



Dear friends of HOPE,

I would like to share with you a cry for help from distant friends of HOPE from Slovenia. As President of HOPE, I am happy to help Vanessa and her family, who are struggling after these catastrophic floods. Every little bit helps. It is better to give than to take. Brian Tracy once said: "Always give without remembering and always receive without forgetting." The rest is silence.

Those of you who are willing to give a concrete help, please go to the platform [WhyDonate](https://whydonate.com/en/fundraising/help-me-fight-my-disease-and-rebuild-our-house):
<https://whydonate.com/en/fundraising/help-me-fight-my-disease-and-rebuild-our-house>

Best regards, Jan Haverkate, from the Netherlands. (President of HOPE)

E-mail address: president@hospitalteachers.eu



Tanja Becan from Slovenia

Dear friends of HOPE,

1988 was a special year; at that time, hospital teachers from all over Europe gathered for the first time at their congress in Ljubljana, Slovenia; the initiative for the meeting was given by the doctor prof. dr. Pavle Kornhauser. At that time, I had just started teaching at the Ledina Hospital School in Ljubljana, but I immediately joined the new international family, which became later the official HOPE. In 1996, I became the principal of Ledina Hospital School, and all the time I participated in HOPE conferences with my lectures. I was also committed member for Slovenia for quite a few years, as well as a member of the Board of HOPE. I had the opportunity to be among those members who wrote the famous Charter of HOPE. The closest HOPE colleagues Christian Lieutenant, Hans Courlander, Gerd Falk Schalk, Cherida Coleman, Helene Voisoïn, Palle Yndal Olsen, Elisabeth Cauchon, Riitta Launis, Mona Meister and Michele Capurso helped me to develop the Ljubljana Hospital School into a high-quality school. Many of those mentioned have also become my true friends, and with many of them we also helped our colleagues in some countries to establish good schools for students with medical or mental health needs there as well. At the end of 2021, after the challenging corona period also in (hospital) schools, I retired and ceased active membership in HOPE,

I believe that it is the younger people who now have to build HOPE and also schools for students with medical and mental health needs for the challenging times we are in and will continue to be.

I myself, as a volunteer, nowadays help people who find themselves in one or another life hardship, including refugees who decide to stay in Slovenia and need to learn Slovenian. So I'm still building hope, though no longer HOPE.

Some days ago, I got the phone call from my former colleague Isabelle, she is the headmaster of special school for physically handicapped children in Kamnik, Slovenia and we worked quite a lot together. In August 2023 we had catastrophic flood in Slovenia and the house of my colleague was totally damaged. They have to move and now they are living in rented flat. They already begin to rebuild their home. The problem is that their house was very special, build with very special, very expensive materials; their daughter Vanessa has namely a very special disease. Now their house is gone, it is total disaster.

They are trying to find the money for the renovation of the house. That's why they also begin with their own campaign and they wish that this campaign should be spread also abroad in order to be more successful in finding the help. Isabelle asked me if I can help her and so I sent the letter to my HOPE friends, asking for help.

You can find the campaign here, on the platform WhyDonate:

<https://whydonate.com/en/fundraising/help-me-fight-my-disease-and-rebuild-our-house>

(If you can't open the link, you have to write ***Help me fight my disease and rebuild our house*** in the window "search Fundraisers".)

And now, I am asking also you, if you can help. If you have more questions, please, do not hesitate to ask me. I will send the answer as soon as I can, me or my friend Isabelle.

Thank you very much. And all the best wishes and take care

Best regards, Tanja Becan, from Slovenia.

E-mail address: tanja.becan@guest.arnes.si

Help me fight my disease and rebuild our house

Hi, I'm Vanessa from Slovenia and this is what I wrote this afternoon after being rushed to the hospital.



Vanessa from Slovenia.

I'm sitting in the waiting room of an A&E, realising my world is shattering into pieces. Cognitively I know how we've got to this point, but emotionally I just cannot keep track of all the events that have unfolded in the past three weeks... I feel like I'm living in a parallel universe. At the beginning of August our house was destroyed by devastating floods. In fifteen minutes, everything was gone. Years of hard work vanished in a moment, we watched the safe environment my parents have created for me to live in, an environment especially crafted to sustain my health disappear in front of our very eyes.

In the past three weeks we've exhausted all the options. We've looked at every possible financing plan. This is our last chance. My last chance to fight this disease. Now we're at the hospital again, my health has deteriorated, I'm watching my parents scramble to make a plan, I need to at least try... try and ask for help.

I was born prematurely with an unknown congenital disorder. I was immunocompromised, I had breathing difficulties, lung and heart problems, left sided paralysis, I couldn't eat and kept throwing up, I had no clavicles and no sternum. Through it all my parents were optimistic. They taught me how to walk, to ride a bike and even swim, they supported me when I wanted to take up ballet. I certainly wasn't executing any of these sports at a level my peers could, but I was incredibly happy.

By trial and error, we've learnt what made my health better and what made it worse. Fourteen years ago, my parents built a new home with the aim of creating an environment that will minimise the risk of infections and help support my wellbeing. The house had special walls, windows, a recuperator for mechanical air ventilation, specific filters, and disinfecting systems. There was a room specifically dedicated to my medical and rehabilitation equipment. It helped a lot. They've invested everything into building of our home, everything to help me fight this chronic condition. And everything was destroyed in those deadly fifteen minutes.

To be honest, I already know what the doctors will say once they call me back in. Soon I'll have to face it. I might not have much time left before I have to make a decision. I've seen all the ECG's from the past few years. My heart is too weak. As I have no sternum, my ribs have been rotting inwards towards the spine, compromising the cardiovascular and respiratory system. They've been especially putting too much pressure on my left ventricle and vena cava. Everyone seems extremely worried, I'm worried. I have been worried ever since I've been putting off this second highly risky surgery. Although no one was really keen on informing us on the stats, there's about a fifty percent chance of survival. However, there may be a better way. We've spoken to surgeons in Switzerland who are developing a new treatment. This could be a much safer surgery with better recovery rates. But it's not available yet, we need to buy time. I need to stay healthy and can't succumb to any infections

otherwise my heart might be jeopardised or give out completely. This house, the safe environment it created, my rehabilitation equipment, this was my best chance to keep going against all odds.



Slovenia after the floods.

I need help. That's why I'm turning to you, to this incredible community, to ask you to donate, to help us rebuild the house and give me a chance to fight. Words cannot describe how much this would mean to us. I will be forever grateful for your help.

The donations will go towards:

Opening up the inner walls of our wooden skeletal structure: cutting the Fermacell lining and taking out the Rockwall insulation, drying and disinfecting the wooden structure.

Opening up the outer walls of the house, taking out all of the components and disinfecting the wooden structure.

Replacing all of the elements the walls are composed of: Fermacell, styrofoam, Rockwool and closing the inner and outer walls.

Taking out the damaged windows and replacing them.

Replacing the heat pump, the recuperation for mechanical air ventilation and the air filters, replacing the water disinfecting system.

Finishing the floors: pouring the concrete, adding insulation, the screed and the floor finish.

Setting up electricity.

Replacing the medical and rehabilitation equipment.

Adding in new stairs if the existing ones cannot be salvaged.

Replacing the doors.

My medical therapies and rehabilitation.

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