



# Report of Hope 2017

CHILDCAN'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



**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 CHAIR

For Childcan, 2017 was a year of growth. We saw it in the engagement from our community, at events like the Kingsville and Port Stanley Polar Bear Dips, our 10,000 Paces for 10,000 Faces walk/run, and the large number of third party events our wonderful supporters held for us...the attendance at so many of these events was record-breaking as members of our community came out to stand with our Childcan families and children. The impact of this tangible support cannot be measured and we are touched and grateful.

Our internal Childcan team experienced growth as well. Our Board of Directors grew with the addition of new members who add to our knowledge and experience in business, health and finance. Many returning and new volunteers also expanded our service provision ability, contributing countless hours at events, working with our children, at the office, and helping with anything and everything we needed!

Sadly, the Childcan community which we are here to serve grew too; we continue to see an increase in the number of diagnoses and relapses, and in the complexity of many cases as well. We remain committed to supporting our children and families, financially, emotionally and socially, to the best of our collective ability, together with you, our community of support.



**LAINIE GARDNER**  
*Board Chair*

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

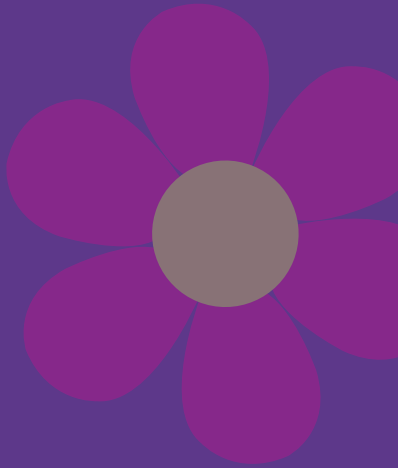
You'll see in this Report of Hope that the financial support we received from our community in 2017 was record-setting. Through events, pledges, donations, sponsorships, grants... you were there for us, enabling us to investigate, pilot and establish new programs, commit to ongoing support of ground-breaking paediatric cancer research, and continue and expand our existing programs.

In 2017, that included our bereavement counselling program, a formalization of this support that is so invaluable to, tragically, too many of our families. We also began the planning and piloting of an extension of our volunteer tutoring program. Working with the assistance of early childhood educators and occupational therapists, we are putting together a program specifically for our early years children to assist them in developing missed school readiness, social and motor skills.

2018 will see us working hard to take our support for our incredibly brave children and families even further. While the need, unfortunately, never stops, neither does our desire to assist in whatever ways we can.



**KATHLEEN BARNARD**  
*Executive Director*



**We remain committed to supporting our children and families, financially, emotionally and socially, to the best of our collective ability, together with you, our community of support.”**

## OUR VISION:

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

## OUR VALUES:

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

## 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 expenses
- ✿ Post-secondary education bursaries
- ✿ Assistance with funeral costs

### Social and Emotional Support

- ✿ In-hospital, over-the-phone and in-person support
- ✿ Support groups
- ✿ Family activities, gatherings, outings and events
- ✿ In-hospital holiday meals
- ✿ Access to accurate, helpful information and resources
- ✿ Tutoring
- ✿ Advocacy and awareness building to increase community knowledge and support

### Research Support

- ✿ Funding for novel research closer to home

## 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, Oxford, Grey/Bruce, Elgin, Perth, Kent and Huron counties. We are inspired every day by these unbelievably brave warriors, survivors and angels.



## DEFINITION OF A HERO... CELINA'S STORY

*as told by her mom, Krystal*

Celina is the true definition of a hero. Our hero. She had never once been sick or had so much as a fever, not until September 18, 2017. After that, our world was forever changed.

On October 10th, at only 10 months old, Celina was diagnosed with a very aggressive, malignant brain tumour that would require surgical removal. The name of her cancer is Choroid Plexus Carcinoma.

That month, Celina endured two lengthy brain surgeries to remove the tumour. During the first, our baby girl arrested twice and the doctors had to abort the procedure to save her life. Two and a half weeks later, during the second surgery, they were able to remove all of the tumour, a total resection.

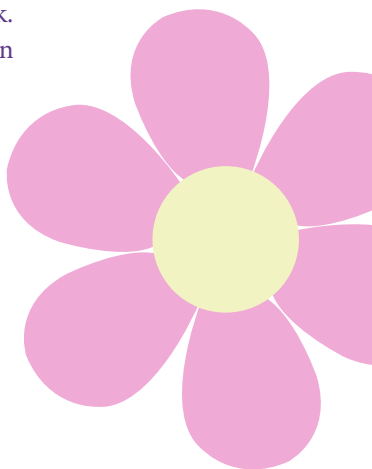
Then came chemotherapy. November 14th was our first day.

Celina went through a total of eight rounds of very intense chemo. She tolerated each one like the champ she has always been.

Celina is now on the road to recovery. Our main focus is therapy – physio, speech and occupational. We can't say how long it will take until she is back to herself again, but we do know that she is constantly surprising us and will recover sooner than we think. We can see it in the way she wrinkles her nose when she smiles and how, even through all of this, she is still full of giggles, bringing sunshine to everyone around her.

After a total of eight surgeries and eight rounds of chemotherapy, you can see why Celina is our hero. She has taught us to value the little things in life and she will continue to for the rest of our lives.

We love you Celina!



**Celina  
faced  
treatment  
with this  
beautiful  
smile and  
indomitable  
spirit!"**



## SUPPORTED ON A HARD JOURNEY...JESSE'S STORY

*as told by his mom, Amy*

In December 2016, Jesse fell and broke his collarbone. Over the next few months, it became evident that it was not healing properly. On May 10, 2017, Jesse's MRI revealed a suspected cancerous tumour, a type of aggressive and rare bone cancer. A biopsy confirmed Ewings Sarcoma and Jesse began a panel of tests immediately. We learned that his treatment plan would take about a year with weekly chemo treatments. We learned about a bunch of toxic medications that were going to make him really sick.

Fear took over. I worried about how I was going to afford my house, my vehicle, parking, hotel stays and leaving work to look after my son. Thankfully, Childcan was eager to meet and help me. They provided immediate emotional support, a comforting quilt for Jesse, food and gas vouchers and a parking pass which took off so much pressure.

Jesse was scared, but he has been brave. From the beginning, we believed he would be fine, but that didn't make his journey any easier. He started his treatment within a couple weeks of diagnosis. He was so scared and the first round of chemo left him sick and sore. I tried to hold steady and Childcan was right there along the way, checking in, listening and providing support.

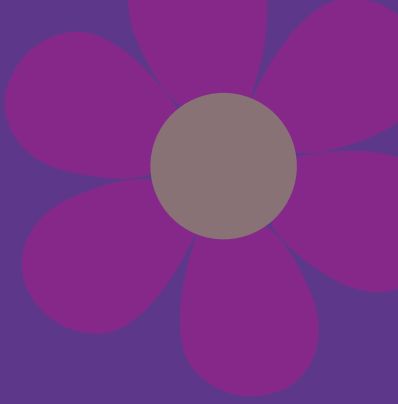
In July, we went for a consult in Toronto with a doctor who felt he would be able to remove Jesse's tumour and entire diseased collarbone. It was scary to hear the options, but it was even scarier to think that my son could die if we didn't move ahead. There were risks, but this was Jesse's best shot.

In early September, Jesse had a 7.5 hour surgery – the collarbone was removed and we learned the tumour was 99% dead. This good news helped us to face another 22 weeks of chemo to finish our treatment plan. All in all, Jesse had 34 weeks of chemotherapy, many blood transfusions, and many delays due to fevers and low blood counts.

As I write this, we are so happy to say that Jesse has been deemed cancer-free and has beat the Ewings Sarcoma. It's a hard journey but it is so much easier when there are caring strangers who support you from the beginning. Please give to Childcan. Please thank Childcan. We and other families need them.







**We are so fortunate to have this inspirational community with us and with the children and families we serve.”**

## MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Without a community standing behind us, we would not be able to help our heroic children and families. The magnitude of that support this year is incredible. In 2017, donations from you, our generous supporters, totalled over \$200,000, while more than \$500,000 was raised at fundraising events. We could not be more grateful to the amazing families, friends and members of our community who support us through their events. These third party events continue to be the biggest source of our revenue – we are so fortunate to have this inspirational community with us and with the children and families we serve.

This total revenue in excess of \$700,000 enabled us to provide and expand upon our financial, social, emotional and research support and make a meaningful difference to our families on their journey through childhood cancer.




Through the sustained effort of the Board and ED, we will continue to ensure that, as an organization, we are fiscally responsible, operating on a net income positive basis for the fourth consecutive year, while also increasing our support for our families. 2017 was our biggest year in direct support to our families with \$224,448 provided. We will continue to balance healthy reserves to support future operations with identifying and supporting the immediate needs of our families and organization.



**VIJAY VENKATESAN**  
Board Treasurer



## SOURCES OF REVENUE

-  Fundraising – third party events (43.2%)
-  Donations (28.7%)
-  Fundraising – signature events (28.1%)



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

year ended December 31

	2017	2016
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$718,113</b>	<b>\$580,564</b>
Fundraising – third party	310,089	265,748
Donations	206,099	236,413
Fundraising – signature events	201,925	78,403
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$624,945</b>	<b>\$484,761</b>
Programs and Services	346,319	250,216
Administration	36,657	36,405
Salaries	184,028	150,628
Fundraising	57,941	47,512
Surplus of Revenue over Expenses	\$93,168	\$95,803

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at December 31

	2017	2016
<b>Assets</b>	<b>\$663,039</b>	<b>\$590,357</b>
Current		
Cash	354,443	252,072
Accounts receivable	4,742	56,466
Inventory	3,280	--
Government remittances recoverable	38,096	11,862
Prepaid expenses	10,022	8,211
Capital Assets	252,456	261,746
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>\$226,027</b>	<b>\$246,513</b>
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	34,655	19,363
Deferred revenue	15,377	49,500
Long-term debt due within one year	6,194	6,603
Long-term debt	169,801	171,047
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$437,012</b>	<b>\$343,844</b>



### EXPENSES

- Charitable Support (72%)
- Fundraising (16%)
- Administration (12%)

# Thank You for Your Support!

## CHILDCAN'S 2018-19 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lainie Gardner, *Chair*  
Vijay Venkatesan, *Treasurer*  
Julie Dowler, *Secretary*  
Adam Brock  
Kim Hill  
Maureen Jenkins  
Jim Norbury  
Russell Smith  
Chantale Tylus



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