

# hand prints

FOR THE FAMILIES, VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS OF KIDS CANCER CARE FOUNDATION OF ALBERTA



SPRING 2009

Editor: Gail Corbett

## Pink reigns supreme at new gala



role in building self-esteem in girls but there aren't a lot of events designed with just dad and daughter in mind. There are all kinds of op-

"...this is a bit different. This is dad-and-daughter time."

—Crispin Arthur

KCCFA is rolling out the carpet for dads and daughters at the Hotel Arts on Saturday, October 24, 2009 for an unforgettable evening of elegance and fun. Pretty in Pink will be a formal affair, featuring dinner by award-winning executive chef Duncan Ly, a dance and silent auction.

"It had to be fresh. It had to be new. And it had to be original," says Trish Matheson, director of development and communications at KCCFA. "For years, we've been exploring the possibility of creating a signature event in the fall." But not just any old event would do. "Pretty in Pink is perfect," says Matheson. "It fits well with our family-centred values and it's completely unique. There isn't another event like it in the city."

Dads and daughters will love it. At least that's what the research says. KCCFA conducted a focus group last fall and the response was unanimously positive. "The fathers we talked to loved the idea," says Matheson.

"My six-year-old daughter Jane will love it," says Calgary lawyer and KCCFA board member Crispin Arthur, a father of two and chair of the gala committee. "Fathers play an important

portunities for sons and fathers and there are lots of things for moms and daughters, but this is a bit different. This is dad-and-daughter time."

The Pretty in Pink gala will provide girls with a unique opportunity to get dressed up, spend some quality time with dad and support a worthy cause. Dollars raised at the Pretty in Pink gala will go to the KCCFA Derek Wandzura Memorial Scholarship fund, the only scholarship program in the province that awards education bursaries to childhood cancer survivors.

"I think the girls will be pleased to know that their evening with dad is helping another young person realize their dreams through education," says Christine Wandzura, founder and CEO of KCCFA. "It's a great learning opportunity for girls, demonstrating through example, the importance of getting involved at a young age."

Tickets to Pretty in Pink are \$100 for dads and \$50 for each daughter and they go on sale in June—just in time for Father's Day. Opportunities for sponsorship are also available. For more information, please visit [kidscancercare.ab.ca](http://kidscancercare.ab.ca) or call Roz Freeman at 403.984.1228 or email [freeman@kidscancercare.ab.ca](mailto:freeman@kidscancercare.ab.ca).



Camp & Community



Research



Clinical Support



Scholarship



On page 3



KCCFA's research contribution over 10 years tops \$7.8 million

On page 4



Read about Tegan and the friends who are supporting her on her cancer journey.

On page 8



Meet Carl...A grandfather shares his experience with childhood cancer.

## Message from our CEO

*Parenting is the most important certification I'll ever have; recertification exams happen daily. I've failed more than a few, but I continue to study—Allan Laudersmith, father.*

Dear Friends,

**W**e all know that when our children are born they don't come with an operator's manual. It's a bit like taking an exam without studying. Not that anything would ever prepare you for a diagnosis of childhood cancer. Nothing can ever prepare a family for this dreadful journey, but with a little support we can make the journey more bearable for families.

When I say family, I mean the whole family—grandparents included. When our research committee first reviewed Dr. Nancy Moules' research proposal, which looks at the effects of childhood cancer on grandparents, we were impressed with the scope of her study and believed we could help by supporting it with a research grant. Research studies like Dr. Moules' are made possible by fundraising events like the Parents' Quest for the Cure and the Trico Homes Ride for a Lifetime, which have now raised close to \$2.5 million.

2009 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> year of our Shave Your Lid for a Kid® program. Who would have ever imagined that head-shaving would become one of our most successful fundraising initiatives? This grassroots campaign has now raised more than \$5.5 million and tons of moral support for Alberta children with cancer—kids like Tegan (page 4) who inspire us with their courage and determination.

There are so many ways to get involved and help children with cancer. If you'd like to help, but would rather **keep** your hair, why not get involved with our Pretty in Pink Dad and Daughter Gala? It's going to be a spectacular evening and all proceeds from the gala will go to our scholarship fund.

**"Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending."**

Spring is here and it's time to tune-up the bikes and pull out the golf clubs. If

you haven't already registered for the Trico Homes ride, June 19 to 21, please do so soon because there are only a few spots left. It will be the ride of a lifetime—for both you and the kids it helps! Should you have the itch to swing those golf clubs again, registration is now open for our annual Don, Joanne and the Coach Golf a Kid to Camp tournament. There are also plenty of opportunities for sponsors to get involved. And of course, you cycling enthusiasts can jump on your bikes for Tour for Kids, Alberta, July 17-19, and **ride somewhere meaningful**.

This past winter, we braved the cold, an economic downturn and challenges on many fronts. But our staff and volunteers continue to work hard for children with cancer because we know we must, if we are ever to change the reality of this disease. As Maria Robinson so aptly puts it, "*Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending.*" With your help we are creating happier endings—with brighter futures. Thank you for helping us make futures possible for Alberta children and families facing childhood cancer.

Sincerely,



**Christine Wandzura**, M.S.M, CFRE, Founder & Chief Executive Officer



Christine Wandzura,  
KCCFA founder and CEO.



## Research contribution tops \$7.8 million

KCCFA announced its 2009 research awards last February in honour of International Childhood Cancer Day. The Foundation will award a total of \$629,610 over the next three years to the following research initiatives, bringing its total contribution to Alberta research over the last decade to \$7.8 million:

### Nursing & Allied Health Research Awards

University of Calgary nursing professor Dr. Nancy Moules will receive \$152,968 over two years for a study that is investigating the effects of childhood cancer on grandparents. One of only a handful of studies like it in the world, Moules' research will change nursing practice and education, arming health care professionals with the information they need to develop programs to help this generation of the family.

A \$26,576 award will go to Susanna Law, a dietician at the Alberta Children's Hospital, who is investigating whether supplementing chemotherapy treatments with carnitine (a nutrient that is essential in fat metabolism) will help kids. The hope is that carnitine supplements will reduce toxicity and improve the child's tolerance to chemotherapy, translating into better outcomes for young cancer patients.

Kris Joyce, a social worker at the Alberta Children's Hospital, will receive a \$2,066 grant

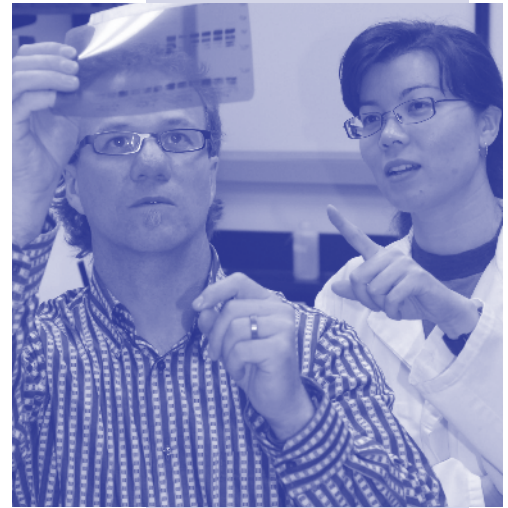
to investigate best practices of health care professionals around the world who support teenagers with cancer. Teenaged cancer patients have very different social, emotional and physiological needs than young children and adults with cancer. They often get lost between the two groups. Joyce's research will give health care professionals at the hospital information to develop targeted programs for this group.

### KCCFA Establishment Award

A \$300,000 grant over three years will go to U of C scientist Dr. Paul Beaudry whose research team is investigating tumour initiating cells (TICs) in neuroblastoma, a cancer that attacks the nervous system. The hope is that studying TICs in this cancer will help scientists unlock the elusive nature of this highly malignant, high-risk cancer.

### Ongoing and summer student research

KCCFA also awarded an additional \$118,000 to U of C scientists Drs. Steve Robbins and Peter Forsyth for ongoing research projects and up to \$30,000 to summer research students at the University of Calgary.



Unique Perspectives: Artistic Photography

*Donations, shaves and fundraising events like the Trico Homes ride and Parents' Quest for the Cure make the work of scientists like Drs. Steve Robbins and Jennifer Rahn possible.*

## You do the math

### Don, Joanne & the Coach Golf a Kid to Camp

#### Your commitment

- \$2,500

#### Our commitment

- One complimentary spot in tournament
- Live broadcast breakfast with Lite 96
- Snacks and drinks at every hole
- Chances to win great prizes
- Delicious buffet dinner
- Strong corporate visibility with desirable demographic
- **Sending children with cancer to camp**

**We need 16 hole sponsors. For \$2,500 you can help send two kids with cancer to camp.**

**LITE96**

Be the sponsor that makes it happen. Call Jodi McNabb at 403.984.1226 to reserve your golf hole today!

  
**Calgary Jewellery**  
EST. 1987



## Community Friends

### What is alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma?

Alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma is a relatively rare cancer in young children and especially rare in teenagers. It is characterized by its appearance, which is similar to the alveoli of the lungs. Treatment for alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma includes chemotherapy, radiation and sometimes surgery.

### Calling all Shave Brigadeers

KCCFA is looking for volunteers to help out at shave events. To volunteer, call **403.984.1229** or email [syl@kidscancer-care.ab.ca](mailto:syl@kidscancer-care.ab.ca).

*Friends in the community make great things happen for KCCFA kids and families! We thank our friends who raised funds on our behalf through community initiatives such as raffles, shaves and other fundraising events.*

## I get by with a little help from my friends

**A**t 15, Tegan has already experienced more than her share of hardship. Diagnosed with cerebral palsy as a baby, she has braved the ups and downs of living with a disability her entire life. But on January 6, 2009, Tegan was to face one of the biggest challenges yet. She was diagnosed with alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma and was immediately booked for treatment.



*Tegan and her parents.*

Fortunately, Tegan knows she's not alone. On Sunday, February 15, 2009—International Childhood Cancer Day—22 friends and the stylists at Elysium 5 Hair & Esthetics opened their hearts—and salon—for Tegan. They were there to show Tegan moral support by shaving their heads and raising money for the Kids Cancer Care Foundation of Alberta.

Weeks into her treatment, Tegan was already losing her hair, so she shaved her head before the event. And, although her health wasn't great that day and her cell count was down, Tegan insisted on coming out to cheer on her friends and family. But, really, they were there to cheer her on. On a giant-size poster, friends and

family wrote messages of hope and inspiration for Tegan to help her through the long haul of treatment. Now hanging in her hospital room, the poster is there to remind Tegan that they love her and that they are always there for her.

"Children are so precious," says Karen King, Tegan's aunt, one of the shave organizers. "They absolutely do not deserve the things that are sometimes dumped on them, so even though I can't take away the pain, or the illness, I can certainly help them know they are loved, supported and most definitely not alone."

During the shave, event organizers held a 50/50 draw. Gathering up all the loose shavings and cuttings, they invited guests to enter to win a cash prize for guessing the total weight of all the lost hair that day. Fortunately for KCCFA kids, the winner donated

all the winnings to the Foundation. "What I love about these events is the symbolic act of shaving your head," says KCCFA shave coordinator Carly Murray. "These

people are showing moral support for children who don't have a choice about losing their hair. Many do not personally know a child who has lost their hair because of cancer treatments, so it's a brave gesture."

Thanks to the incredible vision and generosity of Tegan's friends and family, the group far-surpassed their fundraising goal of \$500 and brought in \$14,000. Although frail and in poor health that day, Tegan was strong in spirit and, quite frankly, overcome with all love and generosity she saw that day.

**"I can't take away the pain, or the illness, but I can certainly help them know that they are loved, supported and most definitely not alone."**

**—Tegan's aunt, Karen King.**

## Community Friends

### Cyclists raise \$222,000 for Kids

Alberta cyclists took the high road again last summer on the second annual Tour for Kids Alberta. Eighty cyclists rode through Banff National Park, pedaling more than 600 kilometres each and raising \$222,000 for KCCFA camp programs. KCCFA volunteers, staff and campers came out in droves to cheer on the cyclists on the three-day ride.

Tour for Kids Alberta is an annual cycling event organized by the Coast to Coast Against Can-

cer Foundation. This year's cycling event takes place July 17 - 19. Register today at [tourforkids.com](http://tourforkids.com).

*Alberta cyclists pedalled hard for KCCFA kids, raising \$222,000 for our camp programs.*



### Driving kids to camp

August 2008 marked the 11<sup>th</sup> year of Toromont's golf tournament. This team of corporate philanthropists has mastered the fine art of giving back. Organized and hosted by the staff of Toromont Energy Systems, who volunteer their time each year, the annual event has raised more than \$700,000 for KCCFA kids. We're looking forward to another sunny, successful event this year.

### Living each moment for the kids



*A group of community-minded artists and business people lent a helping hand to host LIVE the Moment, Monique de St. Croix's 40th birthday celebration, which raised \$10,000 for KCCFA kids.*

Two years ago, KCCFA photographer Monique de St. Croix met an extraordinary family at the Alberta Children's Hospital. This family and their 14-month-old son Ethan had been through a long journey with childhood cancer, trying every possible treatment and protocol. Sadly, a week after that meeting, Ethan lost his battle with cancer. But his story remained with Monique and, a year later, while planning her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday party she recognized an opportunity to raise money for kids like Ethan.

Monique's musician-friends Alesandra Maria Ammara, Roberto Prosseda and Lisa Hornung were performing at the party, so she approached Irene Besse for the use of the Steinway Concert Hall. While explaining to Irene where funds from the concert would go, Monique discovered that little Ethan was Irene Besse's grand-nephew. A few months later, Monique, Irene Besse Keyboards (and staff), and Karen Coe & Associates hosted an event called LIVE the Moment, honouring Ethan's life and celebrating Monique's. The event featured music performances, live and silent auctions and an exhibit of 40 of Monique's favourite images from her career as a photographer. LIVE the Moment lived up to its potential and raised \$10,000 for KCCFA kids.

### Summer's around the corner. . .

Mark your calendars. Have some fun. Raise some money for KCCFA kids!

#### Post Hotel Wine Summit

**May 28 – May 31  
Post Hotel  
Lake Louise, AB**

A celebration of wine and food. Call **1.800.661.1586** to make your reservation today.

#### Cargill Meat Solutions – Fred Free Charity Golf Classic

**June 18, 1 PM  
Highwood Golf and Country Club  
High River, Alberta**

Enjoy a day of golf and a delicious prime rib dinner. To register, call Dianne Riva Cambrin at **403.652.8440**.

## Camp & Community

### 2009 summer camp dates

#### Camp SunRise

**Day camp**  
ages 3-7

**Edmonton**

July 13 – 17  
July 20 – 24

**Calgary**

July 27 – 31  
August 3 – 7

#### Camp SunMaker

**Residential camp**  
ages 7-17

**Easter Seals Camp  
Horizon,  
Kananaskis**

July 13 – 18  
July 20 – 25  
July 27 – Aug 1  
August 3 – 8

#### Camp Seeker

**Teen leadership  
camp – ages 14-17**

July 13 – 18  
July 20 – 25  
July 27 – Aug 8

## Mindful living



KCCFA camper Aaron loves YAC.

Young adults from across Canada took a mindful detour last February at the annual

KCCFA Young Adult Conference (YAC). Called *Healthy Living: Mind, Body and Soul*, the conference offered 28 delegates from across Alberta and Quebec lessons in healthy living, with sessions on nutrition, meditation, leadership and global warming.

### We are what we read

For Rory Hornstein—a registered dietitian and fitness consultant—healthy eating begins with healthy reading. She took the young adults on a virtual grocery trip, starting with tips on reading food labels and finding the healthiest foods in the supermarket. She explored questions of organic and non-organic foods and provided the young adults with information on their metabolisms and how to keep them active.

### We are what we think

After nourishing their bodies, YAC participants enjoyed some food for thought in a meditation session with Christine Korol, a clinical psychologist and meditation instructor. YAC delegates discovered that cultures around the world have used meditation for centuries to develop greater mental focus, creativity and higher levels of consciousness. They learned how to sit

and breathe properly, so they can begin their own meditation practice at home.

### We are the world

A conference on healthy living wouldn't be complete without a session on the environment and KCCFA volunteer Tammy Pham was there to introduce delegates to the key environmental issues facing our planet today. Exploring some of the reasons for global warming, Tammy provided the young adults with a few tips on living greener.

### Healthy living in action

Conference delegates put their healthy living skills in action Saturday afternoon, with a healthy dose of fresh mountain air, cross-country skiing in Kananaskis. For many, this was

their first time cross-country skiing and it was the highlight of the weekend: "I have never skied before and I learned that I can

catch on quickly to a new challenge. I would never have thought to cross-country ski, but I love it!"—conference participant.

### Mind/Body/Soul

Delegates left the conference inspired to create healthy, balanced lives. "I've learned that the soul is just as important as the body and the mind," said one YAC attendee, "and that I may not be as healthy as I thought."

YAC 2009 gave participants the chance to connect with old friends and meet new ones. And, because eight of the delegates from Quebec were French-speaking, young people from both provinces were able to stretch their language and communication skills.

Teens look forward to YAC all year. It is a place where they can forge new skills and friendships and create memories of a lifetime. "I am super busy with school, friends and sports but I plan to organize my days, so I am able to achieve a well-rounded healthy life"—YAC delegate.

Special thanks to the Alberta Lottery Fund for helping make this conference possible.

"I plan to organize my days, so I am able to achieve a well-rounded healthy life."



## Camp & Community Outreach

### What makes a specialized oncology camp safe?

Scrapes and cuts, Band-Aids, bruises. Meds and puffers, sunhats, water bottles, needles. You've heard that KCCFA camps are safe but who will make sure your little one remembers to wear her sunhat? At KCCFA, we design our camps so children are free to be kids—and moms and dads are free from worry. What follows is a brief look at camp from the perspective of health and safety.



#### In good hands

At KCCFA camps, your kids are in excellent medical care at all times. Our medical staff and volunteers are professionally trained to deal with children affected by childhood cancer. This specialized medical team includes a resident oncologist and an oncology nurse along with registered nurses, paramedics, EMRs and EMTs. These medical professionals are on-site 24/7 and ready to respond at anytime.

KCCFA staff has extensive training and experience in the camping and recreational fields and is able to modify activities for children with special needs. KCCFA staff and volunteers are certified with First-Aid and CPR level C training and undergo a weekend of KCCFA camp training. They're trained to remind kids to keep their sunhats and sunscreen on and to monitor children at all times for signs of injury or illness.

#### Programs by design

KCCFA Camp & Community programs were originally designed in the early 90s by medical and social work teams from the Southern and Northern Alberta Children's Cancer Programs. We continue to work closely with both cancer



*"we meet and surpass all provincial standards for safe camp programs."*

programs today, meeting regularly with a medical advisory committee composed of pediatric oncologists, nursing unit managers and social workers from both hospitals. This team reviews and updates medical protocols and procedures for all KCCFA camps on an annual basis.

#### Best practices camps

KCCFA not only follows best practices; it creates best practices for the oncology camping industry. Accredited through the Alberta Camping Association, we meet and surpass all provincial standards for safe camp programs. KCCFA is also actively involved with the Canadian Association of Pediatric Oncology Camps, a national body that sets Canadian cancer camp guidelines. Their rigorous guidelines ensure that member camps are meeting the physical, medical and emotional needs of children affected by childhood cancer.

#### Call us anytime

Please call Mary Phillippo at **403.984.1227** or email [phillippo@kidscancercare.ab.ca](mailto:phillippo@kidscancercare.ab.ca), if you have questions or concerns.

*This motley crew may not look like the docs and nurses you normally see at the hospital but beyond the summer shorts and sun-burnt faces is a team of specialized medical volunteers ready to respond 24/7.*

Unique Perspectives Artistic Photography

## Perspectives

### A grandfather's story

Carl and his grandson Bradley. Bradley's cancer diagnosis at age six shook Carl's universe. He and his wife Tari are taking part in Dr. Moules' study, which will help health care professionals design new programs to help grandparents of children with cancer.



*This story is excerpted from Carl Hendrie's speech, which he gave on February 13, 2009 when KCCFA announced its annual research awards. One of the research projects that received funding from KCCFA is a two-year study that is looking at the effects of childhood cancer on grandparents.*

**I**n late 1997, around October or November, I was sitting on my couch with my cigarettes and ashtray by my side, when my grandson Bradley, who was about three or four at the time, put his hand on my knee, looked up into my face and with the wisdom of Solomon, said "Grandpa, smoking makes kids sick!"

Well, I was speechless and filled with a sense of shame. I had no comeback for him. A couple of months later, in February 1998, I quit smoking. Whenever I felt a craving, I remembered Bradley's words. And I haven't touched a cigarette since.

That episode made it all the harder for me when only two years later at the age of six that same wonderful little boy was diagnosed with skin cancer.

**"When you think of cancer you think of adults. You never think little kids who are just starting life will get cancer."**

When you think of cancer you think of adults. He has lung cancer and used to be a heavy smoker. She has skin cancer and used to sunbathe a lot. You never think little kids who are just starting out in life will get cancer. They haven't lived long enough to develop bad habits. When you hear the diagnosis you run the emotional gamut—from disbelief to denial, anger and fear. Eventually you end up at hope, but the fear, the fear never goes away.

I decided early on that I would do my best to be at the hospital for every single test and treatment Bradley went through.

Our routine at the hospital would start with Bradley kicking my butt at video games, while we waited. Then he'd give me a condescending smile and, with an encouraging pat on the

shoulder, he'd wish me better luck next time, before going into his appointment. Valerie—Brad's mother and my oldest daughter—and I would wait, drinking coffee by the gallon.

I always felt that my role as grandfather was to be a rock. I'm supposed to be the guy my kids and grandkids rely on. We're the wise and strong ones. But nothing in life prepared me for the emotional roller coaster of a grandchild's cancer. It was tough seeing my family like that, seeing them in so much pain and fear—my daughter Valerie and her husband Rob, Bradley's older brother and sister, my other daughters, the other grandchildren and, of course, my wife.

My wife Tari and I talked about Bradley's cancer constantly and we worried endlessly about everyone and how well they were holding up. We did our very best to be supportive and strong for the family.

We were very, very lucky and had a great outcome. Bradley is now a fine, strapping young man who plays football. He has his first job and recently discovered girls!

Having been through the childhood cancer journey with my family, I know that kindness and support, information and encouragement make it easier to bear. If this study identifies new ways and means to help other grandparents walk the journey we found ourselves on, I support it with all my heart and will be proud to take part in it.

### Grandparent study

Are you the grandparent of a child with cancer? Dr. Nancy Moules and her research team at the University of Calgary and Alberta Children's Hospital want to understand your experience to support grandparents like you. If you are interested in taking part in the study, contact Dr. Moules at [njmoules@ucalgary.ca](mailto:njmoules@ucalgary.ca) or 403.220.4635.



# Volunteers

## Volunteers make it all happen



**D**o you remember the first time you rode a bus to KCCFA summer camp and the person who sat next to you in that open seat?

Do you remember saying goodbye to your children as they boarded the bus and the sense of relief you felt when you saw that friendly person greeting them?

Do you remember seeing the joy in your child's eyes and wondering who would look out for him?

Do you remember the smiling face that greeted you at Family Camp and the helping hands that helped lug your bags to your room?

If you share any of these memories, chances are you've been to KCCFA camp and you've met some of our volunteers.

Former KCCFA camper Dustin was inspired to help by Nigel, another camper-turned-volunteer who was since passed away. Now Dustin is following in Nigel's footsteps, giving more than 350 hours each year to help kids like Marina.

**E**ach year, dozens of KCCFA volunteers dedicate their weekends or summer vacations to make camp a magical place. They're there to dry a tear, or hold a hand, or laugh at silly jokes.

KCCFA volunteers are there for families at a time of great uncertainty. They're there to reassure, answer questions and to let families know they're not alone.

Dustin Salsbury, a KCCFA volunteer and former KCCFA camper, remembers this well, "I always felt welcome at camp," he says, "because I always had someone to talk to." Often that someone was a volunteer.

Dustin recalls that it was another camper-turned-volunteer who inspired him to volunteer. "He was cool guy," recalls Dustin. "No matter who you were or how long you'd been with KCCFA, Nigel always made time for you. Seeing how other campers and staff looked up to him, I knew I wanted to follow in his footsteps. After he passed away some friends and I went to his grave site and I made a promise to him that I would use everything he taught me to help new kids and teens at camp."

Dustin is staying true to his word. Today, he gives more than 350 hours each year to

KCCFA as camp counsellor at our SunMaker and SunRise camps. Dustin—A.K.A. DJ Fish—also makes regular volunteer appearances as KCCFA's likable DJ. You'll recognize him when you see him. He's the guy with the big, warm smile who'll be giving his undivided attention to a child or a teen. He knows what it's like to be new to camp. "There isn't a day goes by that I don't thank Nigel for saying hi to me my first year as a camper," says Dustin. "He helped make me who I am! And I believe that with 100% of my heart."

### So you've been to camp...Now what?

Why not become part of the growing team of volunteers that is helping families just like yours? Come out to one of our summer fundraising events like Tour for Kids or the Don, Joanne & the Coach golf tournament and take the opportunity to thank the men and women who make camp possible. Every minute of volunteer time helps KCCFA move closer to its vision of providing a cure for child and care for every family. Be part of the vision, volunteer today. Contact Sharlene Coulter at [coulter@kidscancer-care.ab.ca](mailto:coulter@kidscancer-care.ab.ca) or 403.984.1222.

## Thank you!

For volunteering last January and February! We couldn't have done it without you.

Alex  
Alisha  
Amy  
Andy  
Barbara  
Betty  
Bruce  
Carrie  
Carlene  
Christa  
Christie  
Christy  
Cindy  
Dean  
Donna  
Dustin  
Eric  
Gale  
Haley  
Iyswarya  
Jane  
Jeff  
Jenn  
Jennifer  
Jonathan & Joanne  
Joy  
Karen  
Kathy  
Kristyn  
Lee  
Linda  
Linnea  
Mabel  
Magdalena  
Maureen  
Meera  
Megan  
Nicole  
Robyn  
Rose  
Ruth  
Shannon  
Shaun  
Shellen  
Stephanie  
Sue  
Tammy  
Tannis  
Taylor  
Terry & Sharon  
Trevor  
Warren & Kim

## Our People

### Jordan Miller: living life full

A love of adventure and the great outdoors has taken him around the world on more than one occasion. He's worked at camps with names as strange as Warwa, YoWoChAs and the Great Australia Bush Camp, but Jordan Miller recently moved to Calgary with his girlfriend Caitlin and, for now, they're here to stay.

Jordan joined KCCFA's camp team last fall as camp coordinator, where he oversees our SunMaker, SunRise and year-round camps. He brings to the Foundation more than 10 years experience in the camping and outdoor recreation field and has worked as an out-trip guide, camp counsellor and as a standards and accreditation coordinator for the Alberta Camping Association.

"I love the holistic nature of camping," he says, "It gives children an opportunity to experience all their senses and it can have positive effects on the individual—physically, emotionally, socially, mentally and spiritually."

Jordan learned at a young age the value of experiencing life fully, when his mother, an ESL teacher, and father, a Canadian tax court judge, took him and his brother out of school for an extended world tour: "They taught us to live

life, to live for experience—not for possessions or positions."

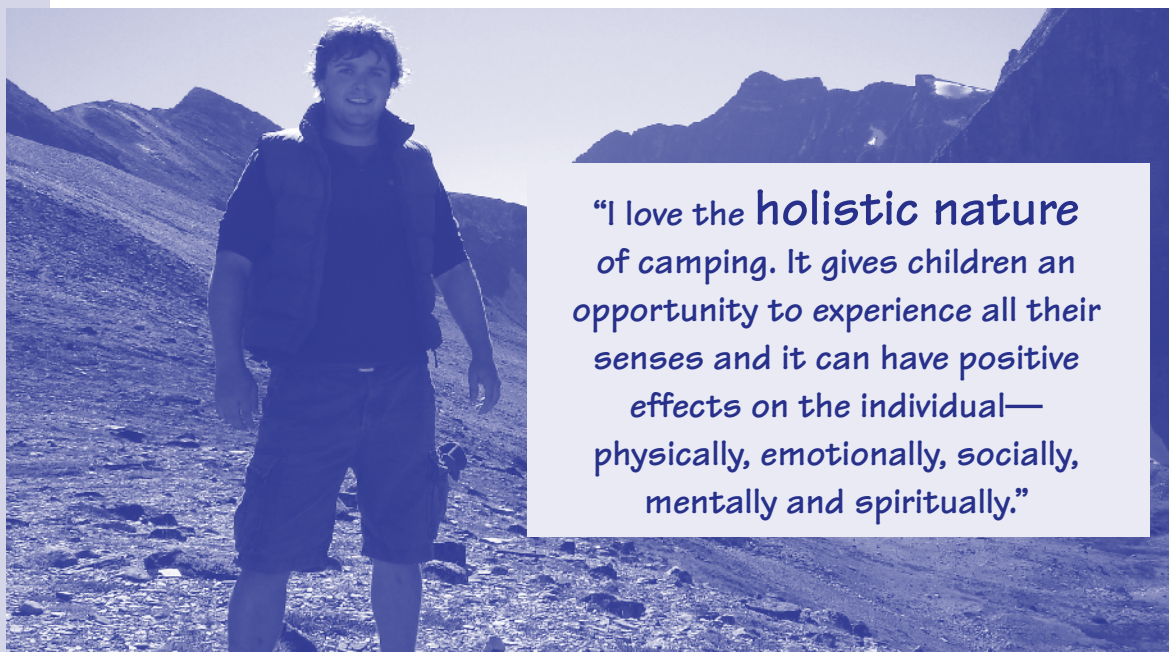
And that's exactly what Jordan is doing. As a camp coordinator, he's worked with a range of populations, including very privileged kids, at-risk youth and kids with special needs. But this is the first time he's worked with children with cancer. "I'm impressed with how well-behaved the kids are," he laughs, "and how appreciative they are of our programs."

What Jordan enjoys at KCCFA is the diversity of the population: "You see the kids at camp and the parents at Cool Yule and all the families know each other. There's a real community here and it includes all ages and all backgrounds."

Although much of Jordan's background includes life in the bush, he has a more studious side too. He earned a Master's in leisure studies at Dalhousie University and plans to do a Ph.D. and, one day, teach at a university. But, true to the lessons of his father, Jordan wasn't interested in bringing only book smarts into the classroom. "The best professors were always the ones who had experience in the field." And so, he's living life out loud and playing the field before teaching it.

**I went into the woods because I wanted to live deliberately. I wanted to live deeply and suck all the marrow out of life... to put to rout all that was not life; and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.**

—Henry David Thoreau



**"I love the holistic nature of camping. It gives children an opportunity to experience all their senses and it can have positive effects on the individual—physically, emotionally, socially, mentally and spiritually."**

## Our Sponsors

### Parents' Quest for the Cure — Ice Gala

The Parents' Quest for the Cure — Ice Gala, presented by Meyers Norris Penny LLP, warmed the hearts of Calgary on Saturday, February 28, 2009, when some 440 guests helped raise more than \$100,000 for childhood cancer research. This year's total brings event revenues over the last six years to more \$700,000.



*L-R Quinn and Aidan, two KCCFA campers, made their debut performance with their mom and dad, Karen and Allan Laudersmith, at the 2009 Parents' Quest for the Cure. Quinn not only stole the mic from emcee Dave Kelly; he and his brother stole the show and everyone's hearts.*

*L-R Calgary Alderman Ric McIver, KCCFA CEO Christine Wandzura, Calgary auctioneer Bill Brown, Jeevan Mangat and Sukhi Boprai enjoy a few laughs before dinner.*



## Thank you!

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### Lessons learned...from a father

*(from Allan Laudersmith's speech at the gala)*

- *My children and my wife are my heroes.*
- *Just when you think you can't, you can. You have to.*
- *Focusing on what you can't do, takes time away from doing what you can.*
- *Heroes don't always have a face; give blood regularly and be gracious with your gifts.*
- *Trust your instincts; it's your heart and your brain working together to send you a message.*
- *Parenting is the most important certification I'll ever have. Recertification exams happen daily; I've failed more than a few, but I continue to study.*
- *The difference between an excellent mistake and a foolish one is in the lessons learned.*
- *Real men DO cry sometimes. It's the crying that makes them real.*
- *Be open to being amazed, every day.*
- *Each minute holds with it an opportunity to define who our children's parents will be.*



*Lisa Mueller and Kathleen Kirzinger enjoy a glass of bubbly before dinner. Kathleen and two other mothers first started the gala years ago, when their children were diagnosed with cancer.*

*Above right: Volunteers are the heart and soul of KCCFA. L-R Alisha Virk, Iyswarya Bhaskar and Tammy Pham put in a long night at the gala, helping out at the silent auction.*



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## Fundraising Events



Mike Drew, SunMedia Corp.

### Trico Homes Ride for a Lifetime

June 19 – 21, 2009

Calgary – Cranbrook – Nelson

\$600 per rider; \$500 for passengers

Join the weekend warriors who are helping change the face of childhood cancer one kilometre at a time. Registration includes fuel, meals, accommodation and entertainment. Every dollar raised goes to childhood cancer research. **ONLY 18 SPOTS LEFT.** Register online today. For information, call **403.216.9210** or email **staff@kidscancercare.ab.ca**.

### Don, Joanne & the Coach Golf a Kid to Camp

Thursday, August 13, 2009

Cottonwood Golf & Country Club

\$500 per golfer

Join Calgary's favourite radio personalities for a day of golf and help send a kid to camp. The tournament sells out fast, so register today. For information, call Roz Freeman at **403.984.1228** or email **freeman@kidscancercare.ab.ca**.

### Tour for Kids

July 17 – 19, 2009

Banff – Lake Louise – Caroline – Sundre

\$295 per rider

Cycle somewhere meaningful this summer on the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Tour for Kids Alberta and send a child to camp. Registration includes meals, camp accommodation, mechanical support, first-aid, entertainment and massage. Register online today at **tourforkids.com**.

### Pretty in Pink Dad & Daughter Gala

Saturday, October 24, 2009

Hotel Arts

\$100 for dads and \$50 for each daughter

An unforgettable evening of elegance and fun for dads and daughters, the Pretty in Pink gala is KCCFA's newest fundraising initiative. The evening features a dinner and dance, silent auction and bucket draws. For information, call Roz Freeman at **403.984.1228** or email **freeman@kidscancercare.ab.ca**.

For information or to register for KCCFA events, visit **kidscancercare.ab.ca**.

We appreciate the opportunity to communicate with you about KCCFA's activities. If you wish to alter the amount or type of mail you receive, please call us at 403.216.9210 or email **staff@kidscancercare.ab.ca**.

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