

# Report of Hope 2015



## Childcan's Annual Report to the Community

Childcan raises funds to provide responsive and compassionate support services to families facing the journey through childhood cancer – from diagnosis, through treatment, to recovery, or bereavement.



Ashton recently completed treatment and is loving life – beach days, birthday parties and lots of family fun days!

*"Childcan reaches out to families when things are falling apart and gives them love, support and guidance. My part is very small, but I am glad to help a charity that I believe in." – Childcan volunteer*

*"I heard the father of one of the children saying that this is a journey that no one should have to take. He is exactly right. I donate to do what I can to make it a little easier." – Childcan donor*

*"Childcan is not only the helping hand and shoulder to lean on financially but emotionally during the most overwhelming time for families!" – Childcan family*





## Message from the Chair

We wish we didn't have to exist. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have no need to support families facing childhood cancer, because there *were no families facing childhood cancer*? Unfortunately, that's not the case, and until it is, we'll be here, doing everything we can to help these incredible families and children through a journey they shouldn't have to take.



We can at least make it a journey they don't have to face alone – and we're happy to say we also don't have to go it alone, because of the amazing people we have in our community – our Childcan community. We are so grateful to you, our donors, our volunteers, our event organizers, our supporters, our friends. You remind us every day of what we can achieve when we do it together. We don't say it enough, and it's at times of review that it really comes to the forefront, but please know that we are forever grateful for every worry we've been able to take off the shoulders of a parent, every smile we've been able to put on a child's face, every chance we've had to extend a hand or a hug. You've made them all possible with your amazing support. Thank you.

## Message from the Executive Director

Last year, we celebrated our 40th anniversary. Over the past 40 years, and still, the need for responsive support for the families and children facing childhood cancer has unfortunately only continued to grow. We are often contacted by families from other provinces and even south of the border looking for somewhere to turn. While saddened to realize there may not be Childcan-like organizations providing services elsewhere, we are happy to be able to do what we can for our local families – families that continue to amaze and inspire us with their strength and resilience. They are our heroes; they are why we are here.

In 2015, we were able to support more than 180 families. Financial assistance ranged from help with the expenses of in-hospital treatment – parking passes and meal vouchers, travel and hotel costs – to the charges for special dietary and medication requirements, to relief from the household bills that become insurmountable on one income to, sadly, support for funeral costs as part of our Bereavement Program. We helped students catch up on missed schooling with tutoring and through post-secondary bursaries, and we treated families and children to the welcome distraction of an exclusive showing of Star Wars, a day at Canada's Wonderland, and a fun-filled Christmas party.

None of this, not one bit, would be possible without the generosity of our donors, sponsors, volunteers and friends – people like you who give so compassionately, who host and attend events, who share your time and your gifts, who spread awareness. We cannot thank you enough. You make a daily difference in the lives of the families we support. You unburden them from the financial worries inflicted by this devastating diagnosis. You let them focus on their child. You inspire us and you inspire hope.

*"We are proud to volunteer with Childcan; we believe in and want to support Childcan's mission. It's a real pleasure to work with the families and the Childcan staff...it brings us great joy to see the children enjoying themselves at different events."* – Childcan volunteers

## Our Vision:

Families faced with childhood cancer will receive support services to ease their pain.

## Our Values:

- Compassionate • Respectful • Responsive
- Family Centred • Flexible • Trustworthy

## Our Services:

- Newly Diagnosed Family Pack
- Parking Support
- Meal Vouchers
- Holiday Meals
- Individual Family Assistance
- Support Groups
- Family Fun Days
- Post-Secondary Bursaries
- Tutoring
- Bereavement Support
- Research Support

## Our Families:

Families who have recently been diagnosed are referred to us from Children's Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre. Mirroring the hospital's catchment area, we serve children and families from throughout southwestern Ontario, including London/Middlesex, Windsor/Essex, Waterloo, Oxford, Sarnia/Lambton, Bruce/Grey, Elgin, Perth, Kent and Huron.



*"I was overwhelmed by the support that is given outside of family, not only financially but emotionally as well. The organizations that are helping families like ours cope with childhood cancer are incredible."* – Childcan family

# Quinton's Journey

## as told by his mom, Nikki

Quinton was born on August 19th, 2015, a healthy 8 lbs 1 ounce, with lovely soft brown hair and beautiful blue eyes.

Shortly before his first Christmas, we went to my parents' house to enjoy a family gathering. The day was wonderful, filled with laughter, delicious food, and even an early visit from Santa.

When Quinton awoke from his nap that afternoon, he seemed irritable and hot to the touch. That night, he continued to be restless so, the following morning, I took him to our local hospital, where the doctor found he had an ear infection. Unfortunately, Quinton did not respond well to the new medication. Each hour, his condition seemed to worsen. Back at the hospital, he was taken for x-rays which revealed pneumonia. The doctors in our small town decided his care was beyond what they could provide and we were sent by ambulance to Children's Hospital in London, Ontario.

I will never forget the moment when the doctor explained what Quinton's blood culture had revealed.

There, the ER doctors and nurses were concerned that Quinton had become severely dehydrated. A central line would be needed. It would be impossible to put into words the horror of the following hours. It is extremely challenging to get a needle into the vein of a baby and, in a severely dehydrated infant, near impossible. After several hours and countless attempts, one of the doctors was able to secure access. My husband and I assumed a day or so in hospital and then we'd be sent home. We were sadly mistaken.

I have read articles and talked to a few unfortunate parents about what it felt like when they heard the diagnosis. Shock, disbelief, anger, despair. I will never forget the

moment when the doctor explained what Quinton's blood culture had revealed. It was three days before Christmas and my husband and I were seated in a private cubicle with an attending physician. He told us in the most direct and compassionate way possible that our beloved four-month old son had a cancer known as Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia or A.L.L. He would need a lumbar puncture, a bone marrow test and a Broviac catheter inserted into his chest in order to receive chemotherapy.

At first, my husband and I wondered if it was right to inflict such pain on our sweet little baby. After a great deal of tears, my husband finally concluded, "I don't think I'm ready to say goodbye to him yet." And with that, we agreed to let the doctors do all that was possible to save our son.

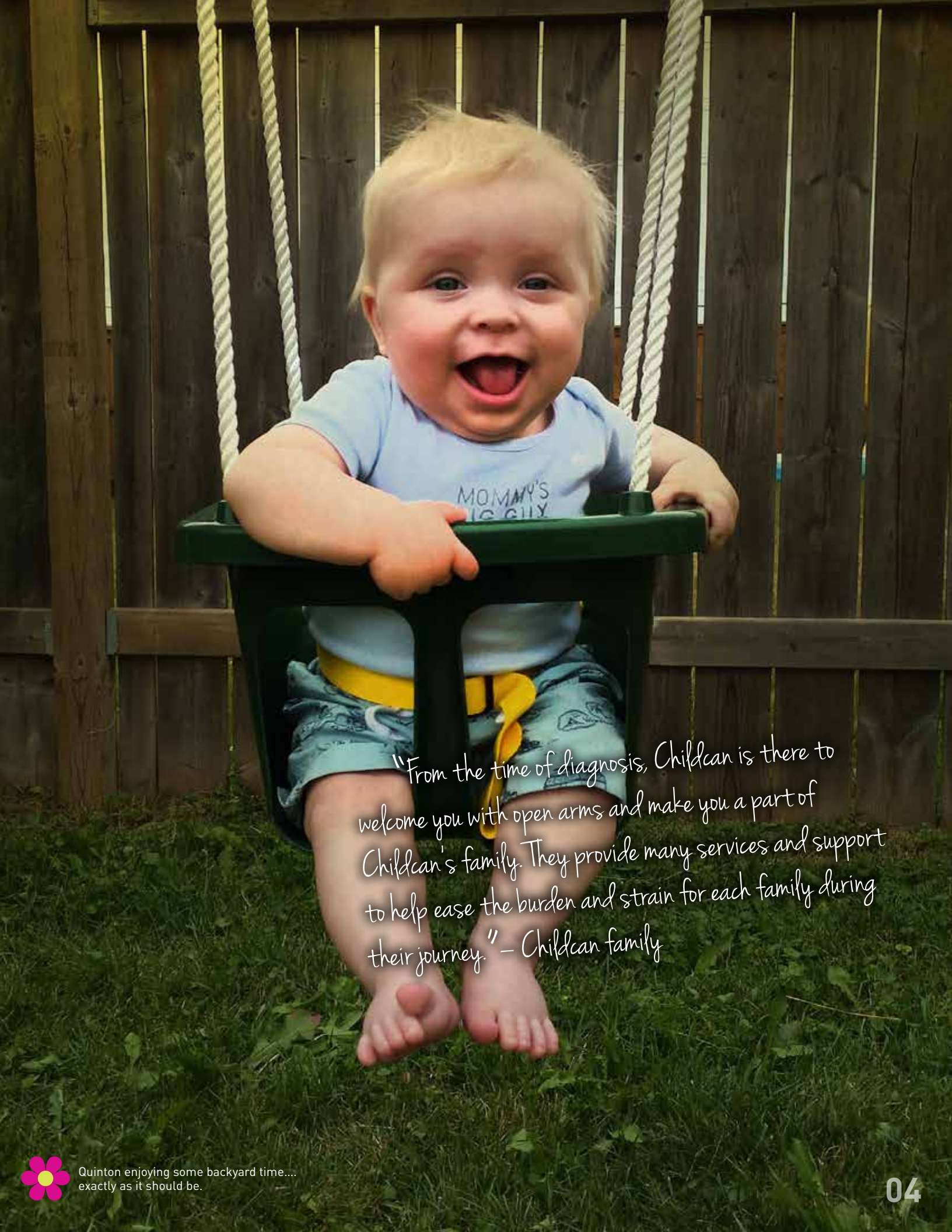
Quinton was diagnosed with high risk A.L.L. Because of his very young age and the gene rearrangement of the disease, his form of leukemia would be particularly difficult to treat. It was unknown at that point how he would respond. The doctors did know that he would not leave the hospital for at least four to six months, possibly longer. Treatment would last into his third year. We were told to be prepared for immediate and future side effects from the medications he would be receiving.

One of the initial visits we received during our first day was from the Family Support worker from Childcan. She gave us information for important resources, meal vouchers and a parking pass, and reassured us that we were not alone.

The day before Christmas, Quinton was taken for surgery for the placement of his Broviac central line and his bone marrow biopsy. During that time, he received his initial dose of chemotherapy.

### *And so began our journey.*

After seven months of treatment, they tell us that Quinton's prognosis is good. We have also been told that a similar diagnosis ten years ago would not have been as favourable. Research on the treatment of childhood cancer is essential to help the thousands of children who are diagnosed with this life-threatening disease.



*"From the time of diagnosis, Childcan is there to welcome you with open arms and make you a part of Childcan's family. They provide many services and support to help ease the burden and strain for each family during their journey." – Childcan family*





We have endured many difficult days, yet we have never felt alone. The supports from the hospital and community have allowed us keep our focus on our son.

Thanks to so many amazing professionals, support systems and medical innovations, my family has hope. As Quinton approaches his first birthday, I am allowing myself to look into his future. It is filled with many more birthday cakes, candles and wishes to be made. And each year, when he blows out his candles, I will make my own single wish that we will one day find a cure to end all childhood cancers.



## The Impact of Your Support

Childcan does not receive any government or United Way funding and relies solely on the generosity of individual, corporate and community donors, grants, and annual Childcan and community events to assist our families.

In 2015, our dedicated supporters donated more than \$261,000 and raised over \$207,500 at fundraising events – including numerous third party events organized by community members who devote their time, energy and talent to hosting an amazing variety of activities. In total, over \$468,000 was raised! Thank you!

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While it doesn't show up in these numbers, we are also extremely privileged to have the support of a devoted group of volunteers who selflessly spend countless hours putting their passion and skills to work for our families and children. We could not achieve so much without them and their compassion and commitment! Thank you!

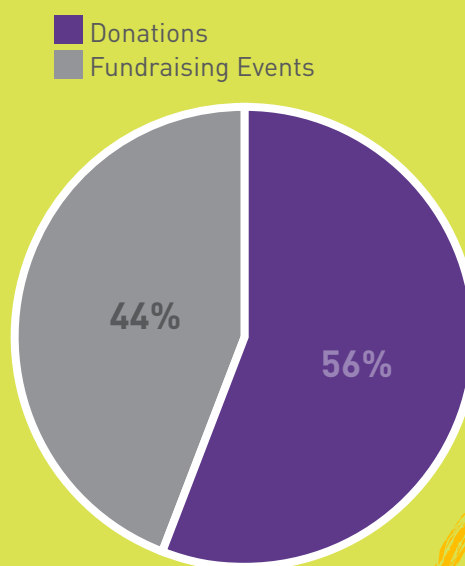
Financial Summary, year ended December 31, 2015

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$468,631</b>
Donations	261,073
Fundraising	207,558
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$432,778</b>
Programs and Services	227,613
Administration	38,399
Salaries	126,465
Fundraising	40,301
Surplus of Revenue over Expenses	\$35,853

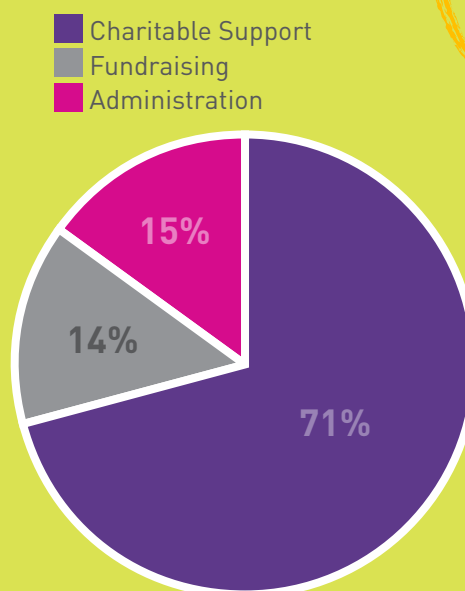
Statement of Financial Position, as at December 31, 2015

<b>Assets</b>	<b>\$473,909</b>
Current	
Cash	139,590
Accounts receivable	44,675
Government remittances recoverable	16,939
Prepaid expenses	531
Capital Assets	272,174
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>\$225,868</b>
Current	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	36,256
Deferred revenue	5,742
Long-term debt due within one year	6,220
Long-term Debt	177,650
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$248,041</b>

Sources of Revenue



Expenses





Jacqueline...a beautiful and active AML survivor. Her story brings hope and inspiration to many of our newly diagnosed families.

### **Childcan Board of Directors**

Randy Bartholomew, *Chair*  
Lainie Gardner, *Vice Chair*  
Vijay Venkatesan, *Treasurer*  
Julie Dowler, RN, *Secretary*  
Lynn Wood  
Jackie Kinder  
Mike Delaney

### **Childcan Staff**

Kathleen Barnard, *Executive Director*  
Renee Simmons, *Family Support*  
Brea Felton, *Finance and Administration Coordinator*



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