Number of Deceased Cases	11	14	13	15	14

Chart of expenditure on treatment of refugee children in the past five years: (in 1000 Us. Dollar)

*conversion rate is:1 Us\$=8390 RIs.



Psychology Department

The psychology department began its work officially, as an independent department in MAHAK, in July 2004. The purpose of the department is to provide emotional support for the patients and their families. Since the start of the department's work, many clinical consultations, interviews, and face to face sessions have taken place with patients by four part time members of the staff and six volunteer psychiatrists.

Some of the most important works carried out by this department in the past year and a half are:

- Clinical consultation in the Darabad center as well as in affiliated hospitals
- Play therapy sessions and training for volunteers.
- Parents meetings with each other and with a children's psychiatric specialist.

-Psychiatric support meetings for volunteers to reduce emotional pressure on volunteer social workers by a psychiatric specialist.

-Recruitment of five volunteer psychiatrists for free treatment of children and their parents.

-Organizing training workshops for social workers in the following topics:

a) Complex grief

b) Analyzing mutual relationships

c) Self control techniques

d) Introduction to Feng Shui

-Executing plans for training the youth volunteers for 'contact with children' group.

-Developing the project to educate teenagers titled "the child with cancer and his emotional needs" and presenting it to the management of the organization.

-Conducting group therapy for mothers and teens in the Darabad centre.

-Diagnostic interviews with addicted fathers of patients and referral to rehabilitation centers.

-Producing the structural and practical framework of the psychology department under the supervision of a specialist committee.

-Following up the educational progress of patients.

-Training sessions for the nursing staff titled "The emotional and mental needs of the child suffering from cancer".

-Training sessions for the social workers in Darabad centre for receiving and connecting to patients' families.

-Publication of an educational entertainment book titled "My life and treatment in hospital" involving the co-operation of translators and publishers in both financial and production aspects.

-Taking part in national seminars.

-Regular appearance of a MAHAK representative on National television and radio.

-Organizing massage sessions by volunteers in the Darabad centre for mothers of patients..

-Specialized training and educational sessions for two blind and semi-blind patients.

- Planning of entertainment programs for terminal patients.
- Admission of 1537 children in the playroom under the supervision of the department's psychologists and volunteer force since July 2004.
- The specialized activities have included: play therapy, child behavior analysis, family drawing tests. Entertainment activities have included: storytelling, group games, puppet shows, work therapy for teens and mothers including training in manual skills.
- Assessing the conditions of the transplant children housed at Villa center.
- Training youth volunteers for the "contact with child" group- part two.
- Call for voluntary co-operation by the society of psychologists through the society's newsletter.
- Canvassing the support of Sarzamin-e-baran fine arts institute to help train the playroom psychologist in their specialist teacher training program free of charge.
- Taking part in the special meetings of institute for the development of child and teens in order to choose suitable toys for the playroom at the Darabad complex.

Public Relations Department

The public relations department plays a vital role as a link with society at large. This department has become more sophisticated in its duties in the past five years. At present the PR department functions with the help of two members of staff and a varying number of volunteers.

The department's activities:

-Advertising:

- Printing of MAHAK 's advertisements in newspapers, magazines and specialist publications free of charge. Over 30 ads have been published annually. News and reportage of MAHAK 's events through mass media.
- Production and broadcasting of MAHAK 's television advertisements for free.

- Coordinating radio and television coverage of MAHAK 's events and ceremonies.

-Publications:

- Producing text for leaflets, greeting cards, posters etc and liaison with graphic artists and printing companies to receive their services either free of charge or for a minimal fee. The 2005 Christian calendar and 1384 Persian calendar were printed under sponsorship of a number of companies and corporations. Printing and technical support was provided by Friends of MAHAK at a reduced cost. These friends also donated a sum towards the costs of medication and treatment.
- The calendars are offered for sale to the public to generate income. In addition, every year a number of greeting cards are produced by supportive printing establishments free of charge for sale to the public.
- Publication of a seasonal internal newsletter with minimum cost and its distribution amongst the members. This publication which had previously been produced in two colors is now printed in a beautiful new design in four colors since the end of 2004.
- Because of the extensive growth in MAHAK 's departments in recent years, a weekly internal newsletter was started from the middle of 2004, to help keep the heads of each department abreast of the news and activities of other departments. At the end of each week, all the departments submit a weekly report of their week's activities to the PR department .After collating the information, PR department circulates a copy of the weekly bulletin to all internal departments and the management board. Up to 2005 more than 70 bulletins were produced and circulated.

Public Events:

- Taking part in Exhibitions, Conferences and Seminars held by different organizations in order to maximize the presence of MAHAK and to attract volunteer help, recruit friends and to generally introduce people from all walk of society with the activities of MAHAK in Tehran and the provinces.
- Throughout 2004 and 2005, MAHAK has participated in over 40 exhibitions, conferences and other events with the help of the youth volunteer group and the social work department. These have included medical conferences, the Annual Book Exhibition, amongst many more.

-Amphitheatre:

- Supervision of the amphitheatre and the multi-function assembly room for concerts, seminars, and gatherings.
- Seating 300 people, the amphitheatre is equipped with lighting, sound and projection facilities donated by one of MAHAK 's supporters. More than 40 concerts and seminars and gatherings were held here with the help of friends of MAHAK in 2004 and 2005, all coordinated by PR department. The successes of these events were directly linked to the superb efforts of the youth volunteer group.

-Social and cultural activities:

- Contact with various artistic groups to hold concerts, plays and art exhibitions outside MAHAK 's premises.
- In 2004 and 2005, 20 concerts, plays and art exhibitions have been organized with co-ordination with the PR department in public halls, galleries and cultural centers for the benefit of MAHAK.
- MAHAK 's participation in these programs was facilitated by the joint efforts of PR department, the youth volunteer group and the recruitment section. Two charity sports events were also held ;a volleyball match between a team of artists and parliament in Azadi stadium and a football match between a team of artists and Esteghlal football team at Harandi stadium in 2005, with the proceeds going to MAHAK.

-Contact with other Iranian NGOs:

- Contact with other Iranian NGOs and participation in these organizations' events, to exchange ideas and for joint activities such as helping the victims of the Bam Earthquake, marking the International day of Family, etc.

Public relations department receives help from the young volunteers group for some of its activities such as production and distribution of newsletter, manning the MAHAK information desk, organizing the amphitheatre facility, organization and co-ordination in the fundraising events that take place inside and outside MAHAK.

International Relations Department

At the start of MAHAK 's work, there was not much need for an independent international section. Contact with Iranians in the Diaspora was made through the public relations department. A group of volunteers in PR department accepted the responsibility for international liaison in 2000. As a direct result of their activities MAHAK gained the membership of ICCCPO in the same year, as well as consulting position from the UN Socio-Economic Forum , ECOSOC , in May 2001. Membership in the information section of UN DPI followed in June 2002. Subsequent to acquiring these positions, it was decided that an independent International Relations section should be set up to expand the activities of the organization internationally. This new section began its activities officially in February 2002.

This section's main activities are:

- Contact with Iranians resident abroad
- Contact with the UN and its associated agencies such as UNHCR, ECOSOC , DPI , etc in Tehran, and their main offices in New York City , Geneva and Vienna.

- Contact with Embassies, companies and the ex-pat community in Tehran.
- Contact with similar organizations and institutes outside the country.
- Attracting International aid.
- Creating and updating MAHAK 's Web Site.

This section endeavors to introduce and maintain contact with the UN, foreign companies and organizations through the publication and distribution of English language brochure, Christian calendar and Annual Reports.

The international relations department participates in relevant events and seminars inside and outside the country. Examples of such events are listed below:

- Annual meetings of ICCCPO in September of each year held in different cities of the world since 2000.
- Annual meetings of the DPI at The UN in NYC in September since 2001.
- UNHCR meeting in August of 2004 in Geneva.

Following the announcement of the "Millennium Development Goals" by the Secretary General of the UN, Kofi Annan, and the recruitment of civil society for reaching these goals, MAHAK was one of the first NGOs to take the initiative to introduce these development goals to the country by inviting the head of the UN' s NGO section from NYC to Tehran. The two workshops that were held as a result, in the MAHAK Complex in March 2003, introduced other active NGOs in Tehran to these goals.

The Goals are as follows:-

Goal 1 - Reduction of poverty and hunger.

Goal 2 - Achieving free universal primary education throughout the world.

Goal 3 - Prevention of sexual discrimination and supporting women.

Goal 4 - Reduction of children's mortality rate.

Goal 5 - Support of pregnant mothers.

Goal 6 - Combating contagious diseases such as Aids and Malaria.

Goal 7 - Preserving the environment.

Goal 8 - Global co-operation for development.

The fourth goal "Reduction in the children's mortality rate" corresponds to MAHAK 's own charter. The organization is eager to promote the MDG throughout the country. To this end MAHAK takes active part in the relevant meetings held by UNDP in Tehran. MAHAK is also very active in the

National Committee and the NGO Committee created to follow up on the implementation of the goals.

Since MAHAK 's help is directed at those families who are from the poorer section of society, its activities in helping such families economically and culturally also fulfils the first MDG goal.

Organizing events on relevant International days is amongst this section's responsibilities, namely;

- Marking the international Children's Cancer Day ICCD as announced by ICCCPPO in February 2003 and 2004.
- Marking the International Volunteer Day as set by the UN in December 2003, 2004, and 2005.
- Organizing a drawing exhibition in “the children with LUKEMIA Week” in may 2005 as suggested by the LOSEV organization (Similar organization to MAHAK based in Turkey and a member of the ICCCPPO).

Fund Raising Department

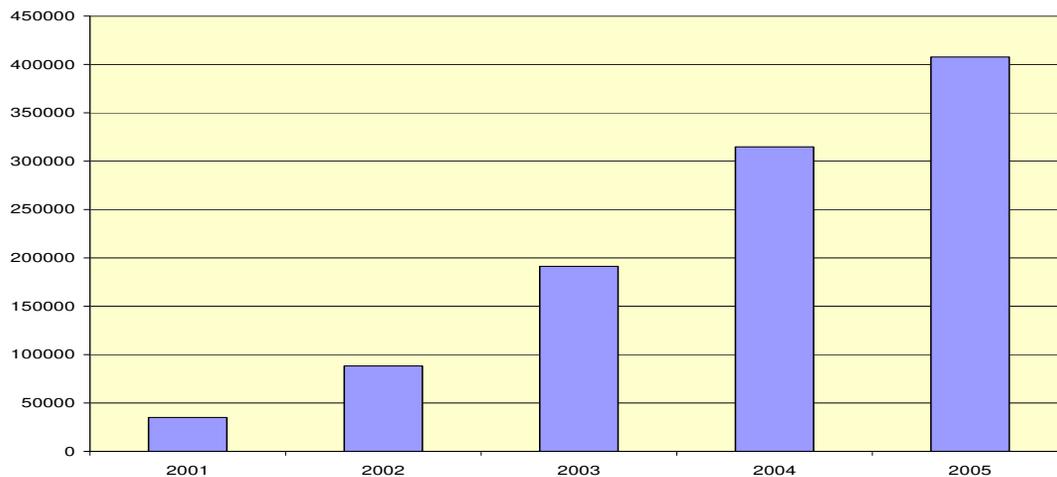
The fund raising department is one of MAHAK 's important departments; it is through their effort that we have a source of income. The public provide us with both economical and manpower resources. All donations and gifts from the public are received by this department.

This department has three sub-sections:

- ❖ Donation Box section
- ❖ Members section
- ❖ Volunteer and Youth Group section

The idea of producing and distributing terracotta donation boxes throughout the city was first suggested by the young members' committee in 2001. The management of MAHAK decided to implement this idea through the Fund Raising department. A specially designed money box was produced and distributed amongst the volunteers and other interested individuals.

The tremendous success of the donation box project led to a separate section being set up under the same name to continue its activities under the supervision of the fund raising department. At present, these donation boxes are regularly distributed in offices, shops and private homes in Tehran and some provincial cities as well as Kish Island. The general public can make their cash contributions as well as pay their membership fees through these boxes. This section began operation with one staff member, but today there are six dedicated staff and a manager. In addition a number of volunteers undertake to break the donation boxes and count the contents on a daily basis. The following graph shows the growth in income through donation boxes in the past five years and the amounts on Y axis label, are presenting the amount of income in US currency as an average of 1 Dollar = 8390 Rials.



The number of MAHAK members nationwide, who helped the organization with its goals through membership fees, stood at 30974 by the end of 2005. Approximately 200 of these are active volunteers in Tehran who help us through their effective presence in planning and realization of our goals. Volunteer members participate in the daily running of MAHAK in three different sections:

-Social Work

-Fundraising

-MAHAK Youth Group.

The fund raising department's activities to secure funds for the organization are as follows:

- Receiving cash and non-cash donations
- Receiving membership fees
- Receiving aid and credit from public and private sectors
- Distributing money boxes in Tehran and the provinces
- Collecting income from charity bazaars

- Collecting income from concerts, art exhibitions, organizing events and parties to benefit MAHAK

In 2001, one of MAHAK friends donated a shop to the organization which was later decorated and fitted by another friend turning it into an office for MAHAK to receive public donations. This office began work under the supervision of the Fund Raising department in August 2002.

The Fund Raising department holds money box breaking ceremonies in September, a food Bazaar in December, and a New Year charity bazaar in March to help augment the organization's income. They also organize other programs such as concerts and art exhibitions. All these events help attract both cash donations and new members to support the organization.

Volunteers Department

The shaping of MAHAK as an organization is in tandem with the shaping of the volunteer section. The first generation of young volunteers of MAHAK who were then called ' Youth Committee ' and then were re-named 'MAHAK Youth Group ' , were the children and relatives of the founders of MAHAK. Their number grew rapidly from 10 to 500 in the space of ten years. As MAHAK has grown, the role of the young volunteer group has changed from merely practical support to one of planning and execution of projects.

-Planning:

The constant growth in the number of young volunteers made it necessary for a considered plan to maximize the efficiency of this group's efforts for the organization. In a democratic move and with full respect for the spirit and value of public volunteers, the responsibility for planning the youth group activities was referred to the group itself, by MAHAK management. Since then, a committee of seven executives is elected from the youth group to form the Youth Council in an independent election.

The Youth Committee is the bridge between MAHAK and the young volunteer force. Responsibilities for various activities are distributed through this channel.

-Implementation:

Because the young volunteers come from various fields and backgrounds, they bring with them a variety of skills that can enrich and help MAHAK. Numerous engineers, doctors, artists, merchants etc have transformed the Youth Group to a multifunctional and multi faceted body.

The group's main activities in the past few years have consisted of:

- Liaison with the Fundraising Department -money box section by helping in distribution, collection and counting of donations through the money box scheme.

- Liaison with Fundraising Department- Charity Bazaars. Also, apart from the fund raising element of charity bazaars, these events play an important public relation role for MAHAK in introducing the organization to the greater public. In the beginning of the organization's life, young volunteers would simply lend a hand in manning the charity bazaars; nowadays they actively canvass, plan and organize the charity bazaars.
- Liaison with Public Relations department. The youth volunteers pay an active part in producing and distributing the MAHAK newsletter. They participate in seminars and various events and help organize concerts and events which help raise the profile of the organization and well as raise funds.
- Liaison with Social work department. Suitable candidates from the youth group help the social workers in a newly designed scheme called the "Child communication program ". These volunteers must take a special training course and sit special exams to qualify for this scheme.

Co-operation with "Cancer Institute of Iran "

In 2003, MAHAK and "Cancer Institute of Iran "reached an agreement to sign a partnership contract on research programs for a duration of two years.

Based on this agreement, MAHAK would provide a suitable space, in MAHAK Hospital and Rehabilitation Complex to help the Institute to start up a research program and scientific support on cancer with emphasis on cancer in children, the particulars of which is listed in below:

- Registering demographical study of children's cancer on National level as well as all age cancer data in Tehran city.
- Data Bank, on all patients who have registered with the Institute in the past decade and to collect similar data on new patients.
- Initiating a prevention program for job related cancer cases, especially on hazardous jobs (such as exposure to synthetic radiations, etc)
- Establishing a research program on cellular & molecular research , to learn more on diagnostic and preventative measure , as well as treatment of different types of cancer.

In 2005 after evaluating the results of the two year cooperation, the agreement was extended for another two years. All results of the research programs will be jointly presented by "Cancer Institute of Iran "and MAHAK to the National and International audience and will be registered and published as such.

Fiscal Report

The report on MAHAK Incomes and Expenditures during the Past Five Years is presented in the table below.

MAHAK Incomes and Expenditures during the Past Five Years	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Incomes					
	1000 US \$				
Public Donations and Gifts	385	512	1392	1424	1462
Donation Boxes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	408
Membership Fees*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	58
Activities	32.5	41.5	66	71	100.5
Charity Bazaars	14.5	26	46	37	20.5
Donations by Companies and Organizations	52	55	182	158	285
Alms	45	72	73	66	108
Child Sponsorship	0.00	0.00	39	45	108
Others	184	285.5	147	169	157
Total	713	965	1945	1970	2707**
Expenditures					
Treatment and Social Work Costs	284	506	532	1026	1576
Salaries	77	98.5	103	224	312.5
General and Administration Costs	94.8	49.5	96	140	392
Others	-	-	184	287	-
Total	455.8	654	915	1677	2280

*N/A: These incomes are listed under "Others" section from 2001-2004.

**In 2005 the society was given a generous gift of medical equipment by the Tehran University of Medical sciences.

Contact Information of MAHAK 's Centers

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Tel: (+9821) 66504136

Bank Account details

Local Accounts

Currency Account No. 140059
Bank Saderat, Branch 1445,
Tehran, Iran

Currency Account in Dubai,
United Arab Emirates (U.A.E), Dubai
Regional Office
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Deira)
Account Number: 125050
P. O. Box: 4182
Tel: 04-2221161
SWIFT: BSIRAEAD
Telex: 45456 SADERAT BANK
Fax: 2234460

Currency Accounts

Bank Account No. 4444
Bank Saderat, Branch 1445,

Bank Account No. 2222/75
Bank Sepah, Branch 1351,

Bank Account No. 72826000
Bank Tejarat, Branch 385,

Bank Account No. 1616
Bank Karafarin