



REPORT OF
HOPE
2019





Since 1974, Childcan has been here for families and children living with childhood cancer. Through changing times and evolving needs, we continue to provide responsive and compassionate support services from initial diagnosis, through treatment, to recovery or bereavement.



Message from the Chair and Executive Director

As we prepare this 2019 Annual Report, we are in the midst of a pandemic, a crisis which is calling upon all of us to adapt and to adjust our every day. It also calls upon us to think of our larger community and to make our decisions based on what is best for society. We're inspired by what we're seeing: people coming together and helping, sustaining hope, and innovating to find new ways to support where the need is greatest.

To us, this comes as no surprise. We've seen first-hand what can be accomplished when a community comes together. We saw it in 2019, just like so many previous years, when our Childcan supporters responded to the needs of families of children with cancer. Members of our community put together some incredible events – sporting activities, galas, musical performances, children's events, community days, and many other creative ways to raise support. So many people came out to our own Childcan-hosted events, we set new records for attendance and participation. Foundations, service clubs, individual and corporate donors, you gave generously, knowing that your gifts make a very real difference in our Childcan families' lives.

We're stronger together, no matter the circumstances. With our donors, event participants and volunteers, we united last year to raise a record amount of support for our Childcan families. And we put this to very good use, providing an incredible amount of direct-to-family financial assistance, and continuing to address the most pressing issues that families with childhood cancer face. We expanded our counselling services, partnered with local accommodations to make rooms more affordable for families who have to travel to get their child the best treatment, extended our meal voucher program to Windsor Regional Hospital, and continued to deliver our core programs and services.

Despite the current situation, we are confident that, with you and with your support, Childcan will be here for these families, just like always.

ADAM BROCK
Board Chair

KATHLEEN BARNARD
Executive Director



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Our 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:

- ✿ Mission Effectiveness
- ✿ Leadership, Networking, Collaborative Action
- ✿ Deeper and Broader Engagement

Our Services:

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- ✿ Hospital parking passes
- ✿ Hospital meal vouchers/in-room meals
- ✿ 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
- ✿ 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



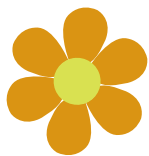


A Journey Far Away from Home...

Jensen's Story

as told by his mom, Melissa

Jensen is a very special little boy. Just one month after his first birthday, we thought he had come down with a stomach bug that he just couldn't shake. What we found out instead completely changed our lives. Jensen was diagnosed with an extremely rare and aggressive type of liver cancer called a hepatic rhabdoid tumour.

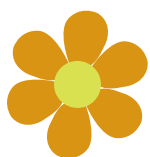


“For nine months, Jensen underwent intense treatment with both chemotherapy and radiation at Children’s Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre.”

Because of the complicated location of his tumour, surgery was never an option for us. For nine months, Jensen underwent intense treatment with both chemotherapy and radiation at Children’s Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre. As we are from Thunder Bay, this was especially trying, being so far away from home and our friends and family. We never left his side, trading our time between the hospital and Ronald McDonald House.

Nine months away from home, away from everyone, was extremely challenging, which is why we appreciated even more everything that Childcan did for us during this time. Quite simply, they did everything they could to help keep us going during Jensen’s battle.

In addition to the core – but so valuable – support programs they provide, like covering all of our hospital parking costs, providing meal vouchers and helping with immediate bill support, Childcan also purchased and delivered a stroller.



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We'd had to leave ours at home when we were flown to the hospital. That stroller took Jensen for many laps around the paediatrics floor and helped us to enjoy being outside on the rare days he was able to be an outpatient.

Childcan also helped connect us with a donor who fulfilled Jensen's Christmas wishes when time and money for shopping were sparse. Spending Christmas in the hospital wasn't easy, but this made it so much better.

Renee from Childcan was a wonderful person to talk to, having gone through similar treatment struggles with her daughter. She was always there for us, with support and advice, and to ask if there was anything at all that was needed.

Jensen was an amazingly tough fighter and, miraculously, his most recent scans showed his tumour has resolved. After 268 days in London, we were able to take our little 22-month old boy home to Thunder Bay to begin the follow-up for his treatments.



Message from the Treasurer

From a financial perspective, 2019 was Childcan's best year ever. We raised over \$811,000, our third consecutive year of record-breaking revenue and a 14% increase over last year. This allowed the organization to grow our support services while reducing our debt.

We are extremely grateful to our Childcan community who hosted events that raised \$338,471, a 27% increase over last year! With support from our passionate volunteers, our staff organized Childcan's signature events, including 10,000 Paces for 10,000 Faces and Polar Bear Dips, which brought in \$255,887, an 18% increase over last year. Generous donations from individuals, families, corporations and granting organizations contributed \$214,243. Overall, Childcan generated excess revenue over expenses of \$109,346.

Proper stewardship of our funds continued to be a key focus. Our diligence in managing expenditures allowed us to disburse \$232,951 in direct family support, one of the highest amounts in our history. We continued to assist our young adults in pursuing their goals by awarding 15 post-secondary bursaries, the most we have ever awarded. For the fourth straight year, we met our commitment to provide \$45,000 to Children's Hospital's paediatric research unit – and in fact exceeded it by \$5,000 – helping to improve treatments and offer options for our families, closer to home.

We also invested in our people in 2019 by increasing our team to four staff. We added a Community Engagement Coordinator and expanded our Office Administrator role. These changes enable Childcan to grow even further by holding more events, supporting more families, and efficiently and accurately maintaining our records and finances.

Working closely with our Executive Director and staff, the Board continued to build assets and reserves while reducing our liabilities. We invested excess funds prudently and we reached a significant milestone in March 2019 when we paid off our mortgage – this reduced our debt by 80%, eliminated \$1,100 in monthly expenses, and avoids significant interest expense going forward.

Childcan continues to follow our strategic plan and we expect to announce a further expansion of support services in the coming months. We are also assessing the feasibility of creating endowment funds to further improve our long-term investment strategy.

2020 sees us enter our 47th year and it will be one of our most challenging on many fronts, but the message I want to leave you with is that 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
Board Treasurer





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Financial Summary

year ended December 31

	2019	2018
Revenue	\$811,035	\$708,671
Fundraising – third party	338,471	267,219
Donations	214,243	209,368
Fundraising – signature events	255,887	216,011
Investment and other income	2,434	16,073
Expenses	\$701,689	\$640,438
Programs and Services	355,773	362,281
Administration	41,879	56,193
Salaries	251,774	169,763
Fundraising	52,262	52,201
Surplus of Revenue over Expenses	\$109,346	\$68,233

Statement of Financial Position

as at December 31

	2019	2018
Assets	\$657,656	\$713,192
Current		
Cash	\$378,756	\$396,404
Accounts receivable	500	34,623
Inventory	3,280	3,280
Government remittances recoverable	26,356	25,367
Prepaid expenses	11,677	7,268
Capital Assets	237,087	246,250
Liabilities	\$43,065	\$207,947
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	28,292	32,672
Deferred revenue	14,773	5,204
Long-term debt due within one year	--	170,071
Net Assets	\$614,591	\$505,245



SOURCES OF REVENUE

- Fundraising – third party events (41.7%)
- Donations (26.4%)
- Fundraising – signature events (31.6%)
- Investment and other income (0.3%)



EXPENSES

- Charitable Support (70.5%)
- Fundraising (16.5%)
- Administration (13%)





Our 2019-2020 Board of Directors:

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

Our Staff:

Kathleen Barnard, Executive Director
Erin Boyce, Office Administrator
Renee Simmons, Family Support
Jennifer Watts, Community Engagement Coordinator

Our Childcan Families:

We are privileged to support families and children who received their childhood cancer diagnosis or are being treated at Children's Hospital, London Health Sciences Centre. These families come from the vast geographic region that LHSC, a tertiary care referral centre, serves: London/Middlesex, Windsor/Essex, Sarnia/Lambton, Waterloo Region, Oxford, Grey/Bruce, Elgin, Perth, Kent and Huron counties. Once they are referred to Childcan, they become part of our family – and once they are a Childcan family, they are always a Childcan family.



Supporting children and families through childhood cancer

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