

A Cherished Member of the March of Dimes Family: Spokesperson, William Shatner



William Shatner
(Photo courtesy of www.williamshatner.com)

Since 2006, William Shatner, Canadian icon, actor, writer, producer, director and musical performer has been the Spokesperson of March of Dimes Canada. He has filmed popular public service announcements, recorded radio ads and voice broadcasts, and includes the charity in his popular social media properties.

William Shatner was born March 22, 1931 in Montreal, Quebec. He first gained fame

for his starring role as Captain James T. Kirk of the USS Enterprise in the television show *Star Trek* and seven of the subsequent movies.

Since then, Mr. Shatner has worked tirelessly in a variety of media, and won numerous awards for his portrayal of attorney Denny Crane in the television series *The Practice* and *Boston Legal*. His autobiography, *Up Till Now*, was released in 2008 and a follow up *Shatner Rules* was released in 2011. Both, can be found in bookstores across the country, or online at Amazon.ca.

More recently, Mr. Shatner released an album *Seeking Major Tom*, produced and narrated a documentary called *The Captains*, where he traveled around the globe to interview the elite group of actors (Chris Pine, Patrick Stewart, Avery Brooks, Kate Mulgrew and Scott Bakula) who have portrayed the role of Starship Captain in the *Star Trek* series and films. Throughout 2011 and 2012, Mr. Shatner starred in a One-Man Show that toured across Canada, took Broadway by storm and is

now touring the United States. Most recently, Mr. Shatner produced and narrated *Get a Life*, a documentary that focuses on *Star Trek* fans and how the show has affected their lives.

Mr. Shatner took time out of his busy schedule to talk to March of Dimes about his years as spokesperson.

March of Dimes: *You have an extremely busy schedule, so we really appreciate you taking the time to speak with us. Our donors, supporters and consumers love hearing from you.*

William Shatner:
It is my pleasure.

March of Dimes: *A big part of what drew you to March of Dimes was your memories of living through the polio epidemics. What do you remember most about that time?*

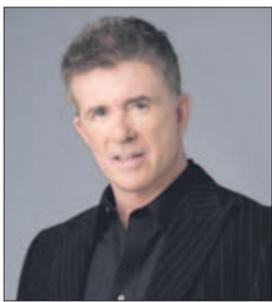
William Shatner:
I was very aware of the polio epidemics, and what I remember most

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Why I Support March of Dimes: Alan Thicke



Alan Thicke

Canadian legend Alan Thicke is a multi-talented performer - actor, comedian, author, songwriter, composer and game and talk show host.

Born in Kirkland Lake, Ontario, Alan's extremely successful career has spanned over four decades, during which time he's earned a Golden Globe nomination for "Best Actor" and seven Emmy Award nominations (five for writing, two for acting). Alan is perhaps best

known for his portrayal of Jason Seaver, the patriarch of the hit ABC series *Growing Pains*.

Alan composed the theme songs to the popular sitcoms *Facts of Life* and *Diff'rent Strokes* and has penned two humorous books on parenting, *How Men Have Babies* and *How to Raise Kids Who Won't Hate You: Bringing up Rock Stars and Other Forms of Children*. He currently plays Donald in the new CW show *The LA Complex*. Alan can now add social media guru to his list of titles, entertaining fans with his witty and interactive Twitter account @alan_thicke.

Alan believes his most important roles, however; are husband, proud parent to his three sons Brennan, Robin and Carter, and doting

grandfather and philanthropist. Alan lends his support to numerous charities, including March of Dimes.

Alan was recently appointed Honorary Chair of Canadians Abroad, an organization that supports Canadians living in the United States. Canadians Abroad is a sponsor of the CCBC Celebrity Golf Classic, an annual fundraiser held in Palm Springs, California in support of March of Dimes. In addition, in August, 2012, Alan hosted a gala for the Canadian Comedy Awards benefiting the charity, which he hopes will become a national tour.

"I feel like March of Dimes has always been a part of my life, starting as a child in Northern Ontario," says Alan. "I've tried to support the charity throughout my career and am so pleased that everything has come together with the comedy shows and my new role with Canadians Abroad to let me work more closely with March of Dimes," he continues.

For a number of years, Alan's life was untouched by disability, until he hit his 40s, when his grandmother had a stroke, close family members were affected by illness, including cancer, heart disease and diabetes, and numerous injuries forced Alan to have surgeries requiring rehabilitation.

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President's Message



President & CEO, Andria Spindel

March of Dimes Canada is dedicated to expanding services to people with disabilities across the country. Having already established offices in Halifax, Nova Scotia and Quebec City, QC to offer a number of our programs, we are now looking westward. A significant number of new relationships have been established with particular emphasis in Western Canada where two managers have taken up residence.

Working in Vancouver, staffer Brent Page is developing opportunities for increased

Peer Support programs for stroke and polio survivors, exploring opportunities to introduce Conductive Education, and to expand our work in inclusive emergency preparedness with local partners.

In Calgary, Sue Jones has also developed relationships that helped organize an aphasia program, peer group retreat, and a Living with A Disability day workshop. We are eager to have Western based consumers identify ways in which March of Dimes can expand their opportunities to live independently, empowered and engaged.

Recent accessible trips organized by our Recreation and Integration Department have proven very popular with folks in the West as well as in Ontario, so we are advertising that berths are available on our fully-accessible cruises. Trips included Alaskan holidays, the Caribbean,

Panama, Hawaii and more. For more information please email recreation@marchofdimes.ca.

The growth of stroke recovery chapters, caregiver support chapters and other services is a response to the needs of people both newly or previously disabled who may not have had the benefit of a support in the community. If you or someone you know would like information on how to establish such a group or to have guidance in the process, please contact Sue Jones at sjones@marchofdimes.ca

There are many ways in which we are working to create a society inclusive of people with disabilities, and we welcome hearing from consumers, caregivers, professionals, and others in support of our mission. We thank our donors, volunteers, and supporters who help us make the programs available.

As we grow, we are expanding our constituency and providing support to caregivers, seniors and families. Disability affects, either directly, or indirectly every person in this country, and as Canadians age, the need for our services will only grow.

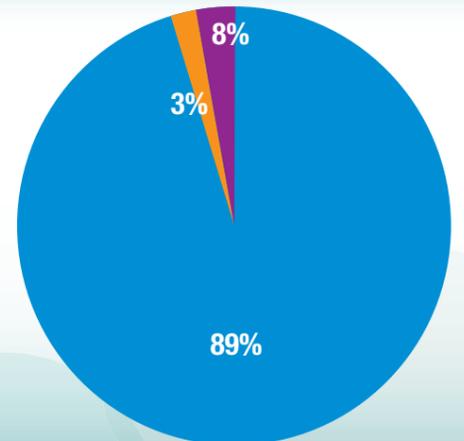
Thank you for being part of the March of Dimes family. You are making a difference in the lives of Canadians living with disabilities!

There are many ways that you can support March of Dimes:

- Support us by visiting www.mymod.ca
- "Like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MarchofDimesCanada
- Follow us on Twitter at [@modcanada](https://twitter.com/modcanada)

BREAKDOWN OF FUNDS SPENT

Expenses	2012	2011
• Program Expenses	\$82,446,407 89%	\$87,932,100 90%
• Fundraising & Donor acquisition	\$2,429,984 3%	\$2,216,189 3%
• Admin & Amortization	\$7,258,664 8%	\$7,136,089 7%
Total Expenses	\$92,135,055 100%	\$97,284,378 100%



DesignAbility® - Changing Lives

March of Dimes DesignAbility® program offers custom-built solutions and modifications to the everyday challenges that can be faced by people living with mobility issues.

At no charge except for the expense of building materials, DesignAbility® volunteers work with clients to craft creative, custom solutions that help overcome barriers to work, play, personal hygiene and other daily activities.

Joe, a volunteer, has created countless items for clients that help make life a little easier.

One family helped by Joe had appealed to the DesignAbility® program for help with a custom-made bed for their three-year-old daughter Mishaelle. Mishaelle who has multiple disabilities, was still using a crib to keep her safe and from falling at night. However, she was regularly putting her arms and legs through the crib slats, and her head over the top rail and would often wake up and cry throughout the night.

Joe designed a full-sized twin bed for Mishaelle that has a lattice-work 'gate' that mom can easily open, and still keeps Mishaelle secure in her bed at night.

'From the bottom of our hearts we want to express our gratitude & thanks for Joe's kindness – every since he made the bed for our daughter Mishaelle, not only has her life been changed, but we as a family now have peace of mind – and that is because Joe stepped up and said 'I will help' – she is now happy and is always looking forward to a good sleep, says Mishaelle's parents Pierre and Nahomie.



Mishaelle's safety bed

If you or someone you know has a disability and needs a solution or product to increase independence that cannot be found on the market, the March of Dimes DesignAbility® program may be able to help.

For more information please email designability@marchofdimes.ca or call 1-800-263-3463 for more information.

Introducing the Academy of Conductive Education (ACE)

Parents of children with various motor disabilities are challenged by an education system that – despite its best efforts – is often unable to meet the unique and complex needs of their children. Many parents seek educational programs that marry educational and therapeutic models to address ‘the whole child’.

March of Dimes Canada is so pleased to announce that the Academy of Conductive Education (ACE), a new service offering in Toronto, will be the first not-for-profit school for children with neuro-motor disabilities guided and grounded by the practice and principles of Conductive Education.

Conductive Education integrates medical knowledge with educational methods to enable children with disabilities to learn how to gain control over their movements, making them more mobile, independent and self-confident. Developed in the 1940s in Hungary by Dr. Andras Peto, Conductive Education operates on the premise that anybody can learn and improve when they are motivated.

“When you do not educate the child to be independent, you educate the child to be dependent,” Maria Hari, former director of the Peto Institute once said, and it perfectly captures our approach,” says Brent Page, Manager for Conductive Education. *“ACE’s unique marriage of special education and physical therapy teaches children with disabilities to see themselves as active and self-reliant participants in the world.”*

Staff resources for ACE will include an administrator, conductors, classroom assistants, and Ministry-certified teacher employed by March of Dimes Canada. Adjunct services to support children’s needs and development will include physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists and specialists in augmentative and alternative communication strategies.

“My job is important to me as I feel I can connect with the children as well as their parents. They are the truly inspirational ones to me, their dedication and love to watch their children work so hard to achieve their full potential. I’m there to give my advice, support and prove just how strong their children really are. I love the excitement and joy I feel every



time I witness a new child who learns something new for the first time,” says Abigail Payne, Lead Conductor for Children’s Services with ACE.

Classes will follow the Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5, with full day classes from Monday through Friday. Lessons will be individualized to each child’s specific needs in order to ensure the best possible program that will meet their needs on holistic level, catering to their educational, social, emotional and physical needs.

“My son Maclain has been participating in Conductive Education through March of Dimes since before he was a year old. We have always been so excited and encouraged by the physical gains he has made with CE, and we have seen his cognitive skills skyrocket. For the past two years, Maclain has been a part of the Early Intervention Program, and it has been incredible. He has been exposed to concepts like days of the week, the weather, telling time, measurements, numbers, colours and the alphabet, and all the while, being challenged with his physical skills. It is the perfect mix for a child like mine, who has significant cerebral palsy and wears cochlear implants. It allows us to not have to sacrifice one goal over another, but rather work on them all at the same time. This year Maclain will enter Senior Kindergarten, and the process has been daunting. The school system as it exists today, does not offer an environment which supports learning for children like Maclain. The resources are scarce, the therapy is absent, and they are failing to provide the necessary framework for successful academic gains for children with special needs.



When March of Dimes decided to expand their program into a school in Toronto, we were, in a single word, relieved. The Academy for Conductive Education will now give Maclain the chance to learn all of the important and age appropriate curriculum in a CE environment. I do not have to worry about him being left in his wheelchair all day, or wonder if he is being neglected or fret over his ability to learn in an environment that does not suit his needs. With ACE, he will get everything he needs in one incredible program, and I know that he will continue to thrive, and grow, and learn, and become stronger. There is nothing like this out there for children with neurological disorders in Ontario, and it offers up a much-needed educational option for these children. For a parent who has worried since their son was first diagnosed about the day that Maclain would go off to school, I can now be excited about this milestone instead of dreading it,” says Brenda Agnew, mom to Maclain aged 5, with Athetoid Cerebral Palsy.

For more information on ACE, please call 1-800-263-3463 or email ce@marchofdimes.ca or to support the school visit www.marchofdimes.ca/ace

March of Dimes is looking for Volunteer Champions!

Join the tradition of generosity. March of Dimes is gearing up for the 2013 Door-to-Door Campaign – our 62st straight year of the longest-running campaign of its kind in North America! In January and February, brave volunteers will canvass communities across Ontario to help raise funds for our essential programs and services. You can also support the campaign by registering at www.doortodooronline.ca and canvass from the comfort of your home.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with our 2013 Door-to-Door campaign. It is the strength of our volunteers that make this, our largest fundraising campaign, so successful. Funds raised through the Door-to-Door campaign will help thousands of Canadians with physical

disabilities, many of whom have been waiting months, even years, for the programs and services they need.

This year our campaign goal is over half a million dollars – but we can’t do it without you. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please call 1-800-263-3463 ext. 7705 or e-mail door2door@marchofdimes.ca



Isabella Jefferey – My Legacy to March of Dimes

Each year thousands of Canadians make a bequest to benefit charitable organizations. Isabella Jefferey is a long-time supporter of March of Dimes and has included March of Dimes as part of her estate planning.

She chose March of Dimes because of the financial support her family received when she was a child. More recently she received education and assistance from March of Dimes' Post-Polio Canada program when she began experiencing post-polio syndrome. She finds it strengthening to meet and hear of others living with the same challenges.

Isabella was six years old in 1945 when she contracted polio.

The doctor in her small town had never seen a case of polio but was sure she had the dreaded virus, and so immediately started action to have her transported to Sick Kids hospital. Like many polio survivors, Isabella remembers her hospitalization as lonely and difficult. She was put in a crib in isolation and the only way her parents could see her was to climb the fire escape and look through the window.

Isabella spent three weeks in the hospital before being sent home with splints for her legs and a frame made of canvas and piping. Her mother was given the responsibility of exercising and massaging Isabella. They were blessed by the support of a neighbour, a trained therapist from Scotland, who learned of the family's troubles and offered her help for as long as needed. After some time, Isabella was fitted for a brace for her right leg as her left leg had regained enough strength to support her. She returned to school after one year of home studies.

Isabella continued to walk with the aid of the brace until the renowned Dr. Mustard operated on her at Sick Kids. She spent months recovering from her surgery in the hospital and when she returned home she still needed crutches to walk for over a year. Isabella's family received financial support from March of Dimes to help with her hospitalization and surgeries. This support meant a great deal to both her and her family as they did not have the means to pay the costly surgical bills.

By the time she entered high school, Isabella was walking with only a

lift on her shoe. She continued her studies and became a teacher and taught for 27 years. Her teaching career was unfortunately cut short when she began to experience the symptoms of post-polio syndrome when she was 50 years old. Little understood by medical professionals, it is estimated that 50-80% of polio survivors will experience PPS, with symptoms that include muscle weakness, difficulty swallowing and breathing and extreme fatigue. Isabella's doctor sent her to West Park Hospital in Toronto, Ontario and it was confirmed that she had PPS. She took a 6 month leave from work but was determined to remain a teacher longer so changed from kindergarten to grade 4 as the children of that age were more independent. Teaching Kindergarten involves a great deal of bending, sitting on the floor and walking around little ones and their toys. Despite the change, Isabella was only able to continue work for three more years as her leg weakness increased greatly and has every year since.

Isabella has been a steadfast advocate for polio awareness and vaccination since childhood, supporting Rotary's work to eliminate polio globally by ensuring that every child receives a vaccination. She speaks at numerous Rotary events throughout Ontario and Quebec and helps to direct other polio survivors to March of Dimes' Post-Polio Program. Post-Polio Canada works with peer support groups nationwide to connect polio survivors. The program also provides education for those unfamiliar with PPS and resources to caregivers. In her speeches, Isabella discusses how March of Dimes helped her family back in 1953, and considers her work with Rotary International to be one of the most rewarding projects she's even been involved with.

"I just want to say, keep up the good work! Those who are living with disabilities appreciate help with their challenges. An organization like March of Dimes with such a track record is a continuous asset," says Isabella.

For more information on learning about planning your estate, please contact Daniella Sretenovic by emailing plannedgiving@marchofdimes.ca or calling 1-800-263-3463 ext. 7338.

Introducing MyMod.ca

We have created an online community for advocates, donors, family, friends, fundraisers, recipients of support, staff and volunteers called myMOD.ca.

myMOD.ca allows you to participate on your own schedule and exposes all of our supporters to the great things that March of Dimes does.

You are a key member of our community and without you we could not make a difference enhancing the independence and community participation of people with physical disabilities.

Join us at myMOD.ca and share the experience of making a difference.



BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER ONLINE



GiveGet box Shop and Support March of Dimes Canada

You can help March of Dimes Canada by purchasing items you want from GiveGet, and a contribution will be made on your behalf.

- Shop from hundreds of items listed below including merchandise, sporting equipment, cookware, toys, jewelry, etc.

- Contributions are made to March of Dimes Canada of up to 50% of the purchase price thanks to the generous support of the manufacturers and retailers!

Visit www.marchofdimes.ca to learn more

Rick Ball – Never Give Up!

Rick Ball has been involved with March of Dimes for over three years, providing inspiration from his amazing story to consumers, donors and supporters at conferences and events across Ontario.

Rick lost his left leg below the knee while riding his motorcycle outside of Orillia, Ontario in 1986. Over 20 years later, in 2007, at 41 years of age he began long distance running in 2007, under the guidance of Orillia coach Roger DePlancke.

The same grit and determination that helped Rick recover from his injury propelled him through the ranks of long-distance running, competing in half and full marathons along side able-bodied runners, including the 2009 Boston Marathon.

In 2010, Rick broke the three-hour barrier for the marathon (in a time of two hours, 57 minutes and 47 seconds)... a first for single leg amputees and akin to Roger Bannister's historic sub-four minute mile. Rick also holds the fastest time in the world for the 10 kilometres and half-marathon.

He seemed on pace to take the gold medal in the marathon in the 2012 Paralympics in London. Then he was faced with another setback when the marathon was removed from Paralympic competition – at the time due to a lack of high-level elite competitors.

Undeterred, Rick was determined to still pursue his dream of competing at the Paralympics, and so changed his discipline from long-distance running to sprinting, racing in the 200 and 400 meter categories.

A switch of this magnitude is almost unheard of, but Rick threw himself into sprint training with the same commitment as distance running. He has since competed at top-level with other elite sprinters. Rick



Rick Ball

ranked #6 in the world for 2011 in the 400 metre race, represented Canada at the Para PanAmerican games in Mexico in 2011 and ran the world standard time of 57 seconds – incredible achievements for someone of Rick's age and who has not been a lifetime sprinter. Unfortunately, a severe muscle injury prevented Rick from his goal of competing in the 2012 Paralympics, but buoyed by his indomitable spirit, he continues to train and compete.

“Although my goal of competing as an elite athlete might be extreme to some, everyone's goals are equally as important,” says Rick. ‘March of Dimes is a wonderful organization that

helps people in many ways to overcome their challenges and lead happier and active lives,” he continues.

Rick spreads his message of inspiration and hope at the talks he gives, not only for March of Dimes, but to school groups and other organizations.

Rick competes with the support of his wife, Stacey, and their two sons, Brayden and Carter, and finds inspiration in the determination of Canadian icon Terry Fox. The Ball family lives in the village of Marchmont, near Orillia.

A Cherished Member of the March of Dimes Family: Spokesperson, William Shatner

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was the fear, the sense of fear that permeated everything. It was just all around you. Everybody knew a family member or friend who had polio, I remember houses being quarantined, being kept out of swimming pools, or being sent out of the city in the summers. And it was because of March of Dimes, and the dimes they collected for the research (for a polio vaccine) that helped find that cure, and ended the fear.

March of Dimes: Today March of Dimes provides programs and services for children and adults living with disabilities, which is a cause very close to your heart. You are a big supporter of therapeutic horseback riding programs for people with disabilities – can you tell us a little more about that?

William Shatner:

I have seen the remarkable impact therapeutic riding has on people, not only with physical disabilities, but with emotional or traumatic injuries as well. It makes an enormous difference in the lives of people. I have seen individuals who have recently lost limbs, or suffered a trauma be transformed by the salutary effects of riding. And the people served by March of Dimes are similarly affected by the same kind of good work.

March of Dimes: You have recently become a sensation on social media, with your interactive Twitter and Facebook pages. How do you think March of Dimes can connect to stakeholders in much the same way?

William Shatner:

We are now in a whole new era, this viral revolution. For those of us over 30 years old, it might not be second nature to get all our information from the computer or our phone, but for the younger generation, this is where they learn and communicate. The younger generation might not understand the meaning behind March of Dimes* but if you can get them engaged, then they can go to Mom and Pop and say ‘you have to do something’ for this charity. For today's generation, collecting dimes might not make sense, and in today's terms we would be collecting dollars

or more. But I remember when a gallon of gas cost a dime, and March of Dimes was able to collect enough dimes to help fund a cure for polio. If you can use social media to engage people in the same way and show how a large number of people giving a small amount can make a huge contribution, than we can set our sights on helping even more people.

(*March of Dimes note: In the 1940s and 50s, desperate to find a cure and protect their children from polio, mothers across Canada joined in a North America-wide fundraising effort, going door-to-door in their neighbourhoods to collect dimes. The sheer scope of the campaign led entertainer Eddie Cantor to suggest the name “March of Dimes”, based on his song ‘Brother Can you Spare a Dime?’ and a popular newsreel of the day known as the March of Time)

March of Dimes: Thank you very much for your time and sharing some of your history with us.

William Shatner:

You are very welcome.

William Shatner's most recently recorded public service announcement can be found on our website and YouTube Channel.

March of Dimes Canada is tremendously grateful for Mr. Shatner's support and thanks him for his ongoing contribution to enhancing the community participation and independence of Canadian children and adults with disabilities.

For more information on William Shatner, please visit his website at www.williamshatner.com, follow him on Twitter @williamshatner or 'like' him on Facebook.

Monthly Giving: Jennifer Mair's Story

Jennifer Mair is a wonderful, cheerful lady who has been supporting March of Dimes since 1998.

Jennifer's story began in Jamaica where, as a child, she contracted Spinocerebellar ataxia, a degenerative neuro-muscular condition. This disease did not defeat Jennifer – she took it in stride.

Jennifer moved to London, Ontario about twenty years ago to be with family. They did not want her to be left behind in Jamaica. Jennifer began her relationship with March of Dimes when she called to ask for assistance to help her obtain a wheelchair. Jennifer was so pleased with the response and treatment she received from March of

Dimes that she wanted to give back. She has become a monthly donor and has included March of Dimes in her will. March of Dimes is blessed by donors like Jennifer, who give from their hearts.

Jennifer has a wonderful smile and is active in her church. She exercises three times a week and believes you should never give up. Thank you Jennifer for being part of the March of Dimes family!

If you would like more information on becoming a monthly donor, please email donorservices@marchofdimes.ca or call 1-800-263-3463 ext. 7382.

March of Dimes helps tens of thousands of people each year

AccessAbility[®] Services offers a full range of options to help remove the barriers of everyday life for people with physical disabilities. These include:

- Assistive Devices Program
- Home & Vehicle Modification[®] Program
- DesignAbility[®] Program

For more information: 1-866-765-7237 or e-mail adp@marchofdimes.ca

Conductive Education[®] is an innovative program that combines elements of education and rehabilitation to enable children and adults to increase their independence and mobility.

For more information: 1-800-263-3463 or e-mail ce@marchofdimes.ca

Employment Services helps people with disabilities develop employment plans, overcome employment barriers and prepare for a return to the workplace after illness or injury. These services include:

- Assessment Services
- Return to Work Services
- Discovery[®] Job Skills Training
- Job Development & Placement Services
- CanVet

For more information: 1-800-263-3463 or e-mail es@marchofdimes.ca

Independent Living Services offers non-medical, community-based services for people with physical disabilities and/or acquired brain injuries, seniors and the medically fragile. Services include:

- Attendant Services

- Acquired Brain Injury Services
- Northern Medical Clinics

For more information: 1-800-263-3463 or e-mail il@marchofdimes.ca

Peer Support Services provides information, resources and support for polio and stroke survivors, their families, caregivers, and health care professionals. Expanded programs such as Post-Polio Canada[®] and Stroke Recovery Canada[®] are available across the country.

For more information on Post-Polio Canada: 1-800-263-3463 or e-mail polio@marchofdimes.ca

For more information on Stroke Recovery Canada[®]: 1-888-540-6666 or e-mail stroke@marchofdimes.ca

Recreation & Integration Services enhances the quality of life of people with physical disabilities by providing recreational activities, friendship opportunities and social integration. Services include:

- BeFriending[®] Program
- Summer and Winter Holiday Programs
- Out-Trips and Social Clubs
- Accessible Travel

For more information: 1-800-263-3463 or e-mail recreation@marchofdimes.ca

We wish to thank our donors for their continued support of our vision of improving the lives of people with physical disabilities. With your help, we are now able to serve a wide range of people in more ways than ever before.



Why I Support March of Dimes: Alan Thicke

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"I think as we age, we develop a great awareness, a greater sensitivity to how fragile our bodies can be, and how disability can really affect anybody," says Alan. "I certainly gained more exposure through my support of various telethons and fundraisers over the years for muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis, diabetes and other causes. I suppose it's a maturing process, or part of getting older, but I know my eyes have been opened to the challenges that can be experienced by people living with a disability," he continues.

March of Dimes is very excited to welcome Alan to our family of supporters.

"There is no shortage of those who need our help and support," says Alan. "I encourage people to support March of Dimes in whatever way they can - being a small part of the solution is a win-win for everybody."

For more information on Alan Thicke, please follow him on Twitter @alan_thicke or visit his website www.alanthicke.com

We Honoured Caregivers at the Ability & Beyond® Gala

On Thursday, May 3rd guests at the TD sponsored Ability & Beyond® Gala were entertained and inspired by Hollywood royalty Debbie Reynolds. The dinner took place at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

Global Toronto Weekend Anchor and Reporter Carolyn MacKenzie was the evening's fantastic host. Acclaimed singer Simone Soman moved the crowd with her stirring rendition of the national anthems.

The evening allowed guests to be 'up close and personal' with Hollywood legend, Ms. Reynolds. She told jokes, sang ditties and shared her very personal story of her experiences as an informal caregiver to many family members and friends while maintaining her career as a singer, actress and author.

Other highlights of the evening included Jonas Salk Sponsor sanofi-pasteur/sanofi-aventis being honoured with March of Dimes' Corporate Spirit Award for their decades long support of the organization. Neurobiologist Dr. Donald Weaver was presented with the Jonas Salk Award for his research into drugs to alleviate a number of disabling conditions.

In addition there was a fabulous silent auction that let attendees bid on exciting trips, shows, sports memorabilia, home appliances among many

other exciting items. As in past years, jeweller Louis Louro created a stunning necklace that pays homage both to Ms. Reynolds and March of Dimes' storied history.

All proceeds support March of Dimes' programs and services for children and adults with disabilities.

We thank our evening's Co-Chairs: Shoppers HomeHealthCare President Paul Damiani and his wife Rosie, and President of Edgewater Financial Group Inc. Scott Beckett and his wife Kelly.

As well, we extend a huge thank you to our sponsors: TD the Presenting sponsor, sanofi-pasteur and sanofi-aventis the Jonas Salk Award sponsor, Shoppers HomeHealthCare, the Invitation and Print sponsor, Gala Sponsor Louro Jewellers, and Bell the Decor Sponsor. Global Toronto the Media Sponsor and the Toronto Sun the Print Sponsor. St. Joseph Estates supplied the evening's vintages.

Thank you to our Committee Members, volunteers, guests and everybody who supported the event - we couldn't do it without you!



President and CEO Andria Spindel with Jonas Salk Award Winner Dr. Donald Weaver and Debbie Reynolds



Simone Soman belts out O'Canada



David Martin (youngest son of the Right Honourable Paul Martin) with Debbie Reynolds



Anthem singer Simone Soman and Debbie Reynolds



President and CEO Andria Spindel with emcee Global Toronto Reporter and Weekend Anchor Carolyn MacKenzie



John Tracy of Presenting Sponsor TD Bank Group introduces Debbie Reynolds



Longtime March of Dimes volunteer and polio survivor Audrey King



Honourable Deb Matthews, Ontario's Minister of Health and Long-Term Care



The beautiful necklace provided by Louro Jewellers



The crowd listens raptly to Debbie Reynolds



One of the fabulous silent auction items



Co-Chair Scott Beckett, Debbie Reynolds and Co-Chair Paul Damiani

Upcoming Events!



Rock for Dimes!

The corporate battle of the bands fundraiser is taking Canada by storm! Rock for Dimes events are currently held in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, London, Windsor, Calgary and Vancouver with plans to expand into Edmonton. To see when the next event in your community is, or to hold one in your city, please visit www.rockfordimes.ca.



Road Hockey Challenge!

The most Canadian of games is a fantastic way to bring together a community, get some exercise and indulge in some friendly competition all while supporting a great cause. Charity Road Hockey events were recently held in Toronto, Lindsay and Thorold in Ontario.

If you would like to learn more about hosting a Road Hockey event in your community, please email events@marchofdimes.ca

OpportuniTEAs for Independence

Enjoy high tea with the stars of the Young and the Restless! Hosted by veteran Kate Linder (Esther) this event allows you to interact with your favourite characters while enjoying tea and comfort.

For more information please email events@marchofdimes.ca

For a complete and up-to-date listing of our upcoming special events and fundraisers, or to become a volunteer please visit our website at www.marchofdimes.ca/events or call 1-800-263-3463.

Mailbag:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the work done by March of Dimes and particularly for the Independent Living program. Your cooperation in assessing and re-assessing my daughter, and my son, both suffering from advanced Myotonic Dystrophy type 1 for possible placement in an independent living facility, has been great. I note the kind help from Ms. Daly and Ms. Robinson in particular!

My daughter has lived at 4 Sir Lou Drive, Fletcher's View, since May, 2011. The MOD staff under the direction of Doreen (and Doreen herself) is just wonderful. It is such a comfort to know my daughter now lives in a secure and very supportive and friendly community. Thank you so much.

Hank Kuntz, father.

I am the mother of Danielette. You paid four hundred dollars for my daughter's wheelchair. I am writing to say thank you to all who made this possible for my daughter. You all have done a great thing for us.

When we were in Africa, me, my husband or her brother used to carry my daughter on our back or use a wheelbarrow to take her to places. On some occasions people offered to help me. I felt such relief when someone carried her so I could rest. Today, I feel the same way. You have taken my daughter from my back. May God bless this organization to increase in financial strength to help people in need like me.

Thank you very much for your love. You give us money but that is love. Thanks. ~ **Pandora, Danielette's mother**

Campers Helping Campers!

Since 1969, members of the Camping in Ontario (previously Ontario Private Campground Association) have volunteered their time and provided resources to support March of Dimes through our Campers Helping Campers program. This wonderful fundraising initiative is led by Camping in Ontario and March of Dimes.

Funds raised through Campers Helping Campers are used to support March of Dimes' Recreation and Integration Services program and are used to help people with disabilities to attend our Summer Holiday program in Geneva Park. Costs covered include: specialized travel to and from the camp, meals, attendant care, accommodations, supplies and day trips. Recreational opportunities can be difficult for people who require specialized accessibility needs. The Summer Holiday program allows for campers to spend a few days away from the regular routine in a supportive environment with new friends – something that can be a priceless experience.

Each year hundreds of campgrounds across Ontario sponsor special events, sell break-open (Nevada) tickets, create and sell cookbooks, organize tournaments and provided personal and corporate donations in support of Campers Helping Campers.

"We started our support of Campers Helping Campers as a great chance to socialize and get involved with our park community. It has unexpectedly developed into many new and long lasting friendships. The real meaning of our yard sales, raffle draws, kids' day, boat poker run and other events hit home when our efforts sent one of our own campers to an adult camp. We give nothing but our time and the rewards are enormous, personally, for our park community and the people we are helping." Lynn and Scott – Sandy Beach Resort

Over \$1.3 million has been raised in support of March of Dimes Outdoor (Camping) Recreation and Integration Services Programs. March of Dimes recognizes each and every supporting campground with their annual recognition program. The top three supporting campgrounds last year were Bensfort Bridge Resort, Sandy Beach Resort and Country Gardens RV Park.

If you would like to get involved, as a camper, or as a campground manager, please contact:

Dennis R. Ullman
Co-ordinator, Campers Helping Campers
(905) 718-8123
campers@marchofdimes.ca

