

CHILDREN
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FUND

Press release

25. 12. 2020

Robin the Robot befriends children during medical treatment

YEREVAN - The children receiving long-term treatment at the Hematology Center after Prof. R. H. Yeolyan will have a new companion, **Robin the Robot**.

Designed and produced by **Expper Technologies**, the robot was funded by **Iniciar for Global Action Foundation and the Nazarian Family** through its Armenian counterpart, **Children of Armenia Fund (COAF)**.

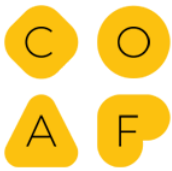
Robin was greeted in its new home not only by children and local doctors but also by the benefactor directly from the USA.

"Robin is a robot of hope, smiles, and companionship for patients, families, and the staff at the Center of Hematology. We advocate social developments, and we believe that every child deserves a dignified life. In such difficult times our nation is facing, bringing joy and smiles to our young ones is the least we can all do," emphasized **Vera Nazarian**, Iniciar Founder and CEO.

In 2019, Expper Technologies launched the deployment of Robin the Robot in healthcare settings. Robin differs from many other AI robots by displaying and expressing emotions while communicating and creating an emotional connection with children. It helps kids in the recovery process by brightening up the hospital environment and distracting them from the pain and discomfort associated with the hospital routine.

"Such initiatives are crucial as they create a positive environment children constantly need during long-term treatment and favorably impact the recovery process. We are happy to welcome Robin the Robot among our ranks. I am sure it will become an integral part of our team and a favorite friend of the children," mentioned **Samvel Danielyan**, the Director at the Hematology Center after Prof. R. H. Yeolyan.

Robin manages to distract children during painful interventions and reduce their perception of pain. Some children even have a better appetite after interacting with Robin.



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"We are very happy that this wonderful initiative was launched through the joint efforts of the Iniciar for Global Action Foundation and COAF. Thanks to the cooperation, Robin the Robot will now be a close friend of the children of the Hematology Center and will make the children's daily life happier and brighter," mentioned **Karen Khachikyan**, the Founder and CEO of Expper Technologies.

Inpatient children perceive Robin as a peer - it has the qualities of catching a conversation and developing it, caring for the mood of a sick child, asking questions about toys, hobbies, friends, or family, and revealing and trying to answer children's concerns. The latter build mutual trust and facilitate the work with doctors.

"COAF works with children and their parents living in the villages of Armenia starting at an early age, by trying to prevent possible illnesses and their development through our health programs. Today as well, we have blissfully assumed the mission of giving smiles and positive emotions to children who will celebrate the New Year not at home but in a hospital," highlighted COAF Managing Director **Korioun Khatchadourian**.

About Iniciar for Global Action Foundation

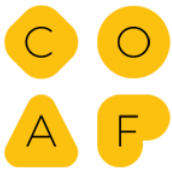
Iniciar for Global Action Foundation works with interdisciplinary professionals with the goal of achieving changes and sustainable developments in vulnerable communities. We achieve this through networking, sensitizing and raising awareness. The guiding pillars at Iniciar for Global Action are health; education; women; children; environment; migration; housing and micro-financing.

About Hematology Center after Prof. R.Yeolyan

The Hematology Center after Prof. R. H. Yeolyan, Ministry of Health, Republic of Armenia, is a unique specialized medical institution dealing with the diagnosis and treatment of blood system diseases in Armenia. The center carries out a full-fledged diagnosis and treatment of children and adults with malignant and other blood system diseases using the new technologies, international guidelines, curative programs and practices.

About Expper Technologies

Expper Technologies has created the first Armenian robot to support children during medical treatment and alleviate their pain by creating positive experiences.



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About COAF

The “Children of Armenia” Fund (COAF) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that employs community-led approaches aimed at improving the quality of life

in rural Armenia, with a particular focus on children and youth. COAF’s target development areas are education, healthcare, social and economic development. COAF launched its programs in 2004, starting in one village and expanding to 64 villages in Armavir, Aragatsotn, Lori, Gegharkunik, Shirak, and Tavush regions, impacting more than 107,000 beneficiaries.

Since 2015, COAF has developed and started implementing a new vision – SMART Initiative. COAF SMART is designed to advance a generation across the rural world through education that will benefit individuals, societies, and the environment. COAF SMART will become an exemplary model of development and will be replicated in other regions and communities throughout Armenia. The first COAF SMART Center was inaugurated on May 27, 2018, near the village of Debet, Lori Region.