

# THE GROUPAMA FOUNDATION AND GROUPAMA IMMOBILIER SUPPORT NGO TOUJOURS PRÈS



**Groupama**  
IMMOBILIER



TOUJOURS PRÈS



FONDATION  
**Groupama**  
vaincre les maladies rares

The purpose of « *Toujours Près* » (“Always Close”) is to provide support to families (parents, siblings) whose children are hospitalised for short, medium or long periods.

Alexis Fraikin, the NGO’s founder and Chair, expresses its philosophy in a few words:

*“ Helping children fight the disease means helping their families to remain at their side in the best possible conditions and maintaining sibling ties and family harmony ”.*

## ► THE IDEA BEHIND TOUJOURS PRÈS

« Children face serious illness alone, here in this city. This is as disgraceful as it’s unfair, in our privileged environment here in France, in Paris, where the best medical care is available to us. This is what inspired me to create the NGO **Toujours Près** », explains **Alexis Fraikin**. « To give the project the necessary initial impetus, I allocated part of my personal assets to it.

In April 2015, I acquired the first two studios in the vicinity of Necker Hospital.

After two months of renovation, they were fitted out and made available to

the first two families chosen by the Necker Hospital’s Social Services, for a period determined by the duration of their children’s hospitalisation».

**Toujours Près** signed an agreement with the management of the Necker Children’s Hospital to help its in-house Social Services department in their perpetual search for accommodation for families that arrive in Paris to stay close by their children.

« Léane is "our" first child to leave Paris with her family, after a successful operation. A wonderful encouragement for us. »

*“ Since the NGO’s creation in 2015, thirty-two families were put up in the apartments. And, whatever the outcome of their children’s illness, these families were able to face the tragedy of their child’s hospitalisation at Necker in slightly less difficult conditions.”*



## ► SUPPORT FROM THE GROUPAMA FOUNDATION AND GROUPAMA IMMOBILIER

The Groupama Foundation and Groupama Immobilier were deeply moved by the difficulties encountered by children suffering from serious pathologies and the struggle of their families to support them and fight alongside them. We decided to take action and offer support & assistance in various forms.

In July 2018, the Groupama Foundation awarded **Toujours Près** a grant, which made it possible to renew apartment furniture, carry out works and cover some expenses.

In September 2018, Groupama Immobilier organised the sale of an employee’s watercolours in one of the company’s buildings, the prestigious **Hôtel de Günzburg** overlooking Paris’s **Arc de Triomphe**. The proceeds were donated in full to the NGO. This amount helped to pay for one year of operation for two studio apartments.

In January 2019, Groupama Immobilier made available to **Toujours Près**, for a period of two years, a completely renovated and highly functional two-room apartment in the 15th arrondissement of Paris, five metro stations from the Necker hospital, fully furnished thanks to the proceeds from the sale of the watercolours. A month later, the first family settled in there: they had two children at Necker.

## ► THE TOUCHING STORIES OF BENEFICIARIES

### Romain's family

“ We live on Reunion Island and had to come to Paris so that our five-year-old son could receive a transplant here. Until 29 November 2016, he had to be given six dialyses a week for more than two and a half years, due to the nephrotic syndrome.

We arrived in Paris in early November 2016 for the pre-graft examinations. The donor was Romain's mother.

We left behind our two older boys, ages 10 and 12, in the care of grandmothers and other family members.

Through Professor Rémi Salomon, we benefited from use of an apartment, courtesy of the NGO **Toujours Près**, which made us feel a little bit at home while waiting for the operation. Most importantly, it made it possible for us to have our two older kids over for the Christmas holidays.

This NGO helped us very much by providing us with fully furnished accommodation just a stone's throw from the **Necker Children's Hospital**. We were very warmly received by the team, which makes a big difference. When you come from far away, are a little confused (different climate, unknown places, etc.) and particularly anxious because of the disease, it is comforting to deal with people who take care of you and make so many things available almost for free.

A big thank you to **Toujours Près**. Although we're far away, we'll always think of you. ”

Romain, his brothers and his parents.



## Words of gratitude from the first family housed at rue du Théâtre in Paris



“ We’d been living abroad for several years and had to rush home in June 2018 for health reasons.

As our child’s condition quickly deteriorated, the medical team ordered an emergency transfer to Necker Hospital.

The problem of accommodation, or rather shelter, immediately arose for us, the parents.

In October 2018, Toujours Près offered us, through the immunology/haematology department’s social worker, a studio in the immediate vicinity of the Necker hospital. Our move into this apartment gave us peace of mind and let us focus solely on our son’s illness.

In late February 2019, the NGO contacted us to offer a completely renovated two-room apartment, much more spacious than the studio we’d been staying in. This was a breath of fresh air for us. We could bring in our two other children during the school holidays.

Those who run this NGO and their sponsors are among the people who make the world a better place, with solidarity and mutual aid as cardinal values. In Paris, considering the difficulties in finding accommodation and the worries over a hospitalised child, Toujours Près is a godsend for many families coming from other regions or from abroad. Without it, many would be left high and dry. Only those who have been through the awful experience where their children’s lives are at stake can understand.

From now on, they can count on us for everything.

A thankful family.”



## ► PARTNERSHIPS TO BE DEVELOPED. SUPPORT TO BE STRENGTHENED

“ We are more determined than ever to keep Toujours Près alive and make it grow ”  
says Alexis Fraikin.

Toujours Près now aims to set up partnerships with other hospitals, both in Paris and elsewhere, to offer accommodation solutions across France.

You can join Toujours Près and/or make an online donation.

The NGO is always on the lookout for new partnerships, in the business, non-profit and public sectors, to provide time, skills and funding.

Toujours Près also welcomes donations from generous patrons, who can help us offer parents accommodation solutions to stay at their children's bedside.

As Toujours Près is now officially recognised in France as serving the public interest, potential investors can benefit from tax exemptions.



Do not hesitate to spread the word about Toujours Près and its work among your contacts and networks : <https://toujourspres.com>

*People's determination, courage and perseverance, combined with generosity, kindheartedness and care for others, are an extremely powerful tool for good.*

Many thanks to all of you.