

2023
REPORT OF

HOPE



THROUGH STORIES

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Stories have the capacity to transport us to different places and realms of emotion. They can evoke feelings of heartache to joy, fear to comfort, and despair to hope.

When a family's story begins with the words, "your child has cancer", for the past 50 years, Childcan has served as a supportive, caring, and hope-filled chapter.

Thank **YOU** for being part of our circle of community. We hope you enjoy our stories in the pages ahead.

With heartfelt appreciation,



Suzanne Fratschko Elliott
Executive Director

WE ARE ALWAYS HERE FOR YOU! THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR CIRCLE OF COMMUNITY!

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MEET THE TEAM

(LEFT TO RIGHT ~ BACK ROW)

ELIZABETH FREITAS,
FAMILY SUPPORT LIAISON (PT)

SARAH DIMITROPOULOS,
COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING &
EVENTS ASSOCIATE

SUZANNE FRATSCHKO ELLIOTT,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WENDY MORTON,
FAMILY SUPPORT LIAISON (PT)

BARBARA TUCKER,
FINANCE OPERATIONS &
OPERATIONS MANAGER (PT)

(LEFT TO RIGHT ~ FRONT ROW)

AMY MATHIAS,
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT &
COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE (PT)

LORRAINE JEWELL,
WINDSOR FAMILY SUPPORT &
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LIAISON



childcan

2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

THROUGHOUT 2023 WE FOCUSED ON THE FOLLOWING STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

ENHANCE SERVICE DELIVERY

- ASSESS AND EVALUATE ALL THAT WE DO FOR FAMILIES
- PROVIDE RELEVANT & PERSONALIZED SUPPORT
- BE NIMBLE AND FILL GAPS

EXPAND & SUSTAIN FUNDING

- TRACK OUR EFFORTS FOR GROWTH AND SUCCESS
- FOSTER AN ENGAGED AND PHILANTHROPIC CULTURE OF COMMUNITY
- RAISE MORE MONEY

GROW OUR COMMUNITY

- INVEST IN PEOPLE AND TOOLS THAT WILL ALLOW US TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS
- FOSTER A CIRCLE OF COMMUNITY WHO UNDERSTANDS THE CHILDHOOD CANCER JOURNEY

INCREASE AWARENESS

- EXPAND OUR PRESENCE WITHIN OUR REGION
- MAKE CHILDHOOD CANCER A HEALTH PRIORITY

We have made strides across each of these priorities, and I am humbled by the incredible support throughout Childcan's circle of community that has been paramount to our progress.

Childcan's 2023 Report of Hope is truly a testament to our organization's resilience, strategic focus, and unwavering commitment to supporting families dealing with childhood cancer.

In terms of finances, 2023 was a strong year for Childcan. Thanks to the continued generosity of our community and the tireless efforts of our staff and third-party fundraisers, we maintained a solid financial position.

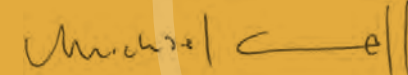
However, beyond the numbers lies the heart of Childcan. It is the **stories of resilience, courage, and hope that truly define us.** Our core purpose remains unwavering—to support families facing childhood cancer.

Thanks to our dedicated staff, our programs, from financial assistance to emotional support, continued to make a tangible difference in 2023. The staff's commitment to our cause is commendable, and they truly are the heartbeat of Childcan.

To every supporter who rallied behind our cause, I extend my deepest gratitude on behalf of parents who found solace in our programs, and every child who bravely faced their cancer diagnosis. Your unwavering belief in our mission fuels our determination.

With heartfelt pride and gratitude,

Michael Connell



Chair,
Board of Directors, Childcan

CHILDCAN IS AN ORGANIZATION THAT HAS GIVEN US SO MUCH!

HERE'S HOW YOU PUT

HOPE INTO ACTION IN 2023

WE HELP ENSURE FAMILIES REMAIN NOURISHED DURING THEIR CHILD'S CANCER TREATMENT.



Preferred INSURANCE
More than a name. We are Preferred.

YOU GAVE:

- ANNUAL PROGRAM
 - \$202,322 to advance our mission
 - \$58,527 through grants
 - \$31,272 in tribute
 - \$11,109 investment income
- POLAR BEAR DIP
 - \$120,308
- CHILDCAN ROCKS FOR HOPE
 - \$12,366
- CHILDCAN PYJAMA WALK
 - \$81,184
- COMMUNITY EVENTS
 - \$387,549
- LOTTERY PROCEEDS
 - \$2,445
- MERCHANDISE SALES
 - \$1,980

YOUR IMPACT:

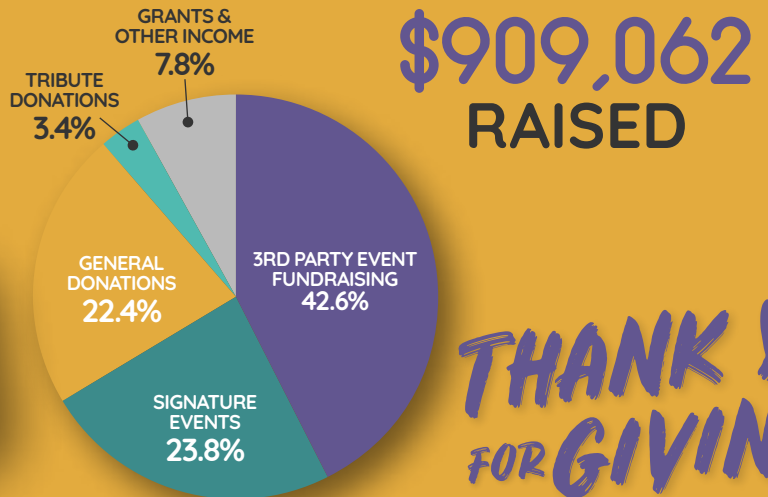
- \$50,000 invested in research (\$430,000 invested since 2016)
- 12 Student bursaries awarded
- 62 Childcan Care Packages provided
- 142 Parking Passes distributed
- 7,260 Meal Vouchers given
- 96 tubes of EMLA and 78 thermometers sent home with families
- 68 inpatient visits with families while in Paediatric Critical Care Unit
- 687 inpatient visits with families on B6
- 4 visits weekly with families in Paediatric Medical Day Unit
- 71 Super Star Siblings supported
- 15 children tutored
- 40 families in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program
- 218 children and parents enjoyed our Holiday Parties



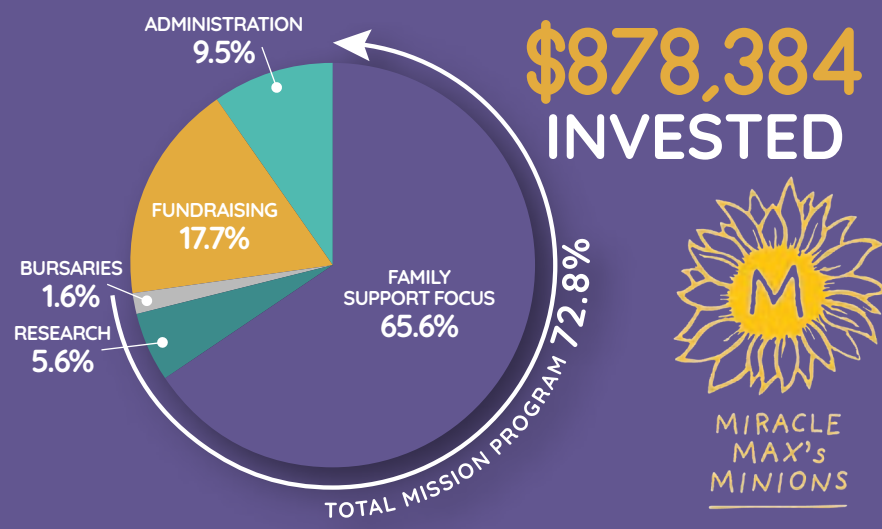
AS A TWO TIME CANCER SURVIVOR, I KNOW... I DO IT FOR THE KIDS.

I WANT TO HELP OUT THE KIDS WHO NEED IT MOST. THE BRAVEST KIDS OF ALL.

...BECAUSE THEY'RE JUST LIKE FAMILY.



THANK YOU FOR GIVING!



YOU PYJAMA GANZA'D!

WHY WE WALK...

WE WALK FOR
CHILDCAN KIDS
LIKE SARA

You picked out your PJs, gathered your teams, and together walked in support, remembrance, and hope!

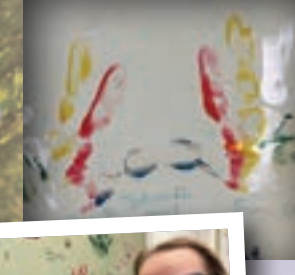
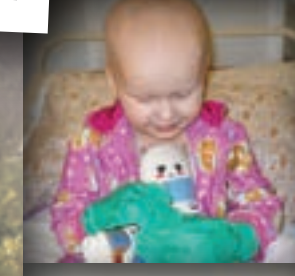
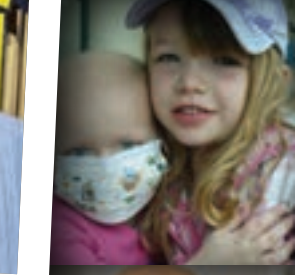
35 teams, 299 participants, 20 sponsors, 789 donations, raised \$81,184.

In London, the top fundraising team was Team Steps for Jess, and fierce competition for top kid fundraiser saw Ben Mo receiving the trophy.

In LaSalle, team Steps for Jess LaSalle 2023 was the top fundraising team and Nayla Chraiteh was awarded top Kid Fundraiser.

I WAS THREE YEARS OLD WHEN I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A METASTASIZED PINEOBLASTOMA, WHICH IS A RARE TYPE OF BRAIN TUMOUR. MY PARENTS WERE HEARTBROKEN BECAUSE THE DOCTORS DIDN'T THINK I WOULD SURVIVE. I AM THANKFUL I SURVIVED BECAUSE I KNOW THERE ARE TOO MANY WHO HAVE NOT.

Sara, a 2023 Childcan bursary recipient, is passionately pursuing Early Childhood Education at Fanshawe College. As an incredible Childcan ambassador, she exemplifies strength and resilience far beyond cancer's reach. Sara is "stronger than cancer" elevating Saunder's annual cancer campaign and most recently, our 2023 PJ Walk, leaving an indelible mark on our community.



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE
2024
PYJAMAGANZA!

childcan.com/walk

September 14 in Mitchell
September 21 in London
September 22 in LaSalle



READ SARA'S STORY HERE:
childcan.com/stories



THANK YOU... TO OUR SPONSORS!

YOU CHILLY DIPP'D...

WHY WE GO CHILLY DIPPIN'...

The pain of Lake Erie's chilly waters is nothing compared to what Childcan kids endure during cancer treatment. That's why on March 2, 2024, 370 participants, 46 teams, raised 1,692 donations for a total of **\$105,780!**

AFTER HIS 10-HOUR BRAIN TUMOUR SURGERY MICAH COULDN'T RESPOND TO US, HE COULDN'T WIGGLE HIS FINGERS, COULDN'T SWALLOW...COULDN'T TALK. THIS WAS A BOY WHOSE FAVOURITE PASTIME WAS TALKING...WE KNEW THIS WAS REALLY HARD FOR HIM... AND US.

WE DIP FOR CHILDCAN KIDS LIKE MICAH

Micah has completed treatment and continues to make incredible strides with speech, physical, and occupational therapy. His family's hearts are full as they create beautiful memories, like those from this year's Polar Bear Dip! Micah was just talking about Kustermans...we can't wait to see him there... and talk too, of course.

'TEAM OZ' WAS THE TOP TEAM RAISING **\$6,387** AND 'TROPICAL COWBOYS' LIFTED THE "FROSTY"

THE NEW TROPHY FOR TOP TEAM SPIRIT, AS AWARDED BY OUR HOSTS, J & RUBINO FROM CLASSIC ROCK 98.1

READ MICAH'S STORY HERE: childcan.com/stories



THANK YOU... TO OUR SPONSORS!



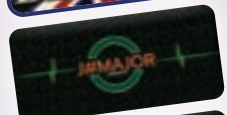
YOU ROCKED

IN WINDSOR, ONTARIO • 2024

The second annual
Childcan Rocks
for Hope raised
\$13,888!

THANK YOU!

TO THE BANDS:



WHY WE ROCK...

**WE ROCK FOR
CHILDCAN KIDS
LIKE JUSTIN**

*WHEN I WAS
DIAGNOSED WITH ACUTE
MYELOID LEUKEMIA
I REMEMBER SAYING,
"I'D BETTER PACK
MY GUITAR..."*

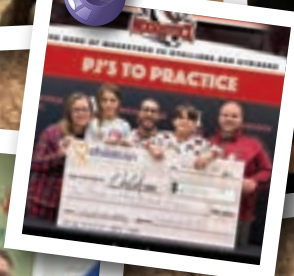
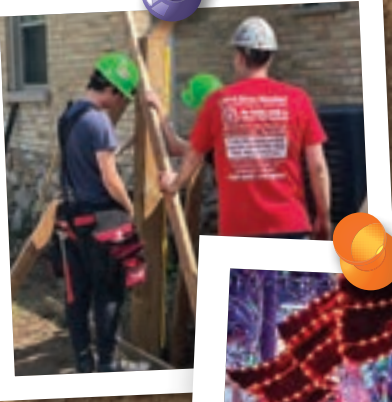
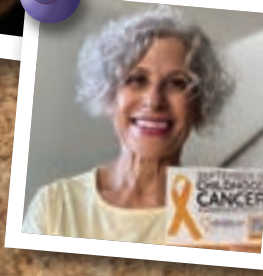
A stem cell recipient and 6-year AML survivor, music remains the heartbeat of Justin's life. As a composer, producer, and music teacher, Justin pours his soul into every note, generously sharing his gift by performing at Childcan's PJ Walk, Polar Bear Dip, and Rocks for Hope. His music resonates with the spirit of survival and hope, touching hearts and inspiring all who listen.

READ JUSTIN'S STORY HERE:
childcan.com/stories



THANK YOU... TO OUR SPONSORS!

YOU TURNED HOPE INTO ACTION...



ONCE UPON A TIME...



On April 13, 2024, you gathered for Childcan's storybook Gala, celebrating 50 years of bringing HOPE to Childcan families. \$86,000 was raised to ensure that Childcan will continue to bring hope for the future.

“ Saturday night's gala was a beautiful tribute to the past and the foundation of Childcan. The celebration was heartfelt and it is truly my honour and that of the medical team to partner with you in support of children and families affected by cancer. My intention for kids is for them to be everything they were supposed to be had we never met. To go to school, get into trouble, play their favourite sports - to enjoy all those life experiences. The achievement of that dream gets closer because of the support of people like each of you at Childcan. Thank you for your leadership and vision. Dr. Alexandra Zorzi ”



THANK YOU... FOR BEING PART OF OUR STORY!



MISSION

To raise awareness and funds to provide personalized, responsive, and compassionate programs and services to families facing the childhood cancer journey from diagnosis, through treatment, post-treatment care, or bereavement.

VISION

To make childhood cancer a health priority, fund innovative research, and expand family supports until childhood cancer is eliminated.

VALUES



OUR 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MICHAEL CONNELL, CHAIR
DAWN HEPBURN, VICE-CHAIR
KATE AVERSA, DIRECTOR
GABRIELA ISAACS CACEROS, DIRECTOR
LISA PEARLMAN, DIRECTOR
SUSAN MARSHALL, DIRECTOR

OUR 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SUSAN MARSHALL, CHAIR
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ELAINE TZAGADOURIS, TREASURER
LISA PEARLMAN, SECRETARY
KATE AVERSA, DIRECTOR
MICHAEL CONNELL, DIRECTOR



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