



Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer

*2017  
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 Educates, Advocates, Supports and Enables (EASEs) families of children with cancer.

OPACC supports families through our in-hospital Parent Liaison Program currently running at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto; through the establishment of community-based parent support groups throughout Ontario; through training of new parent Facilitators to run groups; and through various advocacy efforts at the local, Provincial, and national level.

# *Mission and Goals*

OPACC's Mission Statement:  
*OPACC will be the leading voice and expert resource for families and organizations navigating the childhood cancer journey*

Our 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 2017*

June 2017

## President's Report

A warm welcome to all of our family, friends and guests of OPACC.

This past year has once again been filled with change and service pressures that have continued to ensure that we remain nimble, adaptive and focused, where we can, on our strategic plan that was fully implemented last year. The continued uncertainty in the charitable sector and more narrowly for us, in the childhood cancer continuum, continues to shape how we move forward with our activities...slow but methodical to ensure our success and, most importantly, sustainability.

As a small grassroots organization founded over 21 years ago on a principle of "families first," we have worked tirelessly to ensure that our work is of direct benefit to families while also raising awareness of the impacts of childhood cancer and the need for co-ordination within the system itself - whether it be medical professionals, volunteers, extended family or other childhood cancer organizations - we all have an integral role to play. As a peer-to-peer parent organization, it is essential that we continue to bring our voice forward within the greater health care community.

For our part, some of the key initiatives undertaken this past year have included the following:

1. Continue to build and strengthen our Parent and Family Support Services with a focus on the Parent Liaison Services at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto (HSC), and to work in partnership with the hospital to provide supports to families affected by childhood cancer.
2. Working in partnership with key initiatives such as the EPEC initiative with the Pediatric Advanced Care Team from the Hospital for Sick Children (HSC) and various research studies to enhance care and pain management for children and youth.
3. Continued investigation into bereavement supports for families faced with the loss of a child, both in the short and long term.
4. Ongoing development of our community engagement model to support the establishment of Parent Support Groups in local communities across the Province.
5. Provision of resources, information and referrals to all families needing assistance.

6. Advocacy on issues brought forward by families such as parking costs at hospitals and access to employment insurance supports when caregiving for a child with cancer.

Advocacy activities continue to be a focus for us to ensure that the voice of parents are brought forward and heard - be it from parking rates at local hospitals to access to further supports as identified by our members, we strive to be as responsive as we can. Leadership is an important aspect for us and we cannot do the work we do each and every day without the commitment from our staff team and Board of Directors. As we are a small organization, we are reliant on these individuals to ensure that the work gets done. For all their contributions over this past year, I, on behalf of our membership, thank them.

As we continue to rely on grants and donations, it is vitally important that we investigate other options for continued growth and development - not only from a resource development standpoint but also from a service delivery view. We continue to work with individuals and groups interested in hosting "third party" fundraising events, promote our "Kaps4Kids" fundraiser and work in partnership with our key supporter, the Coast to Coast Against Cancer Foundation and the Inside Ride event that raises funds for our Parent Liaison Service. We are hopeful that this level of engagement will continue to provide the funds and awareness needed to support our work helping families across Ontario.

As we look forward, we are aware of the need to continue to build our capacity - especially around our Board and volunteer tables. This is vitally important as we are asked by our stakeholders to continue and to grow. Board recruitment and volunteer development will be two main areas of focus for this year as we continue our work and that of our strategic direction.

Best regards as we look forward to 2017 through 2018.

Thank You,

James Thomson  
President and Chair

# *Treasurer's Report - Fiscal 2016/2017*

**TREASURER'S REPORT FISCAL 2016/2017 (Un-audited)**  
**Year End May 31/17**

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

## **STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**

**Fiscal 2016/2017 (June 1/16 – May 31/17)**

**Year End May 31, 2017**

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>May 31<sup>st</sup> 2016</b>	<b>May 31<sup>st</sup> 2017</b>
Grants	50,000.00	50,000.00
Donations	35,024.89	80,394.78
GST Rebate	3,895.53	3,674.92
Bank Interest	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>88,921.42</b>	<b>134,069.70</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries	86,540.17	75,167.61
Bank Services Charges	0.00	0.00
GST/HST Paid	5,273.07	4,039.70
Travel/Transportation	3,040.73	1,759.56
Program Expense	6,705.25	7,934.43
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>101,559.22</b>	<b>88,901.30</b>
<b>EXCESS/DEFICIT OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>(12,637.80)</b>	<b>45,168.40</b>

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT**

**May 31<sup>st</sup> 2017**

**Assets**

Cash \$72,835.40

Total Assets \$72,835.40

**Liabilities**

Retained Earnings/Equity \$65,365.40

Internally Restricted (MDS) \$7,470.00

Current Liabilities \$ 0.00

Total Liabilities \$72,835.40

# *Board of Directors*

James Thomson, President and Chair  
Stathi Afendoulis (Lainie's Angels), Director  
Helen Robertson, Director  
Lisa Skinner, Director  
Anna Lopes (Million Dollar Smiles), Director  
Asaph Benun, Director  
Shannon Kroon (Shine Through the Rain Foundation), Director

## *Staff (non-voting)*

Susan Kuczynski, Parent Liaison  
Sarai Porretta, Administrative Coordinator/Recording Secretary

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