



## PHILANTHROPY

### 5.1 INTRODUCTION TO SPONSORSHIP AND PHILANTHROPY

In December 2017, Kartesia employees voted to replace the year-end corporate gift with a donation to a project benefiting underprivileged children. Since then, we donate to several non-profit organisations on an annual basis. In 2020, we donated to The Refugee Next Door (“RND”). The Refugee Next Door ASBL is a Belgian non-profit organization active in Uganda. In 2007, RND started building the St Francis School in the slums of Masese (Jinja District), with the aim of providing an education to the most vulnerable children and freeing the time of their parents to focus on generating an income for their family. Since 2007, they have built an additional new classroom each year and the latest will be finalized this year. This will allow the children to continue on their educational journey from nursery to completing primary school. With the school growing each year, they have welcomed a greater number of children on an annual basis, and they now have 400 pupils. With this increase in size, new lavatories became a necessity for the school and Kartesia was delighted to be able to provide the financial support to help with their installation and improve sanitation at St Francis.

Alongside this annual donation, Kartesia set up several sponsorship and philanthropy initiatives such as the annual Kartesia volunteering day, the donation of furniture and refurbished smartphones to people in need and the long-term sponsorship of Institut Curie, covered later in this section of the report.

*aSmartWorld<sup>20</sup> is a Belgian non-profit that collects, tests and refurbishes mobile devices in order to sell them or to distribute them for a good cause. The company is working to build a more sustainable and humane world. They are also extending the lifespan of everyday products and helping to avoid the abundant use of scarce and expensive raw materials. By extending the lifespan of electronic devices, they significantly reduce the associated CO2 emissions.*



<sup>20</sup> [www.asmartworld.be](http://www.asmartworld.be)

## 5.2 THE AYA UNIT OF THE INSTITUT CURIE

*Created by Marie Curie in 1909, Institut Curie is a public charitable foundation composed of a research centre on cell biology and oncology combined with a state-of-the-art hospital specialised in the treatment of cancer. Institut Curie was a pioneer in several new treatments for cancer in the last decades and today, it is a leading centre for the care of teenagers and young adults impacted by cancer.*

*Indeed, the AYA (Adolescents & Young Adults) department of Institut Curie is one of only 3 dedicated units in France specifically treating adolescents and young adults with cancer. They pay particular attention to the 15-25 age group. For these young people in the midst of identity building, dealing with the effects of cancer is often described as a “double punishment”.*

*The AYA team is made up of about fifteen people (working mostly part time with AYA) with different roles (doctors, nurses, social workers, youth coordinator, psychologists, etc.). Kartesia, which is very proud to be one of the financial sponsors of AYA, was lucky enough to interview Dr Valérie Laurence (VL), head of AYA unit, and Sandra Quié (SQ), youth coordinator who provide care and relief through companionship and organised activities for the young patients.*

### DR LAURENCE, AS HEAD OF DEPARTMENT, COULD YOU TELL US WHEN AND WHY THE AYA UNIT HAS BEEN CREATED?

VL: In the 1990's and early 200's most AYA patients were hospitalized in paediatric departments with young children or in the adult oncology department with patients who are often 50 years old or more. This is the reason why Institut Curie has created the AYA unit in 2013, so that this specific group of patients would receive an adapted care program. The AYA team is multidisciplinary and gathers medical staff specialized in paediatric and adult oncology, as well as a coordination nurse, nurses, social workers and a youth coordinator. These professionals have been trained specifically to care for these patients who are in between children and adults and who act sometimes like children and sometimes like responsible adults.

### KARTESIA IS SPONSORING YOUR ANIMATION PROGRAM. WHY IS THAT PROGRAM SO IMPORTANT?

VL: Sickness is an ordeal that can lead to a withdrawal into oneself. That is why it is important to maintain our patients' interaction with everyday life. To do so, the AYA unit offers a program of activities all year long, as well as an educational support. By doing these activities, the patients keep their role as living actors of their lives. Also, peer relations contribute to access to quality social support, which is an important variable in patient adjustment with cancer.

SQ: The adolescents that perceive higher social support report less psychological distress and exhibit higher adaptation scores, so we are keen to encourage social interaction and participation in fun group activities. It is also important that patients are able to take breaks from periods of isolation in their hospital rooms, so we try to encourage them to gather in “The Young Room”,

where they can play cards and video games, as well as a range of pre-planned activities. One of our most popular events recently has been the music workshop, run by professional musicians from outside the Institut, which offered the opportunity to mix, produce and listen to new styles of music. These workshops allow patients some relief from the day-to-day difficulties of treatment and the animation program has definitely helped to improve the quality of life of the young patients of Institut Curie.

Kartesia is now supporting our animation program but we are still looking for our psychomotor therapist's and psychologist's financial support. And of course, our biggest challenge is to have our patients cured.

*If you would like to join Kartesia and become a financial sponsor of the AYA unit of the Institut Curie, please contact Giboulet Caroline, Head of Philanthropy, at [caroline.giboulet@curie.fr](mailto:caroline.giboulet@curie.fr)*

### WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL BE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FOR THE AYA UNIT IN 2021?

VL: COVID-19 will remain the main challenge for 2021. Activities for the teenagers are quite limited, especially during the recurring lockdowns as we sometimes struggle to preserve their social links. Finding financial support is also a challenge each year. We are depending on sponsors for several activities.

