

David Arthur Boyle, Ph.D.
July 24, 1942 - May 7, 2011

For more than 14 years David Boyle was a fixture at March of Dimes. He passed away suddenly on May 7, 2011.

David first came to March of Dimes as a consultant, working with the Human Resources department. His role soon shifted to that of volunteer, when after surgery left him with significant mobility challenges, he gained an understanding of what life is like with a disability. He was immediately asked to serve on our Human Resources Committee and in short order he became the Chair. He served for three years, and helped the agency develop a separate, independent Pension Committee, and simultaneously joined our Board of Directors.

As David's mobility improved so did his involvement with March of Dimes. In short order he joined the Executive Committee. David served on this Committee for almost 10 years, becoming Vice Chair and then Chair, and Past Chair. As Vice Chair, he also served on the Planning and Priorities Committee, becoming its Chair. As Chair of the PPRE, he helped to craft the 2005 Strategic Plan, expanding services to children and to people in other provinces, and developing the first vision and values statement for March of Dimes. As Chair of Ontario March of Dimes, he was a key figure in the negotiations that led to the formation of March of Dimes Canada. He also became its first Chair. During this period of his intense involvement, staff joked about David needing to be at every meeting, such that he might as well take up residency at the office.

David played a key role in our developing a stronger relationship with Easter Seals Society in Ontario, and creating a four-year joint project which he co-Chaired.

David was also instrumental in helping March of Dimes Canada open an office in Halifax, giving the organization its first public presence outside of Ontario. David loved the Eastern provinces and was proud of being Haligonian, and offered to meet with potential volunteers and clients on our behalf when he travelled east. David was a wonderful March of Dimes ambassador, asking people to embrace the work that we do for children and adults with disabilities.

David, just never said "no" and that led to his being recognized for his leadership and commitment at our Annual General Meeting in 2006.

David was a thoughtful, considered man, who had an understated way of influencing people. His warmth, compassion and sensitivity, and his very generous commitment to the work of March of Dimes were invaluable. He could always be counted on to take on one more task, to serve on one more committee, to offer his support in any number of ways.

David brought his good humour, relationship skills, his sense of fairness and fairplay to this volunteer work. He was a true advocate for people with disabilities.

"David was my mentor during his years as Chair, always being available, listening with heart and advising with intelligence. David was very supportive on a professional level, and even on a personal level. It is my belief that an effective CEO needs a good sounding board and partnership with his or her Board Chair and David epitomized that support," says Andria Spindel, President and CEO.

"We recognize and thank David for all the years, all the energy and encouragement that he provided to me, to our team, to the people we serve," says Andria. "He will be greatly missed."