

The PROTOCOL

The PROTOCOL is a Childcan quarterly newsletter for families, friends, community members and partners.

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Valentine's Fundraiser Dance for Childcan

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Date: Sunday, February 26th 2006

Time: 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Location: The German Canadian Club
(1 Cove Road, London - Intersection: Orchard St and Wharncliffe Rd South; near Archie's Fish and Chips)

Tickets: \$10.00 Each

Join Us For a Fun Filled Evening of:

- * Dancing
- * Music
- * Raffles
- * Silent Auction
- * Great Snacks/Finger Foods
- * Cash Bar

**For more information, to purchase tickets
or to volunteer please contact:**

Bo Venkatesan (519) 660-0571 OR

Carole Varin (519) 685-3500

** All proceeds from this event will go to Childcan *
Many thanks for your on-going support*

**Childcan Family Day
(Canada's Wonderland
trip) registration forms will
be included in the next
Protocol issue which is due
out in May 2006. Look out
for it and complete and
return your registration
forms and payment early
to ensure your spot!**

What Is Childcan And Who Do We Support?

Mission Statement

Childcan's (The Childhood Cancer Research Association) purpose is to make the burden of childhood cancer a little less painful for the families in order to make the treatment process easier.

Childcan currently supports families whose child is diagnosed with cancer and is (or was) treated by the oncology team at the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario in London. Our priority and main focus is the child and the family. If it wasn't for them...we wouldn't be here as there would be no need for us! It's important that Childcan continues to stay focused on the child and the family when making organizational decisions and setting goals and a vision for the future. We strive to make the child and the family our priority and we confidently believe that we do and will continue to do that very well! We encourage all children and families to provide ideas, suggestions and feedback to Childcan...We want to serve you the best that we can!

Like most very small non-profit organizations, Childcan operates strictly on private donations and fundraising efforts. Childcan does not receive any government, community or private funding of any sorts. Childcan has one full-time paid staff responsible for all of South-Western Ontario, therefore relies strongly on volunteers and community support. To discuss fundraising ideas and/or to donate, please contact Childcan. To be added into the volunteer directory please email Childcan with your contact information and areas of interests. With these consistent supports in place, we will be able to continue to help our families and hopefully expand on our current services and resources.

Many thanks to all of our current volunteers for all that you do and for who you are!

"The family is one of nature's masterpieces"- George Santayana

Information From OPACC...

OPACC (Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer) is looking for parent representatives to participate in our committee. Meetings are held in Toronto on a Saturday and you can attend in person or by teleconference. We meet about 4 times a year.

Mandate: OPACC is the provincial voice of families and parent support groups dedicated to helping families touched by childhood cancer.

History: Established in 1995 the OPACC committee is made up of representatives from parent groups/parent contacts across the province. The members are parents (guardians), survivors or close relatives of a child/teen diagnosed with childhood cancer.

We work together to identify concerns facing families of children/teens with a history of childhood cancer.

To become a Parent Representative on behalf of Childcan, please contact:

Secretary for OPACC Barbara Johnson; 705-737-4296 (albarbjohnson@sympatico.ca) OR

Chair of OPACC Dave Munro; 705-725-0747 (davidmunro@rogers.com)

African-Canadians Urged to Help Uzoma Azuh, Leukemia Patient

Uzoma Azuh is a 22-year-old medical student living in Windsor, Ontario. There is only one thing on Uzoma and his family's Christmas list this year, a life saving bone marrow transplant. The trouble is, nobody in the world bone marrow registry is a match for him. Here is an excerpt from the Windsor Star article about Uzoma that appeared in the December 9, 2005 edition:

All Uzoma Azuh wants for Christmas is a bone marrow transplant to save his life

It's a simple request that has become elusive after a search through the worldwide registry of 10 million bone marrow donors came up empty. Azuh is appealing to Windsor residents, especially those of African heritage, to volunteer to give a part of themselves to save his life.

"I would like to appeal to the African-Canadian community to come out in full force to give the quintessential gift of life," said Paul Ocheje, a law professor at the University of Windsor and leader in the Windsor African community. "Unless we are able to find a bone marrow match, there will be a problem for (Azuh)," Ocheje said.

The 22-year-old Riverside high school graduate, who came to Canada with his family as a teenager from Nigeria via Scotland, was first diagnosed with acute monocytic leukemia in late September. Azuh, an accomplished student and athlete who wrestled and ran track at Riverside, took his second year off from medical school at Wayne State University as he undergoes chemotherapy treatments. Over the next few months he will continue with chemotherapy to keep the cancer at bay until a donor is found.

In Canada, there are 220,000 people on the bone marrow donor list -- only about 1000 of whom are of black descent -- while 224 patients received unrelated bone marrow transplants last year, said Ron Vezina, spokesman for the Canadian Blood Services. Childcan urges you to join the bone marrow registry today (www.bloodservices.ca) because the only way to know if you can help Uzoma or any of the many adult or pediatric patients looking for bone marrow donor is to join the bone marrow registry today. For Uzoma and so many others.

“Through My Eyes: A Day in the Life of Children with Cancer Around the World – Cancer in the Classroom.”

The International Society of Pediatric Oncologists (SIOP) and the International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organizations (ICCCPO) are together coordinating a very special project. It is called **“Through My Eyes: A Day in the Life of Children with Cancer Around the World – Cancer in the Classroom.”** This is the second year of a three-year photo project in which children will show us what they are experiencing. This year we are featuring childhood cancer in the classroom.

Parents are encouraged to get involved with your child's school to organize a special event in recognition of International Childhood Cancer Day, February 15, 2006. Even if your child's school does not recognize International Childhood Cancer Day, we would like to invite your child to participate in the project by taking pictures and telling their story by answering the questions about life at school. This is truly an international project and our hope is that there will be more than 100 children's cancer clinics and parent organizations throughout the world participating in it.

The photo exhibition will be shown in Geneva, Switzerland during an international childhood cancer conference that is attended by paediatric oncologists, nurses, psychologists and parent and survivor group leaders. Each treatment center and parent organization has been invited to submit the five best photos submitted by children in their area. We believe that this project will tell us a very powerful story about the world of children's cancer from the child's point-of-view.

We would like to ask for your child's participation in this program. Your help is truly appreciated and thank you for encouraging and aiding your child in taking the photos for this project.

(Please email Childcan at www.info@childca.on.ca to have this complete package with detailed information on how to participate in this project emailed to you).

Up – Coming Events...Mark Your Calendars!!!

International Childhood Cancer Day

Wed, February 15, 2006

Fundraising and media events will be held throughout the month of February.

The purpose of the International Childhood Cancer Day is to:

- * Educate the general public about childhood cancer
- * To raise money through fundraising events
- * To promote the work of local parent organizations

In recognition of this day, Childcan will be selling Gold Ribbon Pins at a cost of \$5.00 each. Please visit www.childcan.on.ca for more information on how to purchase your pins.

Easter Dinner at CHWO

On Sunday, April 16, 2006 Childcan will be hosting an Easter Dinner at the Children’s Hospital for all children and families who are not able to be with their families and friends during the holidays due to being admitted in hospital for cancer treatments. We need your help!

We are looking for volunteers to help organize this event which would include preparing a dish and/or setting up and clean-up afterwards. Please contact Childcan if you’re able to help **by April 1, 2006**. We need all of the help we can get! Many thanks!

A very special and heartfelt thank you to those who helped with the Thanksgiving dinner and New Year's Eve party. It was greatly appreciated by many.

A Very Special Thank You to TD Canada Trust!

On December 14th 2005 TD Canada Trust – ARFM division held a bake sale to raise funds for various charities they support throughout the year and amongst them was Childcan. Here’s what they had to say about their accomplishment...

“The 2005 TD Christmas charity committee worked to attain a goal and came together in a relatively short amount of time. We had asked staff to help raise funds by either preparing something at home to contribute to the bake sale or by bringing their wallets and appetites to help make the bake sale a success.

We had a huge response to our request! Many people brought absolutely delectable treats, pies and cakes to take home to their families (or eat at their desks). We had a lot of smiling faces that day at TD Canada Trust.

We also held a raffle for three generous restaurant donations from: Crabby Joe’s, The Elephant and Castle as well as the Blue Ginger, they helped to contribute to our success.

We listed all the charities that we opted to support this year and people gave generously. In a shrew business world there are still plenty of people that are willing to come together for the greater good and happiness of others and they were happy to open their hearts and wallets.

We hope that the specific presents and general items that were passed along to Childcan made some faces smile brightly and brought some Comfort and Joy.”

Sincerely,

TD Canada Trust – ARFM Division - 2005 Christmas Charity Committee

Childcan definitely made some faces smile bright and brought much comfort and joy to families this year thanks to TD Canada Trust—ARFM Division. Your generosity and efforts were greatly appreciated by many. Some of these gifts went directly to patients receiving treatment while others were donated to CHWO Child Life program for the children to enjoy in PMDU or while in-patient.

Happy Face News :)

On December 15th, 2006, we celebrated Keegan Cavers' 11th anniversary off treatment. We went to Appleby's for dinner and then to see The Chronicles of Narnia. He will be a teenager in March! Keegan is doing very well and is actually starting to enjoy school somewhat! :>) He is still a very sensitive, caring, intuitive child and we cherish every day together. Kim, Darrin and Tessa Cavers

Jerry Hettinga Scholarship Application Process

Childcan is once again very proud to be able to offer the Jerry Hettinga Scholarship to two deserving candidates!

Jerry Hettinga was the father of a young boy who passed away from leukemia. Jerry and his wife Frances worked very hard at raising money for Childcan by doing bingo's in the Sarnia are. In 1985 Jerry passed away from a heart attack. After he passed away Frances and their daughter Audrey continued their efforts for Childcan until Audrey became ill with a pre-cancerous anemia and passed away in December 2003.

Childcan wanted to do something special to recognize the Hettinga family for their continuous efforts and honest dedication. The Jerry Hettinga Scholarship was created. Childcan is offering two scholarships valued at \$1,000.00 each. All applicants are eligible for either one of the two scholarships available.

We encourage any survivor of childhood cancer (residing in South-Western Ontario and is/was followed at the CHWO enrolled in a post secondary education program to apply. There is no age limit.

To be considered for one of these two scholarships being offered:

- *You must have undergone treatment for childhood cancer;*
- *You must provide a statement from your Physician or Nurse Case Manager. (We will accept a phone call or email from a Physician or Nurse Case Manager confirming that the applicant is a childhood cancer survivor);*
- *You must be attending some form of post-secondary education to improve your status;*
- *You must provide proof of enrollment (letter of acceptance from a university, college or post-sec institution);*
- *You must submit a 500 word essay about yourself describing your educational, career and future goals.*

Please submit your essay and all requirements by May 1st 2006 to:

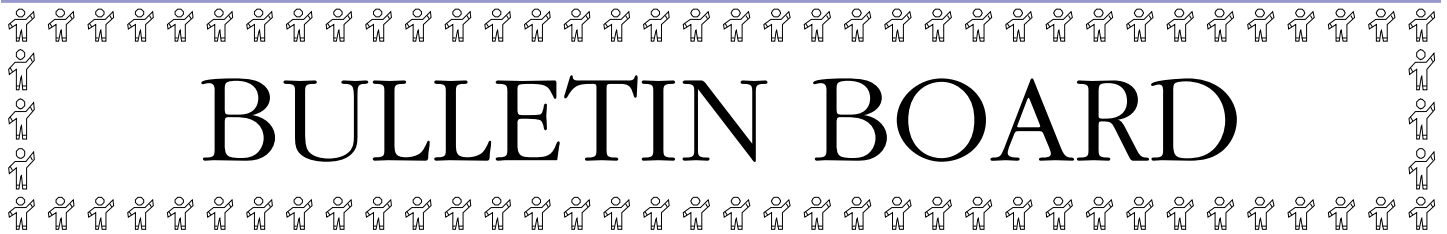
Childcan Education Scholarship Committee
PO Box, 9038, London, ON, N6E 3P3

Don't forget to include your:

- *Full name, mailing address including postal code, phone number including area code, type of childhood cancer, date of diagnosis and date completed treatment and name of program and college/university which you hope to be entering or in which you are currently enrolled. If you are currently enrolled, please include a copy of your letter of acceptance or forward a letter of acceptance when available.*

A selection committee of ten individuals will review all applications and essays. Successful candidates will receive a letter offering congratulations and an invitation to the Annual General Meeting in September 2006 to be awarded the scholarships. Non successful candidates will be notified by a letter and encouraged to re-apply the following year. Successful candidates will also be announced in the Fall issue of the Protocol. Once an applicant has received the scholarship, they may not apply again.

Deadline for applications is May 1, 2006. Candidates will be notified of the committee's decision in June. Thank you and the very best of luck!



BULLETIN BOARD

February 4, 2006 - "World Cancer Day"

This year marks the launch of the **UICC World Cancer Campaign** focused on childhood cancer (www.uicc.org). The World Cancer Campaign calls for an invincible alliance between researchers, healthcare professionals, patients, government, industry and media, to fight cancer and its greatest allies which are fear, ignorance and complacency. The World Cancer Campaign theme for 2006 will be "My Child Matters" (www.mychildmatters.org). Focused on the international impact of childhood cancer, the campaign consists of three main components: support for research initiatives to reduce childhood cancer mortality and morbidity in developing countries; a comprehensive state-of-the-art report on childhood cancers which will be made available to the general public on World Cancer Day, 4 February 2006; and a worldwide mobilization and awareness campaign, to highlight the effects of childhood cancers on children and their families.

Announcement

It is with mixed feelings that the families be informed of the recent retirement of Sharon MacKenzie. Sharon worked on the Pediatric Medical Day Unit in the lab test center since it first opened in 1995. She will be sadly missed by the staff and especially, by the families and children. Her expertise as a lab test nurse and her warm, friendly, and very calm approach with the children were greatly appreciated and will be missed. Sharon had a long and impressive career working as a Registered Practical Nurse starting in 1968 at the old Victoria campus. She worked full time in several positions within the organization. She was part of many committees and contributed greatly to the care of adults and children. When she was hired to work on the day unit, Sharon had finally found the most rewarding job of her long and interesting career. She loved being with the children. The biggest challenge for her in retirement is how much she will miss the children. Sharon has plans to do some traveling and indulge in her hobbies of decorative painting, gardening, and reading. On behalf of Childcan and all the families, Sharon is wished much happiness in her retirement. Her dedication and commitment to the children has been greatly appreciated. Go forth Sharon and continue to be great!! Enjoy a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

Attention all Windsor and Essex County Families:

Childcan is currently seeking a "Windsor and Essex County Representative" to represent Childcan and the services available in this area. This position is a Board position (non-voting member). Childcan is also looking for volunteers in this area who might want to help with hospital supports, marketing, fundraising and raising awareness. Please contact Childcan for further information. Your help in just one event a year is invaluable to the support and services provided by Childcan in the Windsor and Essex County area.

Wednesday Morning From 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Please join oncology families for a coffee or hot chocolate and fresh fruit and veggies in the Quiet Room on level 7, Tower 1 Between North and West. This time gives parents and families (adults) an opportunity to take a break and enjoy a treat over friendly conversation with other oncology families. Childcan strives to make "Coffee Time" a benefit for all in-patient and PMDU families. We encourage you to provide feedback, suggestions and ideas and place them in the Childcan suggestion box mounted in the Quiet Room.

~ OUR STORY ~ *www.memorybeads.ca*

My husband and I had a beautiful baby girl born to us in November of 1998. Our life came to a standstill in December of that year when she was diagnosed with leukemia. The prognosis was not good, and after two weeks of intensive chemotherapy, Abby passed away in our arms. I am re-telling our story to give a little insight into why I started "Memory Beads". To lose someone you love is truly beyond words. The feelings of loss are always there and they become part of who we are. I created the "memory beads" because I wanted to have a little piece of Abby with me at all times, whether it be a snip of her baby blanket, or a small photo. I felt it brought a little bit of comfort. I wanted others to share in this so they too can place a cherished token in the box and have it with them always.

Our daughter was an inspiration to us, she possessed a great strength, and we feel lucky to have shared in her life.

Lori Langford

50% of the profits from each bracelet will be divided between the following three organizations:

Childcan, The Canadian Cancer Society and Neo-Natal Research



There are two styles of bracelets: *The Unisex Comfort Band and The Ladies Memory Wire.* Each bracelet has its own signature colour, in recognition of the loved one you have lost. All bracelets are made with a sterling silver memory box and European glass beads. **Visit www.memorybeads.ca**



Cottage Dreams



Cottage Dreams is a cottage lending program that provides time away in a natural setting to help families recover, reconnect and rebuild after cancer treatment. It's a simple concept. Cottage owners donate a week at their cottage to a cancer survivor and their family as a way to support an overall physical, emotional and spiritual recovery. Cottages are available on a year-round basis in communities across Ontario.

Visiting Families:

- Applications for placement are accepted up to 9 months following active treatment;
- Active treatment is chemotherapy, radiation and/or recent surgery;
- The program is available to Ontario-based cancer survivors of ALL ages;
- Full medical disclosure and an informal meeting are required as part of the application process;
- The program excludes transportation and groceries;
- Placement weeks are Sunday to Friday.

Applications are now available online: www.cottagedreams.org. For more information contact Cottage Dreams directly at 705-457-9100 or email info@cottagedreams.org. Charitable Registered Number: 888550100RR0001

Gold Ribbon Pins and Bandanas For Sale...

Please contact 519-685-3500 or info@childcan.on.ca to order your Gold Ribbon Pins or Cancer Beat-It Bandanas today at a cost of \$5.00 each (delivery not included). Thank you for your on-going support. Please visit www.childcan.on.ca for further information on how to purchase these items.



5.00 dollars each



Please contact Childcan if your contact information has recently changed. We want to keep you up to speed with our upcoming events and news.

If you're no longer interested in receiving this newsletter, please contact Childcan to be taken off the mailing list.

Don't forget to check out our brand new website @ www.childcan.on.ca

A Glance At Our Up-Coming Issue...

- *Childcan Family Day (Canada's Wonderland) Registration Forms*
- *Cory Bowden Memorial Golf Tournament*
- *Friends Charity Golf Tournament*
- *And Much, Much More...*

Camp Trillium

Camp Trillium offers a variety of summer and year round programs for children affected by childhood cancer and their families where they can relax and enjoy life again.

Windsor Area Families: Camp Trillium is now offering year-round programs in your area!

Contact Kristen Dawson for further information at 1-888-999-2267 or email her at

kristend@camptrillium.com

We Need Your Help...Please Help Childcan Save Money

If you'd like to receive this newsletter via email in PDF format, please contact info@childcan.on.ca. In the subject title simply insert "receive newsletter via email"

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Camp Trillium

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