

Care in Action

MARCH OF DIMES NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2014

Our Little Miracles

In her own words, Rebecca Smith, mother of Zachary, 8-year old boy living with cerebral palsy, Halifax, Nova Scotia

“Zachary Joshua Kalpakchiev was born at 29 weeks by emergency caesarean section when it was discovered that his heart was failing, he was barely 3 pounds. His twin Joshua William passed away 5 days later due to complications. Zachary had his own battles to fight surviving two heart failures, kidney failure, seizures and brain bleeds.



Zachary Joshua Kalpakchiev

“Failure to thrive” was the term they used to describe Zachary; he was considered the sickest baby in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the time. Later it was revealed that 2/3 of his brain had been lost and the rest was not normal, we were then told of all the things he would not be able to do. That Zach had only brain stem activity and we should consider putting him in an institution. Zach wasn’t even two-months-old or out of the hospital.

Despite all of this we remained positive because we knew every time we looked into Zachary’s eyes that there was much more going on than just brain stem activity, so we took him home and began the long process of doing everything we could to enrich his life and development.

In our research we came across Conductive Education®, and discovered that it was offered by March of Dimes Canada in our own province of Nova Scotia. Conductive Education (CE) maximizes the independence and mobility of children and adults with disabilities. Conductive Education helps individuals learn their way to independence.

Zach was signed up right away and we have been participating ever since.

At the hospital we were told that at some point our money would be needed for things like wheelchairs and
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FEATURE

Our Little Miracles
Zachary Joshua
Kalpakchiev



DONOR STORY

Gifts from the Heart
– Harry Lawson



IN THE DIMELIGHT

OpportuniTEAS
with Kate Linder
and Friends



OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS

Helping Make our
Programs Possible



Harry Lawson

Gifts from the Heart

Harry Lawson – Long-time March of Dimes Canada Volunteer and Legacy Donor

Each year thousands of Canadians designate a portion of their assets to charities by making a bequest in their Will or transferring assets while they are

alive. Harry Lawson has included March of Dimes Canada in his estate planning, and recently made a significant personal donation to support our programs that enhance independence for Canadians living with disabilities.

Harry became involved with March of Dimes over 30 years ago when he became a volunteer Fundraising Chair. He quickly became a Board Member and was the Chair from 1988-1990, after which he served as Past Chair.

In the early 1980s, Andria Spindel, President and CEO of March of Dimes Canada, spoke at the local Rotary Club which had just been formed in the Don Valley area (near March of Dimes' head office), and was able to secure Mr. Lawson and a number of Rotary members as volunteers. He remained a very active volunteer until he and his wife, Vivian, retired to Florida where they now live for half the year.

Harry became a passionate and dedicated volunteer because he saw how the work of March of Dimes Canada applies to everybody. In an interview with Andria Spindel, he spoke of what he learned from people like Rick Hansen, that most people are only temporarily able-bodied for as we age we all lose aspects of physical function, or develop a serious disability. With increased age, many more people require March of Dimes' services.

Harry Lawson's philanthropic spirit came early, as a result of his impoverished childhood.

He has not only given the gift of his time and expertise to March of Dimes, but is also a major donor, and has pledged a legacy gift.

"March of Dimes has always been in my Will. "

March of Dimes Canada greatly appreciates the many contributions of Harry Lawson, and thanks him and his wife for their incredible generosity. Their recent gift and the legacy gift will help support Canadians with disabilities to live more independently through services of March of Dimes Canada.

"This organization does great work," says Harry. "This (donating or leaving a legacy gift) is a great opportunity and more people should take it. I have moved on to let others take on leadership roles and I encourage everyone to volunteer".

For more information about leaving a legacy gift please visit www.marchofdimes.ca or email plannedgiving@marchofdimes.ca.

YOUR SUPPORT

Because you care ... because you give ... March of Dimes Canada delivers life-changing programs and services to children and adults with disabilities across Canada. Please continue to support our mission.

Ways to Give

Consider these ways to donate:

- ▶ Make a **monthly** gift. Gifts can be designated or restricted to a specific program or service.
- ▶ Join the **Annual Giving Program**. By making an annual gift to March of Dimes Canada you help ensure that Canadians living with disabilities become more independent – both today and in the future.
- ▶ Make a **Legacy Gift** in honour or in memory of a loved one.

More Ways to Help

There are many other ways to give to March of Dimes Canada, including planned gifts, gifts of securities and corporate gifts. For more information, call Donor Relations at 1-800-263-DIME (3463) or visit us at www.marchofdimes.ca/donate.

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walkers, while this may be the case it is my belief that with more therapy there will be less of a need for all this equipment.

I am constantly frustrated by the attitude that I must choose

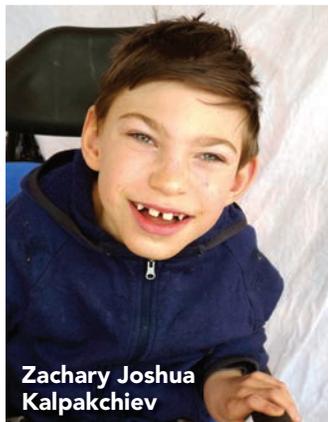
between the two. "There is no cure for Cerebral Palsy" one neurologist told me like my desire to want my child to reach his full potential was an unrealistic misinformed dream. Zach is like any other child only that his learning takes more time and more guidance. What is so wrong with wanting your child to be the best he can be even if he has a disability?

To our constant delight Zach, now at eight-years-old, has surpassed all expectations. He just seems to keep developing. Every time we think he will never do something he proves us wrong time and time again. So to all the professionals who told us there was only brain stem activity and nothing more, I would like to let them know that there is so very much more."

Zachary has been attending CE since before he was 2 years old. In March, 2014, he attended our overnight March Break Camp with his mom. Zach continues to work on his weight-bearing skills when standing and walking, he practices moving around on the floor independently, and continues to work on his sitting balance, using his arms



Zachary Joshua Kalpakchiev



Zachary Joshua Kalpakchiev

for support. At the camp he was able to practice his eating skills, holding the spoon and feeding himself with little help. Way to go Zach!

To learn more about our miracles and Conductive Education®, please visit our website at www.marchofdimes.ca/ce.



Kate Linder with a few of her Young & The Restless cast mates

OpportuniTEAS with Kate Linder and Friends

Since 2012, actress Kate Linder, along with Young & The Restless cast mates, and more have joined March of Dimes Canada for a High Tea fundraiser in support of Conductive Education® (CE).

Kate was moved when she saw firsthand the significant, life-changing impacts CE has, not only on the participants, but their families as well, and has committed to supporting the program however she can.

"Believe me, there has been no episode in my role on "The Young and the Restless" or through my career as an actress that comes close to the heartfelt experiences I see in CE," says Kate.

OpportuniTEAS with Kate Linder allows fans to get up close and personal with their favourite soap stars, while at the same time supporting children living with disabilities.

"Soap opera fans are truly the most devoted and generous," says Mary Lynne Stewart, National Director of Fund Development and Communications for March of Dimes Canada. "This event allows Kate to share her passion for CE with her fans and help us raise awareness and funds for this program. Thank you to all the Young & The Restless Stars who have supported CE – they are truly making a difference".



Helping Make our Programs Possible

Throughout the past year, March of Dimes has been the beneficiary of a number of corporate partnerships that help expand programs, support fundraisers and allow more Canadian families with disabilities to become independent and empowered.

A Million Dollar Milestone!

TD Bank Group has been a consistent supporter of March of Dimes Canada, and in 2014, surpassed \$1million in giving! Over the years, TD has funded a number of fundraising events and programs that have allowed March of Dimes to increase vital programming for people living with disabilities. In 2013, TD committed to support the Learning Independence for Future Empowerment (L.I.F.E.) program.

L.I.F.E. Toronto is presented in partnership with Outward Bound and serves youth with physical disabilities who are making the transition into adulthood. L.I.F.E. Toronto is a combination of life skills workshops, Outward Bound Canada programming, weekly social outings, and Conductive Education.

In addition to TD's financial support, the L.I.F.E. curriculum will also offer real life lessons on financial literacy through the program, Money Matters. Delivered by TD Volunteers, this program teaches adult learners the basic elements of financial literacy and education savings program.

TD's commitment to diversity is exemplified in its hiring policies and practices. Its voluntary spirit includes the participation of employees who spend a day volunteering at many charities. March of Dimes has been the beneficiary of a team of willing and smiling TD employees who put a day's effort to work at our office.

March of Dimes gratefully acknowledges TD's contributions to helping Canadians living with disabilities.

Shoppers Home Health Care has been one of the strongest supporters of Stroke Recovery Canada®, a program of March of Dimes Canada, having donated over \$250,000 to March of Dimes. Stroke Recovery Canada® offers post-recovery support, education and programs for stroke survivors, their families and health care providers.

This program supports thousands of Canadians annually, who are living with the effects of stroke, and their caregivers, through newsletters, events, conferences, seminars and more.

March of Dimes would not be able to offer this crucial support were it not for the generosity of Shoppers Home Health Care. Throughout 2014, Shoppers Home Health Care will also be funding **Aging at Home Conferences** across the country, aiming to help Canadians living with disabilities to better access local community supports.

Rock for Dimes is a battle of the bands fundraiser held in cities across Canada. Bands showcase their talents in front of a roster of Canadian music industry professionals. **Airgo, of AMG Medical Supplies Inc.** is our proud national sponsor. Thanks to their generous support, this event has expanded to 15 cities and keeps growing!

In addition to Airgo, **Long & McQuade** is the national backline sponsor.

What began as an event in Toronto, Ontario has since expanded to become March of Dimes' flagship national fundraiser and is now held in communities coast to coast. Since its inception, Rock for Dimes has raised over \$1.1 million to support March of Dimes' programs and services.

For more information please visit www.rockfordimes.ca

March of Dimes gratefully acknowledges the support of TD Bank, Shoppers Home Health Care, AMG Medical Supplies, Inc., Long & McQuade, and all our corporate partners. Their contributions truly help Canadians with disabilities become more empowered and independent.

For more information, or to see our donor wall, please visit www.marchofdimes.ca/donate

