# All About Childcan





## Why Childcan?

#### "Your child has cancer"

Words a parent never wants to hear. Words that disrupt life in a moment and change a family forever.

Since 1974, Childcan has been providing financial, emotional, social and research support to make the journey a little bit easier for our families.

A shoulder to cry on; a trusted confidant; an extended family member – a support service to help our families get through and ensure them that they are **not alone**.



#### History of Hope

Childcan was born in 1974 during a late-night conversation between a bereaved parent, David Cohen, and Dr. L.L. Barrie DeVeber, Immunologist/Oncologist.

Legend has it that Dr. DeVeber was up late working on a grant to find support for the challenges he saw families facing that no one was meeting: financial, emotional and social support, as well as funding research.

David Cohen and Dr. DeVeber's approach – identifying the stressors and frustrations that families were experiencing and working to address them is still the foundation for our work 49 years later.

In the early days Childcan provided seed money to other community-based organizations in their infancy and efforts to support families living with childhood cancer. These include, Ronald McDonald House London, Camp Trillium, and POGO (Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario)







#### Who are we?



A team of 4.5 staff and many dedicated volunteers, strongly committed to enhancing the quality of life of children and families impacted by childhood cancer, by providing them with vital support from diagnosis, through treatment, post-treatment care, or bereavement.

Childcan is a registered, community-based charity who relies solely on the generosity of individual, corporate and community donors, foundations and other granting organizations, and the passionate people who plan, host and participate in our community and signature events.

#### Miller Lake Wiarton Sauble Beach Meaford Owen Sound Collingwood Kincardine Hanover 9 Port Austin 6 21 Bad Axe Goderich Listowel Guelph 4 Kitchener Stratford Grand Bend 21 7 403 Fort Gratiot London 24 Strathroy Simcoe Port Rowan Port Stanley Chatham

#### Where are we?

Childcan mirrors the catchment area of Children's Hospital, London Health Sciences Centre, supporting families from Windsor-Essex to Kitchener-Waterloo, from the shores of Lake Erie north to Grey-Bruce and beyond.

Our office is in London at 792 Commissioners Rd W.



#### What we do





Our support begins the moment we receive a referral from the hospital letting us know a child has been diagnosed with cancer.

Renee or Lorraine, our Family Support staff, introduce themselves and present each family with a customized care package like this one.

"Childcan has been there for our family since day one...we were grateful to have such an amazing organization like Childcan during our toughest times. Their support for our family is more than we could ever ask for." Ashton's mom

#### Comfort when it's needed most





"It is bittersweet to see these care packages for families! They are such a wonderful gift and bring much needed support for families. It brought us so much comfort when we needed it the most and I know it will do the same for other families. Thank you Childcan and team. ""



# Facing childhood cancer together

- Financial
- Emotional
- Social
- Educational
- Research



### Financial support

- Parking Pass
- Meal Vouchers
- Direct Financial Support
  - Assistive Devices or Medication
  - Rent or Mortgage Payments
  - Utility Bills
  - Grocery costs
- Treatment Related Travel



# When the worst imaginable outcome happens

Childcan provides support with funeral costs, to help our bereaved families cover these unplanned expenses ensuring that financial circumstances are not a barrier to the family's preferred way of honouring their child.

# Once a Childcan family always a Childcan family

"No one really wants to be a part of the Childcan family, but once you are in the family circle, you and your family are never forgotten as we all share every child's path along the most difficult times







## **Emotional support**

- Ongoing One-on-One Family Support
- Bereavement Counselling
- Support Groups
- Sibling Support
- Essex County Wellness Program
- Healthy Mind, Body & Support

## Social Support

- Family Fun Days
- Family Holiday Parties
- Special In-Hospital Meals















Educational Support

- Early Years Literacy Program
- Volunteer Tutoring Program
- Bursary Program
- Information & Resources

## Hope-filled Handprints

"It was in our very first visit that we met Lorraine from Childcan.

She very patiently explained all of the services that Childcan offers and even shared some personal experiences.

This made such a difference for us and helped us realize that we are not alone in this fight. "







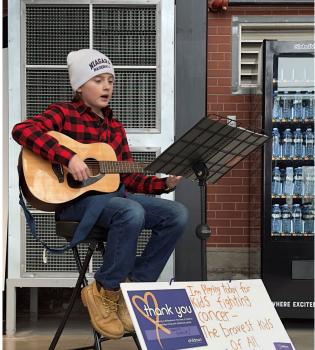


### Bringing Hope Closer To Home

- Working with paediatric oncology research unit at London's Children's Hospital, we are helping increase accessibility to clinical trials by funding novel research closer to home
- "We have a handful of patients now on therapies we would not have thought or known to offer because of the findings this research generated!"
- I cannot emphasize ENOUGH that this research would NOT be possible without the support of Childcan"
- Previously, participating in what could be lifesaving new therapies required travel to distant centres, making involvement economically and logistically difficult.













#### How are we funded?

- Childcan is solely reliant on the generosity of our community as we receive no government funding.
- Donations from individuals, corporations, community groups, foundations, granting organizations, and the passionate people who plan, host and participate in our community and signature events.











## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

childcanwalk.com

Because of you, we can make a difference in the lives of children and families living with childhood cancer.



## September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

A month to raise awareness and hope for a future where childhood cancer has been eliminated.

https://childcan.com/gold





## Why a Gold Ribbon?

- A gold ribbon is the internationally recognized awareness symbol for all forms of childhood cancer
- Gold is a precious metal.
- Children are our most precious treasure.
- It is also a perfect symbol for the childhood cancer journey.
- Gold goes through a process by fire, to become stronger and tougher. Kids with childhood cancer similarly undergo such an experience.

With thanks to https://internationalchildhoodcancerday.org/

#### Ask Me About PJ Day?

February 15<sup>th</sup> is **International Childhood Cancer Awareness Day** 

Children fighting cancer spend a lot of time in their pajamas

https://childcan.com/pj-day



"Our family loves Childcan! When our daughter was in Children's hospital getting treated for cancer, we'd never heard of Childcan. When our social worker told us we could get a parking pass, we were stunned at this revelation. My wife and I were taking shifts being at Children's 24/7 and most days/nights, our focus wasn't on whether we had cash or some payment form for parking. Childcan brought us precious peace of mind. We will never forget their incredibly thoughtful presence in our lives at that time in our family's life!"





## Report of Hope

To learn more about how gifts bring hope to our community, please visit:

https://childcan.com/report-of-hope

In our latest edition you can read Nayla's story of hope. You can already see how far she's come in just one year.

Please, help us to help families like Nayla's.

## Thank you

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- Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or LinkedIn @childcan

