

Grieving dad gives a helping hug to other kids with leukaemia

After losing 11-year-old son to blood cancer, parents donate money collected for his treatment to other needy families with ailing children

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BISWAJIT Dadwal is grieving his 11-year-old son, who he lost to leukaemia last December. But that hasn't stopped him from extending help to other parents in need of money for their children's treatment — having raised ₹5.5 lakh for Haardik Dadwal's treatment, the heart-broken father has been donating the money to families struggling to raise funds for their ailing kids.

So far, he has donated ₹2 lakh to a crowdfunding website that has already helped three patients. He plans to donate the rest of it to the paediatric department of Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH) and other parents.

The good father

Biswajit donated ₹50,000 for the treatment of 18-month-old Sampriti Roy, leukaemia patient admitted at Nanavati Hospital, who has to undergo chemotherapy sessions and take bone marrow injections daily. Doctors have quoted ₹10 lakh as her treatment cost, which can go up to ₹18 lakh, considering her condition.

When tragedy struck

Haardik was 10 when the Dadwal family was given the heartbreaking diagnosis — acute leukaemia, requiring cycles of chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant. His four-year-old sister was the identified stem cell donor, but the boy didn't make it, passing away on December 30, 2017.



Sampriti with her father Bidyut Roy; (right) Haardik Dadwal passed away last year



₹5.5L

Amount the Dadwals had raised for their son's treatment

₹2 LAKH

Amount the family has donated so far

Her father Bidyut, a Kolkata native working in Mumbai, said, "I can understand the pain he [Biswajit] is going through. I was so overwhelmed [when he donated], I couldn't stop my tears," said Bidyut. "My wife and I understand the helplessness of parents; our son suffered for a year and a half. I am not a doctor, so I can't save these children's lives. But, in my son's memory, I can at least help their families monetarily," said Biswajit.

Welcome gesture

"Once they got over the intensely painful initial grieving period, Haardik's parents decided to help other children with leukaemia. He

pledged to donate ₹2 lakh to Impactguru and the rest personally to parents he knows and Tata Memorial Hospital. We sent him files of similar cases from our tie-up hospitals and he donated accordingly," said Piyush Jain, CEO and founder of Impactguru.

Talking to mid-day, Dr S D Banavali, head of the paediatric oncology department at TMH, welcomed Dadwals' gesture. "If he donates the money, we can use it for our IMPACT Foundation, which is meant for paediatric cancer patients. If anyone wants to donate to TMH, s/he should come directly to the hospital, as often in the name of charity, people fool others," he said.