**“We have dreams to build. Together”.**

**SACMI supports Ageop**

**This morning saw the inauguration of the facilities ‘adopted’ by SACMI**

***On the occasion of Christmas, a donation has been approved for the ‘Casa Gialla’ facility run by Bologna-based association Ageop, which has been at the forefront of pediatric oncological research, treatment and support for over 40 years. This morning, the building in via Massarenti 183, which hosts young patients and their families, saw the inauguration of the rooms ‘adopted’ by SACMI. In the photo, from left: Paolo Mongardi, President of SACMI, Francesca Testoni, director of Ageop, Giuliano Airoli, SACMI director.***

*Bologna, 18 December 2023* - **SACMI** is lending its support to ***Casa Gialla***, a facility that provides child cancer patients not simply with treatment but a place to play and live. As Christmas 2023 nears, the **SACMI** Board of Directors has approved a major **donation** to help the association finalize its purchase of the facility, thus completing the ‘solidarity tender’ Ageop launched in 2021.

This morning, an inaugural ceremony was held in **via Massarenti 183**, in Bologna, with the unveiling of a plaque on the premises ‘adopted’ by SACMI. Attending the event were **Paolo Mongardi**, President of SACMI, **Francesca Testoni**, director of Ageop, and **Giuliano Airoli**, SACMI director.

The ***Casa Gialla*** project is run by **Ageop Ricerca**, a Bolognese association that has been committed to scientific research and support in the field of pediatric oncohematology for more than 40 years.

Based in the **Policlinico Sant’Orsola** in Bologna, Ageop hosts, free of charge, hundreds of children and parents every year at 4 facilities located outside the hospital. This allows families - especially those from out of town - to cope with the long, delicate process of care and recovery. Young patients and their families are hosted here for as long as the treatment plan requires; they are then placed under the umbrella of a long-term ‘protected discharge’ plan that may last several months or even years.

*Casa Gialla* constitutes the last ‘piece’ of Ageop Ricerca's integrated hosting system. Purchased and renovated in 2015, the building was recently the focus of a **solidarity tender** involving artists, businesses and institutions. **SACMI** has made a significant donation that will help the association pay off the mortgage taken out on the property.

“In our homes, everything is designed to ensure children and parents receive protection, aid and affection. Ageop's free hosting service lets families treat their children at one of Italy’s leading hospitals”, notes the director of Ageop, **Francesca Testoni**, “helping to ensure all children have access to the best care available. Safeguarding the right to healthcare is one of our key goals and we’re extremely grateful to SACMI for the support it has chosen to give. Only together, in fact, can we build a better future for children and adolescents affected by cancer.”

“By playing its part in practical projects, SACMI sustains the right to education and healthcare, especially children, worldwide”, points out the President of SACMI, Paolo Mongardi. “In this case, we’ve chosen to support a vital local facility that treats child cancer. It’s a facility that, perhaps more than any other, reflects the true meaning of solidarity and the importance of being able to count on adequate assistance and treatment networks”.

This is much more than ‘accommodation’. It’s a ‘home’ where you receive the welcoming support of doctors, psychologists and volunteers. *Casa Gialla* has **family rooms** and **communal areas** - such as a gym - that let guests share their experiences and lend each other emotional support as they face the treatment plan together.

Discussion with other families going through the same experience can be as valuable as consultation with the doctors. Practical and profound psychological needs are also met with the aid of **the association’s two counselors**, who are **based at *Casa Gialla*** and are available 7 days a week.

At the heart of the facility lies the gym, a place where patients can overcome isolation by playing with other children, engaging in experiences and activities that gently soften this time of illness. In recognition of the support received, the gym and the two counselors’ offices will be **named after SACMI**.

Ageop Ricerca and SACMI press offices