



2020  
Report of  
**HOPE**

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It goes without saying that 2020 was an unusual year, a very trying year in so many different ways. It affected all of us but, for our Childcan families, it was doubly difficult. Living with childhood cancer while coping with the constraints, fear and isolation that the pandemic caused made the diagnosis that much more challenging – financially and emotionally.

For Childcan, it meant a drastic change to our provision of in-person support, with distanced meetings when restrictions allowed, but primarily with a move to virtual delivery. It meant no Childcan family gatherings and no trip to Canada's Wonderland. It meant a shift from in-person to virtual events and the cancellation or postponement of many fundraisers. It meant increased needs for assistance with accommodation expenses and travel costs, with hospital meals, and with financial support. It meant families were more alone and needed emotional support more than ever. It meant adapting our existing programs to meet these needs, and it meant adding new programs to address the very challenging circumstances our families were experiencing.

What didn't change is the generosity of our friends, sponsors, volunteers and donors. We asked and you answered, as you always do, with donations that enabled us to continue to deliver our critical programs, and to put into place the pieces that allowed us to still be there for our families in new but still meaningful ways.

With your help, we enhanced the direct support available to our families with the addition of Lorraine, our new Family Support Liaison based out of Windsor/Essex County. We enriched our education program, with new offerings that helped early learners and school-aged children keep up during a disrupted school year. We partnered with other like-minded organizations to provide more direct access to meals for our in-patient parents. We introduced new therapeutic programs for siblings, working to ensure their well-being during a tumultuous time.

We wouldn't be able to do any of this without our strong, yet kind-hearted community, a constant that the pandemic didn't change. Thank you for standing with us, despite the challenges that COVID inflicted on all of you, and for standing with our Childcan families as, together, we face childhood cancer.

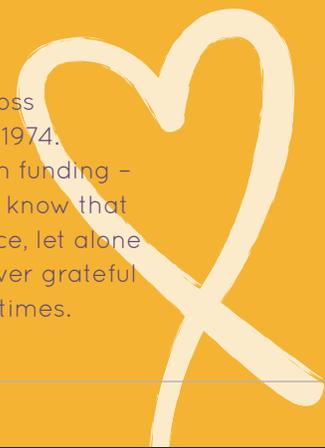


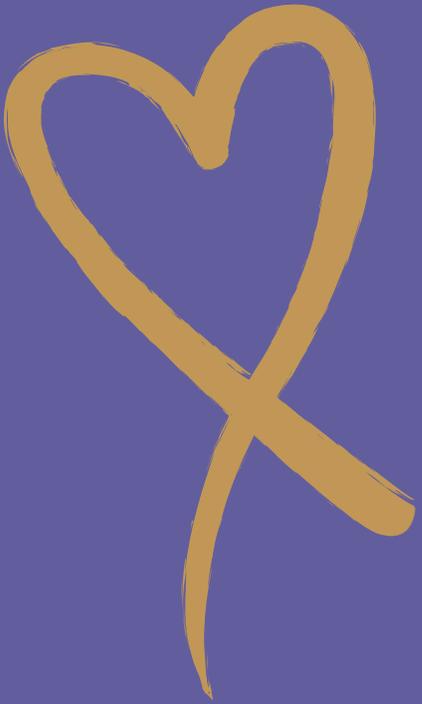
**ADAM BROCK**  
Board Chair



**KATHLEEN BARNARD**  
Executive Director

Faced with the news that their child has cancer, families from across western Ontario have turned to Childcan for direct support since 1974. Financial assistance, emotional support, social programs, research funding – it's all supported solely by donors who get involved because they know that childhood cancer is an experience that nobody thinks they will face, let alone one that families can prepare for. We, and those families, are forever grateful for the generosity that enables us to be here in the most difficult times.





## VISION

We believe childhood cancer must be designated a child health priority, and that support services for families are critical.

## MISSION

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

## OUR PILLARS

1. Mission Effectiveness
2. Leadership, Networking, Collaborative Action
3. Deeper and Broader Engagement

## OUR SERVICES

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Hospital parking passes
- Hospital meal vouchers
- Gas, pharmacy and other gift cards
- Individual family financial support
- Assistance with treatment-related travel and accommodation expenses
- Post-secondary education bursaries
- Assistance with funeral costs

### EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

- In-hospital, over-the-phone, in-person and virtual support
- Support groups
- Parent, couple and sibling bereavement counselling
- Wellness programs
- Sibling support
- Family activities, gatherings, outings and events
- In-hospital family meals
- Access to accurate, helpful information and resources
- Early and school years skill-building and tutoring programs
- Advocacy and awareness building to increase community knowledge and support

### RESEARCH SUPPORT

- Funding for novel research and therapies closer to home





# WE ARE NOT ALONE IN THIS FIGHT... LACHLAN'S STORY

as told by his dad, John

For most of us, 2020 will be known as the year of COVID. The year that we stopped shaking hands and started wearing masks, that schools, businesses and even borders closed. 2020 was certainly a year that our way of life changed and a year that most would like to forget. This could not be any more of an understatement for our family.

Much like the rest of the world, in 2020 we were just trying to stay healthy during the pandemic. We were trying to adapt to online learning, Internet shopping and FaceTime as the new way to visit family and friends.

As the pandemic lingered, you could feel the frustration from so many starting to set in and we were no different. Sick of not being able to do everyday things, I remember thinking to myself, 'How much worse can things get?' How I wish I could take back those words.

Little did we know that on October 1, 2020, our lives would be changed forever.

What started out as a routine eye appointment that day quickly changed when we were brought into a private room and told that our two-year-old son, Lachlan, had tumours in both eyes. It was the first time I had heard of this specific type of cancer: Bi-lateral Retinoblastoma. Hearing these words, about what we thought was our perfectly healthy little boy, was the most gut-wrenching news we ever received. It has shocked and terrified our family and it is news that we often still struggle to deal with.

***“Nothing can make going through childhood cancer easier but lessening the burden in other areas certainly allows us to focus on exactly what is important during these times – the health of our child.”***



Nothing can prepare you for this. That one sentence stopped us in our tracks.

Why did this happen to Lachlan? For the first time in our lives, we realized first hand that cancer truly does not discriminate. Cancer simply doesn't care. What we had worried about the day prior didn't seem all that important any more. Nothing else mattered but getting Lachlan the help he needed.

Within 23 hours, we were four hours from home at Toronto's SickKids, meeting some of the top retinoblastoma doctors in the world. Retinoblastoma is a rare type of childhood cancer; there are only about 20 children diagnosed per year in Canada.

In that very first meeting, we felt the urgency from the team of doctors who were prepping Lachlan for his MRI. This would determine how advanced his cancer was and help them develop a chemotherapy plan.

Once chemotherapy was initiated, we were required to attend our local hospital in Windsor for constant bloodwork. It was in our very first visit there that we met Lorraine from Childcan. She very patiently explained all of the services that Childcan offers and even shared some personal experiences. This made such a difference for us and helped us realize that we are not alone in this fight.

Through Childcan, Lorraine has provided our family with gas and restaurant cards, set up parking at SickKids, given us gifts for not just Lachlan, but also our daughter at Christmas, assisted with finances to offset hotels, and the list goes on.

Nothing can make going through childhood cancer easier but lessening the burden in other areas certainly allows us to focus on exactly what is important during these times – the health of our child.

Since Lachlan was diagnosed, he has had a PORT inserted in his chest, an MRI, four rounds of chemotherapy, eight exams under anesthetic, four hearing tests, 47 Granulocyte Colony Stimulating Factor shots, three blood transfusions, his blood checked 13 times, and eight COVID tests. He has had his right eye lasered five times and his left eye lasered four times and cryotherapy done two times. And despite all of this, he still has a very long road ahead.

In the early part of 2021, Lachlan had some new spots pop up on his left eye. Although this was a setback, the doctors had warned us that this could happen. In March 2021, Lachlan was one of the first people in the world to participate in phase II of a clinical trial where a chemoplaque was stitched directly to his eye in hopes of killing this tumour off and saving his left eye. I disclose all of his procedures, not as a badge of honour or to compare him to other warriors, but simply to give parents that have never been through this an idea of how tough these little fighters can be.

There is no doubt that it takes an army to help a family during a crisis like this. We are fortunate to have a very supportive family, great friends and a community to pick us up when we are down, but we are also very grateful for organizations like Childcan. They truly do make a difference and they will always hold a special place in our hearts.

# MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER



COVID-19 – an expression we were just hearing for the first time in the early days of 2020, now a daily topic that has impacted all our lives more than we could have ever imagined. In light of the global pandemic, Childcan's management and board of directors carefully stewarded funds received to ensure that our programs and services continued to support our families and community, both last year and for many years to come.

Childcan raised over \$817,000 in 2020, a slight increase versus 2019. Our wonderful community raised \$296,417 through third party events, a 13% decrease versus 2019, but an amazing result given many events had to be postponed, cancelled, or re-imagined. With support from our passionate volunteers, Childcan's signature events raised \$229,384, a 10% decrease versus 2019. The revenue decrease from events was more than made up through generous donations from individuals, families, corporations and granting organizations totaling \$275,916, a 29% increase versus 2019.

Childcan disbursed \$201,773 in direct family support, a 13% decrease from prior year. This decrease was due to the difficult but necessary decision to cancel our annual Canada's Wonderland trip and in-person children's holiday parties. We continued to assist our young adults in pursuing their goals by awarding seven post-secondary bursaries and for the fifth straight year, we met our commitment by providing \$45,000 to Children's Hospital's paediatric research unit (total to date \$230,000), helping to improve treatments and offer options for our families, closer to home. Total charitable support represented 72% of expenses while fundraising and management & administration costs all decreased versus 2019.

Payroll costs increased because we added a part-time Family Support Liaison in Windsor to better serve our families in that region. This addition was contemplated in our strategic plan and we are proud that we could keep that commitment to our Windsor and area families during these challenging times.

Working closely with our Executive Director and staff, the Board continued to build assets and reserves, increasing our net assets by 35% versus 2019. We are in the process of updating our strategic plan to preserve our strong financial position, continue to provide the much-needed support our community needs, and, when the time is right, sensibly increase our mandate and services provided.

2021 will be another challenging year, but as promised in last year's report, Childcan will be here for our families - with programs and services that will make a meaningful difference in their lives - this year, next year, and for many years to come.

**RUSSELL SMITH**  
2020 Board Treasurer



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

year ended December 31

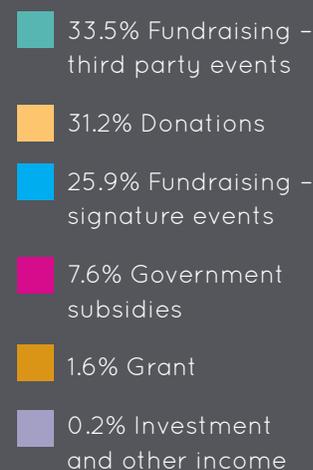
	2020	2019
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$817,078</b>	<b>\$811,035</b>
Fundraising – third party	296,417	338,471
Donations	275,916	214,243
Fundraising – signature events	229,384	255,887
Grants	13,990	--
Investment and other income	1,371	2,434
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$669,008</b>	<b>\$701,689</b>
Programs and Services	316,701	355,774
Administration	27,813	41,879
Salaries	274,963	251,774
Fundraising	49,531	52,262
Net revenue from operations	\$148,070	\$109,347
Government subsidies	67,157	--
Net revenue	215,227	109,346
Net assets, beginning of year	614,591	505,245
Net assets, end of year	\$ 829,818	\$ 614,591

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

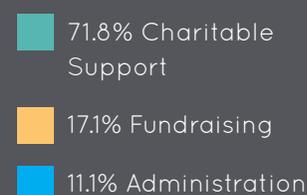
year ended December 31

	2020	2019
<b>Assets</b>	<b>\$982,013</b>	<b>\$657,656</b>
Current		
Cash	\$653,928	\$378,756
Accounts receivable	1,200	500
Inventory	3,280	3,280
Government remittances recoverable	21,676	26,356
Government assistance receivable	61,657	--
Prepaid expenses	11,872	11,677
Capital Assets	228,400	237,087
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>\$152,195</b>	<b>\$43,065</b>
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	25,985	28,292
Deferred revenue	86,210	14,773
Long-term debt	40,000	--
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>829,818</b>	<b>614,591</b>

## SOURCES OF REVENUE



## EXPENSES



## OUR 2020–2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Adam Brock, Chair  
Vijay Venkatesan, Vice-Chair  
Russell Smith, Treasurer  
Kate Aversa  
Michael Connell  
Jim Norbury  
Rhonda Vercillo

## OUR STAFF

Kathleen Barnard, Executive Director  
Erin Boyce, Finance and Office Administrator  
Lorraine Jewell, Windsor Family Support Liaison  
Renee Simmons, Family Support Lead  
Jennifer Watts, Community Engagement Coordinator

## OUR CHILDCAN FAMILIES

Because of our community's generosity, we are able to continue supporting families and children from across western Ontario, and to be here for all the families who have received a childhood cancer diagnosis from, or are being treated at, Children's Hospital, London Health Sciences Centre or the paediatric oncology clinic at Windsor Regional Hospital. We are privileged to know these families and to be the conduit through which our donors can make a very significant difference in their lives.



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