



Where kids with cancer can just be kids.

Jeff Rushton
Founder & Chair
Coast to Coast Against Cancer Foundation
PO Box 17
20 Queen Street W
Toronto ON M5H 3R3

August 23, 2016

In-Hospital Programs for Kids with Cancer

Dear Jeff,

Coast to Coast Against Cancer Foundation (CTCACF) is one of Camp Oochigeas' longest and largest donors, supporting Ooch since 2004. Over the past 13 years, CTCACF has contributed over \$4 Million towards Camp Oochigeas, enabling Ooch to reach thousands of kids through our In-Hospital Program. As the Tour For Kids and Ride for Karen events have grown, the CTCACF has increasingly become an important ambassador for Ooch, increasing awareness and ultimately funds raised for our programs.

Hospitals are equipped to handle the clinical side of childhood cancer; Camp Ooch provides the social cure. Our year round programs help improve the quality of life for children with cancer. The Coast to Coast Against Cancer Foundation has helped us further our goal of bringing Camp to every child diagnosed with cancer in Ontario. Thanks to the financial support of CTCACF, we are able to bring friendship and fun to each child diagnosed at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids). We have also been able to provide vital respite and support to parents and guardians and to build strong intra-professional partnerships with hospital Child Life staff.

Our eight In-Hospital Program Specialists provide camp-style programming and activities for both in-patients and out-patients at SickKids. These programs include: bedside activities for children in their room and bone marrow isolation units, group activities in the waiting room and playroom, group programs on the weekend for in-patients, volunteer led programs four evenings a week for in-patients on the 8th floor and three one-week In-Hospital Camps. Ooch staff and volunteers work with doctors and nurses to provide kids with cancer what they need most – the chance to be a kid.

We meet every child diagnosed with cancer at SickKids. **Thanks to your support, in 2015 this program served 1150 individual patients and provided 8,543 patient experiences to children with cancer.** Experiences are measured as 20 minute 'touch points' through the many programs offered by Camp Ooch.

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Additionally, the CTCACF is helping us expand our programs to other paediatric oncology centres across Ontario. You are a key partner in helping us reach children with cancer across the province of Ontario.

Because of this, the true impact of your funding goes far beyond the programming it provides, having a larger impact on children like Maya. Ooch met Maya through the In-Hospital Program, where she frequently had low energy and used a wheelchair. Although Maya was an out-patient, her medical team was concerned about her fatigue and considering re-admitting her.

For this reason, Maya's family was very hesitant when Ooch invited them on our family camping trip. But the family had grown to trust their In-Hospital Program team and were eventually convinced that they could support Maya through the trip. When the family arrived at the camp site, the normally lethargic Maya ran to meet her Ooch friends! Maya kept her energy up the whole time, trying swimming, games and campfire – and her family credits Ooch and the friends she made with giving her the energy to rally and avoid being re-admitted as an in-patient.

Thank you again for your support of Ooch's In-Hospital Program. You have made such a difference, not only to the In-Hospital experience of children with cancer, but to their ability to build community and support one another.

Sincerely,



Alex Robertson
CEO, Camp Oochigeas

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