



Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer

*2011  
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 2011*

September 2011

## President's Report

Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer has had a very exciting year! It started in December 2010 when we finally received funding from the Coast to Coast Against Cancer Foundation - \$50,000 a year for three years to be used exclusively for our Parent Liaison program, which we had initially established as a part-time program with funds from Lainie's Angels. Susan Kuczynski started her full time duties in the new year.

OPACC Board Members Barb Johnson, Susan Kuczynski and Jim Thomson worked hard on an Ontario Trillium Grant application and submitted it for the November deadline. In December, we started hearing from some of our references that they had been contacted by folks at the OTF.

We received a call from them in January and Barb, Jim, and I met with them here in Barrie where they asked us to summarize our application. Barb, Jim and I spoke for about 20 minutes about OPACC's needs and what our application was about. When we finished speaking, the OTF folks were impressed with what OPACC had accomplished as a volunteer board and commented that we needed administrative support. I know I thought to myself right then that they 'got it' and understood our needs. We waited patiently for what seemed like forever to hear from them.

We finally received word that we had received the grant; not as much as we had asked for, but it was very close. We initiated the search for our Administrative Coordinator by placing ads through Charity Village and one of our local Barrie papers.

Response to our search was overwhelming! We received more than 200 resumes and cover letters. We developed screening criteria and Susan undertook the monumental task of going through all of the resumes to pare it down to a more workable amount for the interviewers to work with. Barb, Jim, and I were given 50 resumes to apply the same criteria to and get an average score. We were able to pare the list down further to 6 candidates that we were to interview.

We set up the interviews over two days in June. It seemed with each candidate that came in for the interview, that the candidates kept on getting better and better. While we were interviewing the successful candidate, Barb, Jim, and I were almost taken aback by the shared experiences between OPACC and the candidate.

In July, Sarai Porretta joined OPACC as our full-time Administrative Coordinator. During the interviews we all felt she was a perfect fit. Sarai has been working hard in moving OPACC forward. She has been working with NetGain in building our new and improved, soon-to-be uploaded website. She has also been working with Helen Roberson, Lisa Skinner, OPACC Board Members, and Susan on the Smiling Eyes project. The amount of work Sarai has done since she started her tenure with OPACC has been incredible and would have taken the board months and months to get done.

As I said at the start, this has been an exciting year for OPACC. We are still pushing the snowball up the hill, but it seems the hill is starting to level off. On Friday, September 16th we will be part of the National Inside Ride event in Toronto and will reap some of the funds raised from that event. The culmination of that event will be the lighting of the CN Tower in gold to highlight our most precious of Heroes: our kids.

Let's keep pushing the snowball so we can push OPACC further raising awareness of our organization, our mission, vision and goals.

Thanks,  
Dave

# *Treasurer's Report - Fiscal 2010/2011*

**TREASURER'S REPORT FISCAL 2010/2011 (Un-audited)**  
**Year End May 31/11**

**Report prepared by James Thomson (Treasurer)**

## **STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**

**Fiscal 2010/2011 (June 1/10 - May  
31/11)**

**Year End May 31, 2011**

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>May 31<sup>st</sup> 2010</b>	<b>May 31<sup>st</sup> 2011</b>
Grants	10,159.00	79,000.00
Donations	1,524.77	387.00
GST Rebate	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest	0.43	3.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>11,684.20</b>	<b>79,390.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries	0.00	13,670.00
Bank Services Charges	0.00	35.00
GST/HST Paid	0.00	355.00
Administration	0.00	0.00
Travel/Transportation	0.00	159.00
Equipment Purchases	0.00	1,179.00
Loan Payments	0.00	0.00
Program Expense	1268.49	3,446.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,268.49</b>	<b>18,844.00</b>

**EXCESS/DEFICIT OF REVENUES OVER  
EXPENDITURES**

**10,415.71**

**60,546.00**

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT**

**May 31st 2011**

**Assets**

Cash \$70,962.00

Total Assets \$70,962.00

**Liabilities**

Retained Earnings/Equity \$67,673.00

Current Liabilities \$ 3,289.00

Total Liabilities \$70,962.00

# *Board of Directors*

David Munro, President and Chair  
James Thomson, Treasurer  
Barbara Johnson, Director  
Stathi Afendoulis, Director  
Helen Robertson, Director  
Lisa Skinner, Director  
Leila Amin, Director  
Susan Kuczynski, Parent Liaison  
Sarai Porretta, Administrative Coordinator-Recording Secretary

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