OUR REALITY...

EACH YEAR, ABOUT 1,700 NEW CASES OF CHILDHOOD CANCER ARE DIAGNOSED IN CANADA

- Sadly, cancer is still the #1 disease killing Canadian children today. 1 in every 5 Canadian children diagnosed with cancer will not survive.
- For those who do survive, ongoing mental, physical, and financial support is required. Over 60% of survivors face late effects of their disease and treatment, including neurocognitive impairments, sterility, and secondary cancers.
- Only 5% of cancer research funding in Canada goes to pediatric cancer research.
IT IS FOR THESE REASONS THAT OPACC WAS CREATED: BY PARENTS, FOR PARENTS

- To provide support to families throughout their cancer journey and to let them know that *they are never alone*. When supports are provided at the right time, they provide families with the hope, opportunity, and confidence to navigate the many twists and turns that a cancer diagnosis can bring.

- OPACC **Educates, Advocates, Supports and Enables** (E.A.S.E.s) families of children with cancer.

- OPACC’s members are parents, parent groups, guardians, survivors, and close relatives of children and teens diagnosed with childhood cancer throughout Ontario.
A BRIEF HISTORY OF OPACC

- 1995: OPACC is established by parents of children with cancer who see a great need for peer-to-peer support
- 2006: OPACC receives charitable status
- 2010: OPACC's first Parent Liaison, Susan, begins her role at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto on a part-time basis
- 2011: The Parent Liaison position becomes full-time and weekly drop-in support groups begin at Sick Kids
- 2017: Two new Parent Liaisons are hired on a part-time basis to assist Susan
Throughout our history, OPACC has collaborated on behalf of our families with appropriate Regional, Provincial and National bodies, including:
OPACC’S MISSION...

“To be the leading voice and expert resource for families and organizations navigating the childhood cancer journey”
HOW WE DO THIS...

- In-hospital support through our Parent Liaison program

- Community support through community-based parent support groups and training of new group Facilitators

- Advocacy on issues of importance to childhood cancer families

Last year alone, over 1,000 families have been supported through OPACC!
HOW WE ARE DIFFERENT...

- OPACC supports the *parents* of children with cancer.
- Parents are often the "forgotten patient" and experience a high level of stress while juggling the demands of caring for their sick child as well as for the rest of the family and work.
- A diagnosis of childhood cancer is devastating in its impact to the entire family, as they experience fear, anxiety, and frequently face financial hardships.
- OPACC believes in the value of providing parent support and that *strong families start with strong parent support*. 
IN-HOSPITAL SUPPORT: PARENT LIAISON PROGRAM AT SICK KIDS

Our Parent Liaisons are parents that have had a child with cancer and understand the need for peer support. The program offers families of children with cancer a wealth of FREE information, support, and resources, including:

- Twice weekly parent drop-in coffee hours, where parents have an opportunity to get support materials, sit and chat with other parents, and enjoy refreshments in a comfortable setting
- One-on-one parent support through private visits and chats wherever parents may be in the hospital
- Materials and resources about community organizations, programs, services and events offered both in and out of the hospital
- Linkages to parent support groups in local communities across Ontario
- Peer connections with other parents of children with cancer
- Distribution of free items such as health record binders, tote bags, detergent pods for doing laundry at the hospital, books, toys, etc.
- Hospital parking program that reimburses families for the cost of hospital parking passes

As we grow, OPACC aims to take our Parent Liaison program to other Pediatric Cancer Centres in Ontario
OPACC works in collaboration with others across Ontario to build a network of community-based Parent Support Groups to ensure that families are supported both in hospital as well as back in their local communities. We currently have groups that we represent in these areas:

- Barrie
- Cambridge
- Hamilton
- Kitchener-Waterloo
- London
- Niagara Falls
- Peel Region
- Peterborough

In order to establish new groups in more areas of Ontario, OPACC provides training sessions for new Parent Facilitators.
Through our work in partnership with other childhood cancer organizations from across the Province and at the National level, we are making a profound difference in the lives of children affected by cancer and their families. Our major advocacy campaigns have included:

- Passing of E.I. legislation for benefits to Parents of Critically Ill Children
- Reduced hospital parking rates
- Representation for childhood cancer survivors
- Supporting the educational needs of children with cancer
- Awareness initiatives including Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (September)
- Providing the caregiver voice to the pediatric oncology drug approval process…and more!
"Keep up the good work, it makes a world of difference to have someone who truly cares."

"You guys do an amazing job of supporting all of us in this journey!"

"I wanted to say how grateful I am for organizations like yours. What you do is amazing and parents like me appreciate your efforts so very much."

"Thank you for all you have done to help parents cope through the worst nightmare imaginable. You’re a blessing."

"Thank you so much for being there at the hospital all these weeks and months and years. You have always been such a source of comfort and reassurance for me."
OPACC is an independent registered charity.

While we often partner with other organizations to provide services to our families, our programs are managed separately.

Although closely integrated within the hospital through our Parent Liaison program, OPACC is an organization operating and funded separately from Sick Kids.

OPACC receives no government funding and all funding for the development of our programs, services and special events (which are provided at no cost to our families) comes from the donations of generous organizations, businesses, foundations, and individuals.
Here are some ways that businesses can help support OPACC in return for generous donor recognition:

- Cause-related marketing campaign
- Creation of a fund in company’s name
- Customer giving
- Donation of in-kind products and/or services
- Employee engagement & giving
- Hosting fundraisers
- Making financial contributions
- Marketing/advertising/media support
- Matching gift program
- Providing volunteers
- Sponsorship of programs and/or events (i.e. Hospital Parking program, Parent Liaison program, Community groups support, etc.)
As a membership-driven organization, OPACC represents families from across the Province and therefore we have a broad reach. And as a small organization, we are highly responsive and flexible...no going through a lot of “red tape” as with much larger organizations. We would recognize funding partnerships through a variety of channels including:

- Media releases
- E-blasts
- Newsletters
- Logo placement and website link on our website
- Posters in-hospital
- Social media (Facebook and Twitter)
- Word-of-mouth through community-based parent support groups and our Parent Liaison program offered at Sick Kids
- All resource materials would include logo placement of any funder to ensure everyone in receipt of these are aware of the generosity behind the item(s) received
- If desired, a photo opportunity could be arranged as part of a cheque presentation ceremony

We are always open to other ideas that would best suit your vision!
Together, we can make a difference!

Through working in collaboration and partnership with community-minded individuals and groups, we know that we can continue to make a difference in the lives of children, youth and their families affected by a diagnosis of childhood cancer.

For more information on OPACC, please visit our website at www.opacc.org