

2003-2004 ANNUAL REPORT

REHABILITATION FOUNDATION FOR DISABLED PERSONS, US



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Charitable Registration
No. (EIN) 52-2306477

Year in Review

This registered charity, incorporated in the U.S. in January 2001, has been dormant for most of the fiscal year 2003-2004. A year ago, the Board of Directors decided that the President and C.E.O. should investigate opportunities to fundraise in the U.S. to establish programs and services for people who fall within Ontario March of Dimes' mission *to create a society inclusive of people with physical disabilities.*

Ontario March of Dimes' Director of Fund Development, Veronica Carroll, along with several other Canadian fundraisers, attended meetings in the U.S. organized by a direct mail company looking to expand business by inviting Canadian organizations to collaborate in developing American-based programs. Participants learned that investing over a 4-6 year period in direct marketing could produce a significant return on investment.

Developing U.S.-based programs, not already in place, would enable the Rehabilitation Foundation for Disabled Persons (RFDP), Canada networks to link with American partners. Diverse post-polio organizations have expressed significant interest, and we are currently providing them with information, both electronically and by mail. RFDP U.S. has to consider whether this concept is feasible, or whether we should seek less expensive means to establish this new initiative.

We did not seek or receive new funding for the Wade Hampton Bursary Endowment Fund, a fund that has experienced significant support in the past from American donors. Opportunities to grow it further will be considered by the Board in 2004-2005.

One significant opportunity for partnership comes in 2005 when both Canadians and Americans recognize the 50th anniversary of the polio immunization program. The vaccine, discovered in 1954 by Dr. Jonas Salk, was partly financed through March of Dimes' contributions in both countries, and as such, there is a mutual milestone to celebrate.

Thanks to all RFDP U.S. Board members and to the Ontario March of Dimes staff and Board of Directors for your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert H. Canning
Chair

Andria Spindel
President & C.E.O.