

## Our Journey

Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospital (KACCH) has been providing **psychosocial services** for children and families in hospitals across Kuwait since its establishment in 1989. The vision of providing **therapeutic play**, child life, and psychosocial care for children and their families in hospitals began under the leadership of Dr Hilal and Mrs Margaret Al Sayer. Today, KACCH administers child life programmes which are led by highly-qualified **Child Life Specialists and Play Leaders**. Child Life Specialists and Play Leaders work in partnership with doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals in hospitals to meet the unique emotional, developmental, and social needs of each child and family, always putting the needs of the child and family first. To date, there are eight Child Life programs in **eight governmental hospitals** in Kuwait.

Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice (BACCH) was inspired by **a young boy, Abdullah**, who returned to Kuwait from London when there was no treatment possible that would offer hope for a cure for his illness. Abdullah's mother promised him that he would never again have to stay in a hospital. Abdullah's mother asked for support from KACCH to enable her to look after Abdullah at home. A team of experts were formed **to manage his pain** and other symptoms while allowing Abdullah to live as normal a life as possible. The powerful experience of witnessing Abdullah's courage and love of life once his pain and symptoms were managed stayed with Dr Hilal and Mrs Margaret Al Sayer. **With the support of the wider Kuwaiti community**, BACCH was established to specifically give children with **life-limiting and life-threatening conditions** the specialised care they need, ensuring emphasis is placed on quality of life and the best day to day care possible. BACCH was officially opened under the auspices of the late Amir of Kuwait H.H Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in **January 2012**.

  
**1989** - First KACCH Child Life Programme established at Al Amiri Hospital



**1994** - KACCH Child Life Programme reinstated at Al Amiri Hospital post invasion



**1995** - Postgraduate Certificate in Child Life launched at Kuwait University



**1996** - First CLS graduates from Kuwait University

**KACCH Child Life Programme starts:**

**1996** - Ward 8 of Sabah Paediatric Hospital for Children with Leukaemia

**1997** - Paediatric ward 1 at Ibn Sina Hospital



**1998** - Paediatric wards at Al Farwaniya Hospital and Al Razi Hospital

**2005** - Home service by the Palliative Care for Children at Home (PACCH) Team began. The PACCH Team provided comprehensive pain management and palliative care at home for children.



**2005** - Ground breaking ceremony for Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice

**2005** - First International Paediatric Palliative Conference in the Middle East held in Kuwait



**2012** - BACCH Opening Ceremony

**2017** - KACCH services began at the new Stem Cell Therapy Unit of NBK Children's Hospital

**2018** - KACCH services began at the new Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah Hospital



**2019** - KACCH celebrates its 30th anniversary



**2020** - COVID 19 Pandemic

**2020** - The amalgamation of KACCH & BACCH

**2020** - KACCH & BACCH start Telehealth psychosocial and palliative care services



**2021** - KACCH services began at the paediatric ward at Al Adan Hospital



**2022** - BACCH celebrates its 10th anniversary



**In 2020, KACCH & BACCH merged into one organisation with one guiding vision and mission.**

### **Our Vision**

To be the centre of excellence for paediatric psychosocial and paediatric palliative care for sick children and their families.

### **Our Mission**

To deliver excellent paediatric psychosocial and paediatric palliative care in partnership with children and their families in hospitals, at home, and in Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice.

### **Our Commitment to Patient and Family Centred Care**

- Clinical services include medical, nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, dietetic, and pharmacy.
- Psychosocial services include child life, play, expressive therapies, music therapy, counselling, and bereavement services.
- Schooling for palliative children and their siblings.
- Catering services.
- Transportation services.
- Respite services for children and their families.

### **Our Contact Information:**

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## **Did you know?**

**1** KACCH was **inspired by** a personal experience of Mrs Margaret Al-Sayer, when her youngest son was admitted to hospital with an acute asthmatic attack. Margaret became keenly aware of the sterile hospital environment and **lack of play areas** or toys for children admitted to the paediatric ward. This laid the foundation of opening the first KACCH playroom in Al Amiri Hospital in 1989.

**2** Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice is the **only paediatric hospice** in the Middle East.

**3** KACCH & BACCH supported **over 1/2 a million** children and their families since its establishment.

**4** Despite the adversity of the pandemic, in 2020, KACCH & BACCH provided **2,582** clinical services and **14,785** psychosocial services for children, siblings, and their parents/caregivers whether in-person or through Telehealth services.

