



Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer

*2007
ANNUAL
REPORT*

About Us

OPACC was established in 1995 and is comprised of representatives from parent groups, parent contacts, and other family members from across the province. Our members are parents, guardians, survivors, or close relatives of a child/teen diagnosed with childhood cancer. We have been a Registered Charity since 2006 under charity number 846324168RR0001.

OPACC meets four times a year: In person in May and September in Toronto and by teleconference in February and November.

OPACC has advocated on behalf of our children/teens and our families with appropriate regional, provincial and national bodies such as POGO (Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario), Childhood Cancer Foundation – Candlelighters Canada (CCF) and the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) Ontario Division.

We have supported, collaborated and had input into initiatives such as:

- Pediatric Oncology Working group report for the Ministry of Health (1994)
- Development of Satellite Oncology program as well as long-term follow-up clinics in the province
- Financial Assistance program for families of children/teens with cancer through POGO and CCS
- CCS pediatric handbook and children's cancer brochure
- POGO handbook on provincial resources for families of children with cancer in the province
- CCF National Conference (2000)
- Steering Committee/cluster groups for POGO 5-year plan for Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (2005)
- Past representation on POGO Psycho-social committee, CCS Pediatric Advisory committee and the Childhood Cancer Foundation Candlelighters Canada board.

Mission and Goals

OPACC Educates, Advocates, Supports and Enables families of children with cancer.

OPACC's overall goal is to be the voice for families with children diagnosed with cancer across the Province of Ontario. Other core goals include:

- To establish the Parent Liaison role where deemed appropriate in collaboration with local stakeholders
- Strengthen existing parent support groups
- Support the establishment of new parent support groups
- Establish a collaborative process for sharing and collecting information with parents through mentoring and educational activities
- Establish financial sustainability

President's Report 2007

It's been a very exciting eighteen months for OPACC. We have accomplished so much in such a short time. As with any organization we have had some frustrating times and growing pains. All of us want to be able to support the families of children with cancer in the province and have been working hard with that focus in mind.

We have been working hard with Ontario Trillium Foundation working towards applying for a much needed grant to help our organization grow. Through this collaboration we developed the concept paper that will be used to develop our grant application. Through this process the OTF staff reminded us that, because we were a young organization and did not have a financial track record we would need a lead organization to apply with us. Ultimately work on the Concept Paper will help us with other grants we may be applying for.

Members of the OPACC team developed our website, www.opacc.org, which now includes an on-line membership form for families to fill out to become members and give us a stronger voice. We enlisted the help of a web based donation service to allow people to donate to us and are very thankful for the Canada Helps service (www.Canadahelps.org).

In May the board met for a facilitated planning day. It was determined that day we needed to clearly define our Mission, Vision and Goals for the short-term and long-term so that we can be clear of our direction and focus. We are very happy with our Mission, Vision and Goals of which I have indicated below;

Mission: OPACC is (a volunteer run organization) that is the provincial voice of families and parent support groups dedicated to helping families living with childhood cancer"

Vision: OPACC's vision is to be the collective voice of parents and families living with childhood cancer by providing support, education, advocacy and resources"

Goals:

1. To be recognized as the parent voice for families of children living with cancer
2. To expand the OPACC Parent Liaison role where deemed appropriate in collaboration with local stakeholders
3. Strengthen existing parent support groups
4. Establish new parent support groups where deemed appropriate by OPACC and local stakeholders
5. Establish a process for sharing and collecting information to parents through mentoring and educational activities
6. Maintain financial sustainability

As you can see our planning day was quite successful.

Although OPACC has been around since 1995, we felt the need to introduce our newly formed not-for-profit charity organizations to potential partners and further build our already existing relationships with them. We have had introductory meetings with Camp Trillium, Canadian Childhood Cancer Foundation, and Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario,

and are enthusiastic that we can develop long-term partnerships with these and other likeminded organizations.

Through this collaboration with these organizations it appears that we have found a lead organization for our Ontario Trillium Foundation grant. Over the past few months we have discussed our goals and plans with the Childhood Cancer Foundation ~ Candlelighters Canada and they have been more than receptive about moving forward with us. As I write this the CCF CEO will be presenting our proposal to the Executive Committee of the Childhood Cancer Foundation. His presentation will be balanced and fair as he weighs the Pros and Cons of such an arrangement to his committee. The future does indeed look promising.

As we all know when dealing with childhood cancer, just as there are two steps forward these are often followed by one step back. Just as we seem to pick up momentum we hit some speed bumps and have to take a step back and re-examine things or refocus. This is normal with any organization from time to time, especially an organization in its infancy like OPACC. But again, as we know all too well when dealing with childhood cancer, these stumbling blocks are frustrating but we pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, refocus and get on our way again.

We will begin to look at other sources of funding for our organization as well. As we move forward we will be asking for our members to contribute some of their time to sit on various committees such as fundraising and special events. For us to be a unified voice we will need members to become more active: one of us can speak about childhood cancer and its impact on the family, a few of us can talk louder still, a lot of us can yell and make our voices be heard.

I look forward to working with all members of OPACC so that we can achieve our goals. If you have any suggestions, concerns or questions, please feel free to email me at info@opacc.org.

Always,

Hannah's Dad

David Munro

Treasurer's Report - Fiscal 2006/2007

TREASURER'S REPORT FISCAL 2006/2007

Year End May 31

As Treasurer I can say it has been a very exciting year for OPACC. We became a Not-For-Profit, we opened up a community bank account with Bank of Montreal and we received start-up infrastructure funding from an anonymous supporter. Candlelighters Simcoe also provided us with an infrastructure loan to get us started with our mission, vision and goals.

Since this was our first year as a not-for-profit we did not have any fundraising activities, however, prior to our year-end of May 31, we were also able to get established on CanadaHelps.org so we can receive online donations in the future.

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

Fiscal 2006/2007

Year End May 31

REVENUES	2006
Infrastructure Start-up	1,314.32
Infrastructure Loan (Candlelighters Simcoe)	500.00
Grants	-
Bank Interest	0.41
Total Income	1,814.73
EXPENSES	
Bank Services Charges	28.43
GST Paid	3.60
PST Paid	4.80
Administration	1,609.84
Loan Payments	-
Total Expenses	1,646.67

**EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER
EXPENDITURES**

168.06

I will be leaving taking a sabbatical from the board for the fiscal year of 2007/2008, but know that the board will build the organization so OPACC can start developing the programs and services that are part of our mission, values and goals.

Sincerely,

Deirdra A. Redden

Board of Directors

David Munro, President and Chair
Deirdra Redden, Treasurer-Director
Barbara Johnson, Secretary
James Thomson, Director
Susana Malowaniuk, Director
Teresa Reardon, Director
Maryann Istiloglu, Director

Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer
264 Dunsmore Lane
Barrie, ON L4M 7A7

info@opacc.org
www.opacc.org
Registered Charity #846324168RR0001