

Report of Hope 2016

Childcan's Annual Report to the Community



One of our brave survivors, seven-year-old Gabby, enjoying some time in the sun.

Our Mission:

Childcan raises awareness and funds for childhood cancer in order to support childhood cancer research and provide responsive and compassionate programs and services to families facing the journey through childhood cancer, from diagnosis through treatment, to recovery or bereavement.



Message from the Chairs

This past year was one of change for us at Childcan. We formalized and actioned our strategic plan and we hired a new Executive Director, Kathleen. These changes allowed our Family Support Lead, Renee, to devote her time to what she does so well – helping our families – and combined to set us on a wonderful path for the year, revitalizing our events, our partnerships and, most importantly, the programs and services we provide for our children and families.

2016 brought the official recognition of the gold ribbon and of the month of September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and we took full advantage of that – participating in awareness-raising events in our region, in Toronto and jointly with like-minded individuals and organizations across the country. We shared our stories – *your* stories – of courage and love and we saw new audiences come forward and recognize that childhood

cancer is not rare, and it is life-altering. We received the support of these new audiences and are so grateful to them and to all that continue to assist us – through events, by volunteering, and financially. You truly make a difference and enable us to continue our important work.

2016 saw one other change; our long-time Board Chair, Randy, stepped down after steering the organization for several years and bringing us to the growth and momentum we are now enjoying. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Randy for his years of dedication and vision.


Mike Delaney
Board Co-chair


Lainie Gardner
Board Co-chair


Message from the Executive Director

You may have noticed that our mission statement changed from last year's – a slight change to the wording, but a significant change through the addition of a new way to support our children. Those of you who attended our Annual Community Meeting last year will know that we started providing funding support for clinical trials at Children's Hospital, LHSC, enabling our children to participate without having to travel to Toronto or other distant centres to do so. We are thrilled to be able to return to our roots as "the Childhood Cancer Research Association" and fund this new and hopefully life-saving program.

We were also very excited to be able to expand another program last year: our treatment-related travel program. Our goal is to provide additional support for families travelling 50-200 kms (one-way) to unscheduled treatments in order to lift another stressful burden from our parents' shoulders.

Of course, these additional programs and services couldn't have happened without the support that we receive from our community. It was phenomenal last year – with new and returning organizations and individuals stepping up and hosting fundraising events and activities, volunteers devoting countless hours in a multitude of ways, fantastic support for our own signature 10,000 Paces for 10,000 Faces walk/run, and amazing generosity from foundations, companies and individuals.

This report is for all of you, to thank you, to show the power of your gifts of time, talent and funds for the incredible families and children we serve.


Kathleen Barnard
Executive Director

Our Vision:

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

Our Values:

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

Our Services:

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

Our Families:

We support families of children who have received their diagnosis of any type of childhood cancer from Children's Hospital, London Health Sciences Centre, a tertiary care referral centre serving southwestern and into northwestern Ontario. We are here to support these families who are coming from London/Middlesex, Windsor/Essex, Sarnia/Lambton, Waterloo Region, and Oxford, Grey/Bruce, Elgin, Perth, Kent and Huron counties.



Start Every Day with Hope...Nick's Story

as told by his mom, Sarah

On March 26, 2015, an appointment with the eye doctor changed our lives forever...

At the end of 2014, we'd noticed that our usually energetic seven-year-old son was not himself. He was more tired than usual and had some random episodes of vomiting. This was dismissed as reflux.

It was not until he started to have visual disturbances and headaches that my "mom gut" told me something was very wrong. I felt he had a brain tumour, but no one believed me. I was sent away from the ER twice, told he was a normal healthy seven-year-old and to see an eye doctor if his eyes continued to bother him. It was the optometrist who saw the swelling on my son's optic nerve and sent us to the ER with documents in hand for an immediate CT scan.

After his scan was done, our worst fears were confirmed; we were told "your son has a very large brain tumour on his frontal lobe".

Things happened very quickly after that and he was taken into surgery that night.

It was a very long night as we waited for his seven-hour surgery to be finished.

The surgeon told us his tumour was the size of a large apple and it was hard to tell if she got it all. We would have to wait for the pathology report to tell us what kind of tumour it was. His tumour was difficult to figure out and, after a long month of waiting, we were told it was cancer and we were given a diagnosis of a "CNS Ewing's sarcoma".

Nick was started on a very intense chemotherapy protocol during which he spent more time in the hospital than out. One month into chemo, they did another MRI that showed a small tumour was there.

On June 8, 2015, Nick had his second brain surgery.

The pathology of his tumour was a source of great debate amongst a number of pathologists at different centres as it never quite fit the original diagnosis. We stopped the first protocol and started down a different path based on a new diagnosis of a "PNET", but, again, his tumour did not quite fit the profile of that diagnosis either.

“ I remember one of the first things Renee told me was to 'start every day with hope'. This got me through some of the toughest days and continues to be my motto. ”

Four doses into cranial spinal radiation, we got the call that a new diagnosis had been agreed upon amongst the pathologists and, once again, his treatment protocol would be changed. He now was diagnosed with an "anaplastic supratentorial ependymoma". Chemo was stopped and 33 doses of focal radiation continued.

During radiation a review of his scans was done by the tumour board and it was determined that there was still one cm of tumour left behind from the very first surgery. If it was still there at the end of radiation, he would need another surgery.

It was, so on October 13, 2015, we were off to Sick Kids in Toronto for his third brain surgery.

The surgeon said he got it all! Nick was finally tumour-free!

It has been a long road but, as of right now, Nick is 15 months post treatment and cancer-free! He is doing great at school and back playing soccer and hockey. We are not out of the woods yet and he is monitored every three months for recurrence.

We have learned to not take anything for granted and make the most of every day!

Renee from Childcan was in touch with me within days of receiving his initial diagnosis. She provided us with a parking pass, meal tickets during each admission and, most importantly, emotional support which we did not get from anywhere else.

I remember one of the first things Renee told me was to "start every day with hope". This got me through some of the toughest days and continues to be my motto. We will never give up hope!



Nine-year-old Nick leaving his mark on our Hero Wall.

The Difference You Make

Childcan could not be there for the families and children coping with childhood cancer were it not for the generosity of our community. Many are surprised to hear that we don't receive government funding, or contributions through our local United Way. What we do receive is an outpouring of generosity from those who know and see the difference that their support makes – individual, corporate and community donors, foundations and other granting organizations, and the incredible people that plan, host and participate in a myriad of community events, as well as the best bunch of dedicated, tireless volunteers that any organization could ever ask for!

In 2016, donations from our generous supporters totalled almost \$300,000, while an additional \$280,000+ was raised at fundraising events. What an incredible impact this total revenue of \$580,564 has for our families, enabling us to provide financial, emotional, social and research support that truly makes a difference, a difference articulated by our Childcan families in the quotes throughout this report and summed up by these words that make us know how privileged we are to be there for our families:

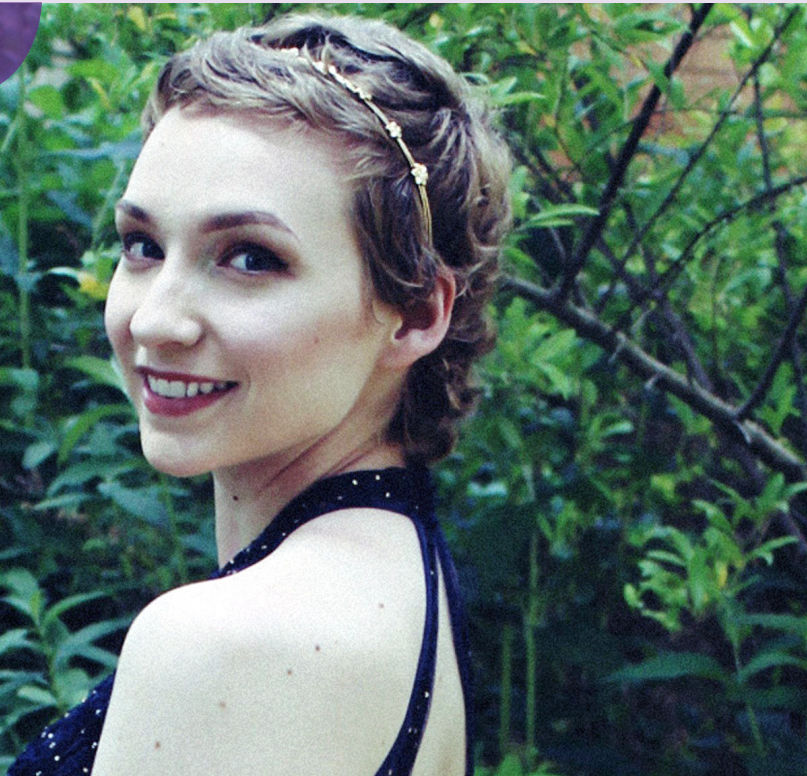
“We couldn't have done it without the help of Childcan.”

And we at Childcan, couldn't do it without you. Thank you!

“ I never imagined being a part of an organization like Childcan, but I don't know where we'd be without it. In our darkest moment, Childcan was our beacon of light. We are so grateful to Childcan for all they do for our children and our families. ”

“ We, as a family, are so fortunate for the assistance, both emotionally and financially, we have received from Childcan. We would have never survived without them. ”

Ruby, a beautiful survivor, attending her prom.

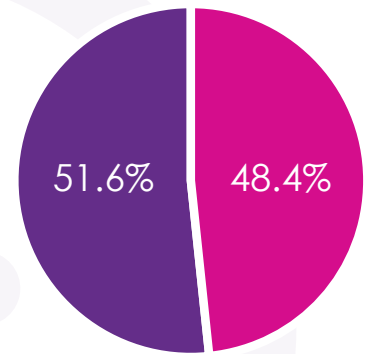


Financial Summary, year ended December 31, 2016

Revenue	\$580,564
Donations	299,415
Fundraising	281,149
Expenses	\$484,761
Programs and Services	250,216
Administration	36,405
Salaries	150,628
Fundraising	47,512
Surplus of Revenue over Expenses	\$95,803

Sources of Revenue

- Donations
- Fundraising Events



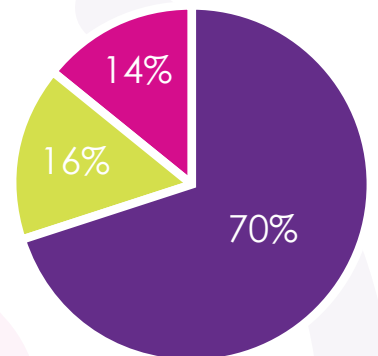
Statement of Financial Position, as at December 31, 2016

Assets	\$590,357
Current	
Cash	252,072
Accounts receivable	56,466
Government remittances recoverable	11,862
Prepaid expenses	8,211
Capital Assets	261,746
Liabilities	\$246,513
Current	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	19,363
Deferred revenue	49,500
Long-term debt due within one year	6,603
Long-term debt	171,047
Net Assets	\$343,844

“ ... for me, even though Childcan has helped my family financially and I am forever grateful for that, they did an even more amazing thing; they replaced the tears and fears and brought smiles and laughter to my whole family in a time when it was so needed. ”

Expenses

- Charitable Support
- Fundraising
- Administration



Childcan 2017-18 Board of Directors

Mike Delaney, Co-chair
Lainie Gardner, Co-chair
Vijay Venkatesan, Treasurer
Julie Dowler, Secretary
Adam Brock
Kim Hill
Maureen Jenkins
Jackie Kinder
Jim Norbury
Chantale Tylus
Lynn Wood

Childcan Staff

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



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