

EM EMEA Raises Awareness and Money for Cytomegalovirus



What began as a small community relations project for Avnet Electronics Marketing (EM) EMEA's Palaiseau, France, office has blossomed into a lasting partnership.

Inspired by President Patrick Zammit's encouragement to get involved in their community last Christmas, employees began looking for a cause to support. They found one in 12-year-old Emilie, who was infected by Cytomegalovirus

(CMV) at birth.

Not only did EM EMEA print a book of Emilie's poems, but its SCS, Silica and Time business units also organized and donated items for a "tombola" or auction during a Palaiseau dance show put on by children in wheelchairs. Employees purchased 100 tickets for the show and baked cakes to sell there. The show ultimately raised 1,500€ for Pour les Yeux d'Emilie.

"Helping Emilie and her association doesn't cost much, and all Palaiseau office employees are very motivated to help this association not only for Emilie's sake but also to make CMV known by everybody," says Claire Dizes, senior buyer for Silica. "We want to encourage our French Department of Social Security to do something to avoid this illness and make all potential mothers aware of it."

Emilie's mother visited the Palaiseau office in June to educate employees about the nature of CMV and how to avoid it. The family travels to Miami annually for training in biofeedback and nervous system stimulation treatments Emilie receives, and hopes to train other families through the association.

Claire joined the association and will soon be a member of its assembly. Additionally, Avnet is now one of its biggest sponsors. "The name of our company is mentioned in all of their efforts, including a running race last summer in Savoie," she says.

In less than a year, EM EMEA has created a strong partnership that is having a lasting effect.