OPACC Newsletter
May/June 2012

News Bits

- **OPACC Family Fun Day**: We invite families of children affected by childhood cancer to come on out and spend a morning of free family fun on Saturday, August 18th at C.J. Skateboard Park in Etobicoke! Please see our website for more information: [http://www.opacc.org/news/?p=532](http://www.opacc.org/news/?p=532)

- **SAVE THE DATE!** OPACC and the National Inside Ride Tour are teaming up again on Saturday, September 15th at Square One Shopping Centre in Mississauga! The funds raised during this event will go to OPACC’s overall fund for our programs and member groups. Our Parent Liaison, Susan Kuczynski, has created “Susan’s Team OPACC” which you can pledge or join! You can also volunteer or even create an OPACC team of your own.

  **Toronto Inside Ride general site:**

  **Susan’s Team OPACC site:**
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- It has come to our attention that there are parents with some concerns about the process for getting the POGO POFAP financial assistance program money. If yours is a family currently on treatment or who have dealt with POFAP in the past year or two, please send your comments to Susan Kuczynski so that she can summarize and share them with POGO and the Interlink Nurses. Your name will be kept confidential. Your responses are important in helping improve things for everyone. Please forward your comments to Susan directly at liaison@opacc.org or susan-kuczynski@rogers.com

- Parents, you can now participate in the OPACC and Child Life Reflection Letters Project to share your childhood cancer journey stories with other families. See here for more details: http://www.opacc.org/news/?p=551

- A reminder to schedule your free photo shoot with a Smiling Eyes photographer today! OPACC is also collecting photos and write-ups through Smiling Eyes to be included in our new book project. Check out the Smiling Eyes website for more details on booking your photo shoot: http://www.smilingeyes.ca

- OPACC is delighted to announce the hiring of James Thomson as our new Resource Development and Community Engagement Coordinator. James is no stranger to OPACC, having previously served on our Board as Treasurer, a role from which he will step down in order to take on his new position. In this new role, James will be responsible for developing and implementing community engagement strategies, networks, and providing ongoing support to community partners and key stakeholders. He will play an integral role in seeking out and identifying strategic partnerships and nurturing these partnerships as a key representative of OPACC. We are thrilled to have James on-board in this capacity and already know that he is a great asset to our organization!
Parent Liaison Update

As the days get warmer and longer I hope you are all gearing up for the summer months ahead....

As usual, I can be found at clinic on most Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during the day. I am readily available to meet elsewhere in the hospital (or out) if that suits you better. Just contact me and we can arrange something suitable.

Tuesday evening from 6:30-8:30 pm, we will continue to meet for the drop-in in room 8704. It’s a great way to connect with other parents like yourself! Please feel free to drop in for a short or long visit. No need for your family to be inpatients...there are always refreshments, information about programs and upcoming events in the community as well as occasional special surprises. Additionally, Helen and John, our terrific parent co-facilitators, are usually there to help answer your questions and otherwise add the valuable additional support that “alumni” parents can add as you travel the journey with your family. We’ve all been there, and know what it’s like to be in your shoes!

It’s not too late to get a Smiling Eyes photo shoot, register for a Million Dollar Smiles bear, pick up a binder, a Courage Lion or Carla/Carl Can Sing, or even a pedometer to track the miles of walking we all seem to do both in and out of the hospital.

Keep checking OPACC and me out at clinic, the drop-in and on-line. We hope you will all come out to our upcoming skateboard park event on August 18th and join us with a team of your own for OPACC’s Inside Ride on September 15th...both these great events will be amazing and fun for your entire family!!!!!!

Thanks,
Susan 😊
If you have a passion for helping families of children with cancer, consider bringing your ideas and skills to our Board of Directors table! Please e-mail us for more information.

Contact Information:
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Web: http://www.opacc.org

Please check our website regularly for the latest breaking news items from OPACC, our member organizations, and the world of childhood cancer research!

OPACC Educates, Advocates, Supports and Enables families of children with cancer

OPACC currently receives no government funding and all funding for the development of our programs, services and special events comes from your generous donations. Your donation is greatly appreciated! You can easily make a fast, secure donation through our Canada Helps page: http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=s92379

The diagnosis of a childhood cancer affects the whole family. OPACC is helping families cope with that diagnosis and is working to expand the Parent Liaison role throughout the province.

Coast to Coast Against Cancer Foundation - Canada’s only national charity devoted to fighting childhood cancer

Childhood Cancer Canada - Childhood Cancer Canada is a national, volunteer governed, charitable organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for children with cancer and their families

Lainie’s Angels - Hope, Honesty, Compassion, and Support for the needs of the family with a child who has cancer

Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), one of Canada’s leading grantmaking foundations, is an agency of the Government of Ontario. The OTF is a catalyst that enables Ontarians to work together to enhance the quality of life in their communities