



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

SPRING 2008

Alberta's first scholarship for cancer survivors

"I'll always be the girl who had cancer," said former KCCFA ambassador Danielle Rettie at a KCCFA news conference that announced a new scholarship for childhood cancer survivors and patients. "At KCCFA camps, we were all the same but you have to grow up sometime. Eventually, you have to leave camp."

"This scholarship," Danielle concluded, "will help us to become healthy adults who can pursue our dreams, just as we pursued our childhoods—with gusto—at camp."

Danielle Rettie and Jennifer Murdock helped launch the KCCFA Derek Wandzura Memorial Scholarship, a bursary designed to help cancer survivors pursue their dreams through education. The scholarship was announced on February 15, International Childhood Cancer Day.

The new KCCFA bursary is the first scholarship in the province for childhood cancer patients and survivors and it is one of only a handful of like scholarships in Canada. It is open to residents of Southern Alberta who have a history of childhood cancer and who are enrolled in a post-secondary education institute.

Danielle and Jennifer are just two of some 1,800 young people in Alberta living with the after effects of cancer. Long-term effects of cancer and its treatments may include disabilities such as blindness, deafness, unsteady gait patterns, loss of limbs, learning difficulties, heart impairments, depression and a host of life-threatening diseases.

"Long-term effects can mean missed time at school and missed opportunities," explained Don Schafer of Brahma Compression, who chairs the scholarship committee and serves on KCCFA's Board of Directors. "This often leaves cancer survivors at a disadvantage when it comes to pursuing their education dreams."

The scholarship, named in honour of Christine Wandzura's late son Derek, is designed to help level the playing field for these kids."

The endowed scholarship fund is managed by The Calgary Foundation and a total of \$5,000 will be awarded to young people this year. KCCFA hopes to increase that amount in coming years: "We hope to keep growing the scholarship fund, so it is open for donations," said Christine Wandzura. "Ultimately, we'd like to build an endowment that will allow us to award up to \$25,000 each year. That means more scholarships and larger amounts for each kid."

Don invited Albertans to visit the KCCFA website to learn more about the scholarship, whether they are cancer survivors who plan to apply for a scholarship or donors who wish to donate to the fund.

"School carries a whole other set of stressors for me and my family," said Jennifer Murdock, whose battle with cancer left her with cognitive and physical hardships. "A scholarship like this would mean one less stress for us. It would mean that we wouldn't have to worry about finances on top of everything else."

Both girls thanked KCCFA for remembering them at this point in their journey. "KCCFA has been with us every step of the way," said Jenn. "It's fitting that they'd be with us on this leg of the journey too."

For more information on the scholarship visit www.kidscancercare.ab.ca.

-  Camp & Community Outreach
-  Research
-  Clinical Support
-  Scholarship



Stuart Dryden, Sun Media Corp.

KCCFA board member Don Schafer of Brahma Compression with KCCFA spokeskids Jennifer Murdock (left) and Danielle Rettie. Don and the girls launched the new KCCFA Derek Wandzura Memorial Scholarship on February 15, International Childhood Cancer Day.



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Editor: Gail Corbett

Message from our CEO

Dear Friends,

Ralph Waldo Emerson said “Do not go where the path may lead,” but rather “go where there is no path and leave a trail.” Since our earliest days, friends like you have helped us to forge new trails for Alberta children and families coping with the frightening reality of childhood cancer.

On February 15th, International Childhood Cancer Day, we started blazing yet another trail. We launched the KCCFA Derek Wandzura Memorial Scholarship to help cancer survivors in southern Alberta pave their life paths through post-secondary education. Named in honour of my late son Derek, this is the first scholarship of its kind in Alberta. Having undergone brain surgery and many rounds of chemotherapy, Derek was left with cognitive disabilities that made learning and school more challenging. He had big dreams. But his life was cut short by cancer in 1991 and he wasn't able to pursue his dream of becoming a police officer. Although many young people survive cancer, far too many are left with debilitating after effects that impede their ability to go after their dreams. The KCCFA Derek Wandzura Memorial Scholarship is designed with these kids in mind.

Thanks to the generous support of many donors, this year a handful of survivors will receive scholarships to pursue their education dreams. I am delighted to see the response in applications. Every applicant is strong, and each one, deserving. Choosing only a handful of recipients will be difficult for our scholarship committee. The scholarship fund currently enables us to award only two or three bursaries each year. Our hope is to increase the value of the fund over time, so more survivors may realize their dreams. If you are interested in helping more cancer survivors turn their dreams into reality by contributing to this fund, please call us or visit our website.

We launched the 2008 Trico Homes Ride for a Lifetime in early February and within a few weeks it had sold out. I have participated in this motorcycle ride for the past five years and I can't describe the incredible energy and camaraderie between riders as they blaze new trails for research. Join us on the ride in spirit this year by pledging a rider. Every pledge raised moves us closer to a cure.

Our annual fundraising gala held in March was a resounding success. Initiated five years ago by three moms whose children were diagnosed with cancer, Parents' Quest for the Cure continues to grow in scope and vision. This year, we were thrilled to welcome Meyers Norris Penny LLP on board as the diamond presenting sponsor of the event, allowing us to move the gala to a larger venue and accommodate the growing interest in providing hope through research.

The 14th annual Don, Joanne & the Coach Golf a Kid to Camp tournament is preparing to tee off in August. A big thanks to our golfers, sponsors and volunteers who make this tournament happen every year. And it goes without saying that the event would not be what it is today without the support of Don, Joanne and the Coach, who lend their names, their energy and unwavering commitment to the Foundation and our kids.

Our success is your success. Thank you for making what we do possible. And thank you for helping make the road for children with cancer a little easier to travel. Perhaps with your help, it will one day be a road less travelled.

Sincerely,



Christine Wandzura, M.S.M., CFRE, Chief Executive Officer



Photo courtesy of Christine Wandzura

Christine with her late son Derek in the early '90s. Derek is the inspiration behind the new KCCFA Derek Wandzura Memorial Scholarship, launched on International Childhood Cancer Day. The scholarship fund will help cancer survivors pursue their education dreams.



Now, a word from our spokeskids

KCCFA is mixin' it up this year with a his n' her spokeskid team—Adam Verheyde and Jennifer Murdock. Joining them is Justine MacDonald as the 2008 ambassador. Here's what the dynamic trio have to say about cancer, KCCFA and their roles as spokeskids.

Adam

Hello, I'm Adam Verheyde. I'm 14 years old and in grade nine at Heritage Christian Academy. I participate in school sports and have been on both the volleyball and basketball teams this year. During the summer, I enjoy a good round of golf and turn to lacrosse in the winter. I also like to watch my favourite hockey team—the Flames.

When I was 11, I was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia. I had a bone marrow transplant in February of 2005. It was very hard to spend so much time in the hospital but I did enjoy Wednesday's bingo.

"By telling my story I hope to inspire people to help."

I am honoured to be a KCCFA spokeskid. By telling my story I hope to inspire people to help. I hope to make people aware of what KCCFA has meant to me and my family and how other families will be helped in the future. I want people to know how important camp is for us.

Jenn

Hi, my name is Jenn Murdock. I am an 18-year-old high school student at Bishop O'Byrne High School and hope to attend SAIT this fall.

When I was a nine-year-old tomboy, I was diagnosed with a brain tumour called medulloblastoma. I spent the next year and a half in and out of hospital having treatment and many years after recovering from my illness.

I first attended camp in a wheelchair in the summer of 2000. It was a huge relief for me and my family to escape all the difficulties and worry that cancer brings. Since then KCCFA experiences have become a large and super positive part of my life. And, I want everyone to know just how important KCCFA has been in my life.

Justine

I am 18 years of age and recently graduated from Bowness High School. I took this year off school to work and travel. I plan to attend Mount Royal College next year and then, in March, I plan to audition for schools in the U.S., where I will pursue a performing arts career.

At six weeks, I was diagnosed with stage 4S neuroblastoma. Although I have no memory of my cancer and treatment process, I have never known life without it. I started going to camp when I was six and have been part of KCCFA ever since. Camp has made an imprint in my life. I have made friendships that I know will be everlasting.

The spokeskid program is important because it helps raise awareness of KCCFA and how camp truly affects a kid's life. I am excited to speak in front of people and to bring a message of hope and encouragement.

Read more about Justine's role as KCCFA ambassador at Alberta schools on page 4.

(Top) Adam takes on the high ropes at Camp SunMaker.

(Middle) Jenn at Camp SunKeeper.

(Bottom) Justine at Camp SunRise. A veteran camper, she now helps create magical moments for younger kids at KCCFA camps.



Unique Perspectives Artistic Photography



Courtesy of KCCFA



Unique Perspectives Artistic Photography

Community Friends

Cancer: up close and personal

"I want everyone to know that they shouldn't treat kids differently just because they have cancer," says Justine MacDonald, the 2008 KCCFA ambassador who is heading up KCCFA's *What's the Buzz* and *Cancer in the Classroom* presentation series this year. "Kids with cancer are kids too. They're normal and their friendships at this time are really important."

Justine (right) with 2007 KCCFA ambassador Jennifer Rogers at teen camp. Justine will be sharing her cancer story at schools in southern Alberta this year as the 2008 KCCFA Ambassador.



Photo courtesy of KCCFA

Is there a child with cancer at your school? Planning a shave? Make sure you have the information and resources you need to support children with cancer. Book a *What's the Buzz* or *Cancer in the Classroom* presentation, by calling Sara Foster at 403.984.1228 or emailing syl@kidscancercare.ab.ca.

As a KCCFA ambassador, Justine will represent the Foundation at events around the province along with KCCFA spokeskids Jennifer Murdock and Adam Verheyde. But this year, the ambassador role is taking on a whole new dimension. Justine is helping revamp our *What's the Buzz* and *Cancer in the Classroom* presentations. The two-part series is designed to raise awareness about childhood cancer and empower Alberta students to take action for their peers.

What's the Buzz is a presentation for school kids, exploring childhood cancer from many

perspectives, particularly how young people and schools can get involved with fundraisers like Shave Your Lid for a Kid®. Justine's role will be to meet with school groups during their shave kick-offs to share her cancer story and inspire young people to get involved.

Cancer in the Classroom takes an in-depth look at childhood cancer and explores such questions as what cancer is and how it impacts a school community. The presentation is designed to increase understanding and dispel commonly held myths, so school kids can reach out with confidence and support their friends with cancer. Childhood cancer can be a lonely and isolating experience because children spend so much time in the hospital or at home, enduring lengthy treatments or battling lowered immune systems resulting from treatments.

"Peer support is really important," says KCCFA camp director Mike MacKay. "It's important for teachers and students to understand how they can support students with the disease."

Justine was thrilled to take on the new ambassador role: "I am so excited to go to schools and share my story with young people," says Justine. "I want them to know that if a friend has cancer or is diagnosed, the best thing to do is to treat them the same. They are still a person and have feelings! Cancer is NOT contagious and being there to support and love your friend is the BEST medication of all!"

"Cancer is NOT contagious and being there to support and love your friend is the **BEST** medication of all!"

Justine's experience with cancer and KCCFA will add a personal perspective to the presentations, demonstrating firsthand what it's

like to be diagnosed with cancer and what it takes to beat this disease.

Read more about Justine on page 3.

Community Friends

Get creative. And get active for the kids.

Spring is here and, after a long winter, most Albertans are bubbling with spring fever. It's no surprise that spring and summer are KCCFA's busiest seasons for community fundraisers. Each year, friends around the province host more than 100 community fundraising activities on our behalf. It could be a gala, an auction or wine tasting. It might even be a 10-k run, a poker night or golf tournament.

Thanks to friends like you, community initiatives are the fastest growing source of program funds for the Foundation. Last year alone, community initiatives raised more than \$1 million for Alberta children and families facing childhood cancer. Your fundraising efforts go a long way to helping children with cancer through one of the toughest times of their lives.

Anyone can organize a community fundraising initiative, whether you're an individual, a business, social or professional group. And KCCFA is here to support you every step of the way. All events begin with the germ of an idea but it is careful planning, meticulous execution and enthusiasm that make them great. Begin by asking these important questions and you'll be on your way to creating a memorable fundraising initiative.

8 steps to a great fundraiser

- 1) What kind of activity will it be?
 - a. Public or private?
 - b. Part of a group?
 - c. An arts or sports event or something entirely new?
- 2) What is your fundraising goal?
- 3) How will the event raise money?
 - a. A silent auction?
 - b. Ticket sales?
 - c. Raffle or draw?
- 4) Are there costs associated with putting on the event?
- 5) Where will you hold the fundraiser? Book early.
- 6) Who will help organize the event? What skill sets do you need?
- 7) How will you publicize the event or sell tickets?
- 8) Who will wrap up the event?

Remember to contact KCCFA early. Candice Martin, our manager of Community Initiatives, will help you fine tune your plans and provide expert advice. Call her at 403.984.1219 to discuss your fundraising ideas today.

Fundraising ideas

Here's a few community fundraising ideas to get you going:

Community events

- A 10K run
- Fashion show
- Art auction
- Bake sale
- Bowl-a-thon
- Costume party
- Valentine dance
- Talent show
- Wine tasting
- Tennis tournament
- Children's carnival
- Dance-a-thon
- Pie-eating contest
- Golf tournament
- Car wash
- Spell-a-thon
- Open mic night at a pub

Office events

- Dress down day
- Chili cook-off
- Bake sale
- Golf tournament
- Hockey pool
- Happy hour
- Book sale
- Raffle

KCCFA is always happy to hear about your fundraising ideas, so call us today at 403.984.1219. For more ideas on community initiatives or to attend a community initiative, visit our events listing at www.kidscancercare.ab.ca.



Troy Babineau Photography

Moe Clark, a Calgary-based spoken word artist, lent her voice and considerable talents to the Posh & PJ gala last fall, helping the event raise more than \$20,000 for KCCFA kids.

Bell Canada is one of many companies that has raised money for KCCFA through community fundraising initiatives. Bell sold these beavers at the Calgary Stampede and gave the Foundation a portion of the proceeds.



Photo courtesy of KCCFA

Camp & Community Outreach

Camp dates

Camp SunRise

Edmonton

Rundle Family
Centre
July 14 – 18
July 21 – 25

Calgary

Killarney/Glengarry
Community Centre
July 28 – August 1
August 4 – 8

Camp SunMaker

Kananaskis Country

Easter Seals Camp
Horizon
July 28 – August 2
August 4 – 9
August 11 – 16
August 18 – 23

Camp Seeker

Kananaskis Country

July 28 – August 2
Intro to outdoor
adventure

Slocan Valley, B.C.

August 4 – 9
Mountain biking

Kootenay River, B.C.

August 11 – 23
Rafting/kayaking

Camp registration is E-Z!
Visit www.kidscancer-care.ab.ca to register
online. It's that E-Z!

Camp: Beyond Fun

Anatomy of a camper

No one would ever deny that camp is fun. That's a given. But what most people don't realize is that camp has profound physiological affects on children, making for happy campers—in body, mind and spirit. You may notice that your little camper comes home from camp a little brighter and here's why.

Ears - Happy with the sounds of laughter and chatter

Kids enjoy a virtual symphony of sound at camp—the splash of water, the screech of excitement, the strum of guitars around a campfire.

Brain - Alert and stimulated by new experiences and challenges

Activities such as the high ropes, rafting and archery exercise the mind and the body, teaching children to be mentally and physically agile.

Mouth - Open and flowing with laughter and stories

Communication. Just one session on the high ropes teaches kids the importance of listening intently and speaking clearly. Campers also develop new channels of communication through song, drama and campfire stories.

Eyes - Alive with curiosity and excitement

Camp stimulates and fosters a child's natural curiosity. We encourage campers to ask questions about their world—be it an unusual tree, a bird or a big moose!

Heart - Light and joyful

Friendships help kids find strength and hope and a sense of belonging. Camp sets the stage for epic friendships. Bunking together in cabins, eating meals together, sharing activities and overcoming obstacles together—these are the ingredients of lasting friendships and a happy heart.

Shoulders - Broader and higher as they take on new challenges

Strong, proud shoulders come with achievement. At camp, a child experiences many individual and group successes, whether it's negotiating the white water rapids with their team or getting up alone and singing in front of others. Camp activities challenge campers, while setting them up for success.

Fingers - Dirty, nimble, paint-stained and strong

A camper's hands are always creating and exploring their environment. They cut, colour, wind, pick, paint, carry, lift, push, sort, wipe, splash and tie. Without even realizing, they are developing gross and fine motor skills.

Arms - Wide open for hugs

Being a team member not only means open arms but also open minds and hearts. Campers learn to respect the opinions and thoughts of others, developing understanding and compassion, while sharing triumphs and let downs together.

Skin - A little thicker from rolling with the punches of peers

Camp is a safe place where kids experience a full range of emotions—from disappointment and grief to sadness, anger, joy and excitement. All are acceptable and natural, helping kids develop a thicker skin.

Knees, legs and feet - Grass-stained, strong and agile

Outdoor activity toughens a camper's knees, legs and feet, making them strong and agile. Physical activity is part of every day life at camp, building muscle and getting those heart rates up and endorphins high.

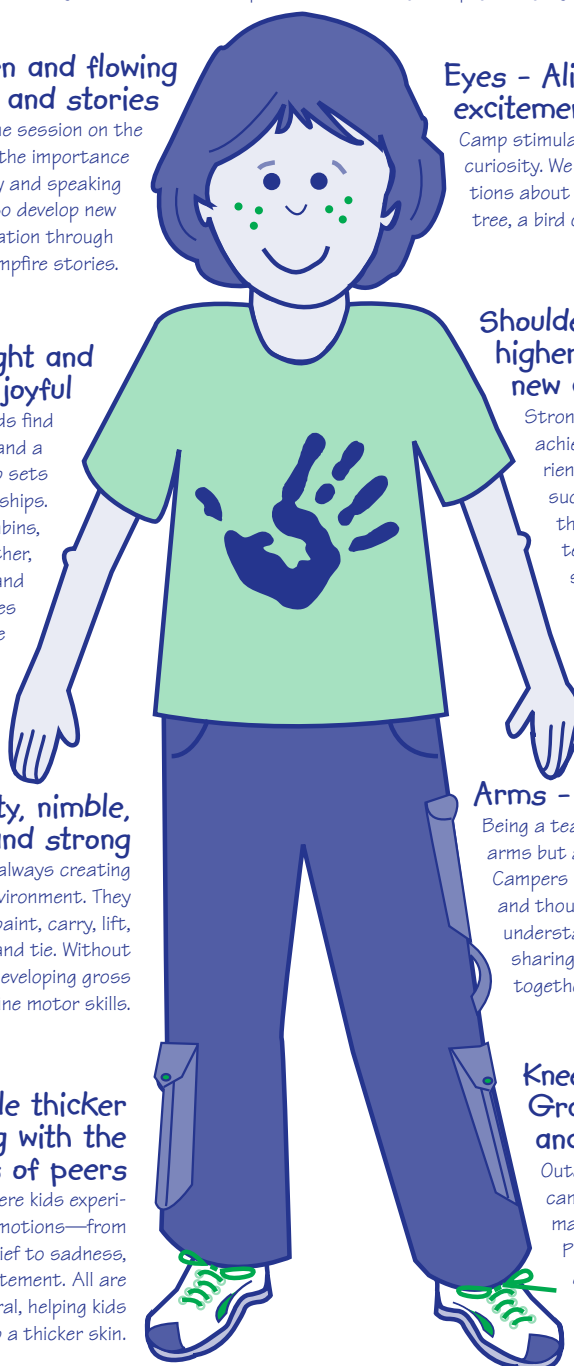


Illustration by Averie Moppett

Camp & Community Outreach

Unstoppable you. Unforgettable SunSeeker.

Camp SunSeeker provides teenagers, aged 14 to 17, with adventure experiences in a challenging outdoor environment. Activities promote physical fitness, mental well-being, environmental awareness, confidence, group decision-making and personal growth. Here's the scoop on SunSeeker 2008.

Session one: intro to outdoor adventure • July 28 to August 2

This six-day session introduces teens who have recently graduated from Camp SunMaker to outdoor adventure. Activities such as hiking, mountain biking, white water rafting and caving will help you develop the skills you need to participate in more advanced SunSeeker sessions next year. The session is based at a group campsite in Kananaskis Country.

Session two: biking the Slocan Valley • August 4 to 9

Designed for the mountain biker in you. If you love hitting the mountain trails, this one-week expedition in super natural British Columbia is for you. You'll enjoy mountain biking and camping as well as historic activities at the Kettle Valley Railway in the Slocan Valley area. Check

out Kettle Valley Railways at bcadventure.com for details on the history and spectacular scenery of this area. Must have moderate biking skills.

Session two: riding the Kootenay River rapids • August 11 to 23

Who likes kayaking? Who wants to learn? The rapids and fresh air of the Kootenay River in B.C. are calling you. If you've experienced week one or two of SunSeeker in previous years, this session has your name all over it. We'll take the rapids in kayaks and rafts by day and camp along the riverbank by night. We'll also take time to enjoy cool historic sites on this two-week expedition.

To register for a SunSeeker session or for more information, please contact Tracey Stahn at 403.984.6211 or at stahn@kidscancercare.ab.ca. SunSeeker sessions fill up quickly, so register early.



Camp SunSeeker promotes physical fitness, mental well-being and personal growth in a challenging outdoor environment.

Photo courtesy of KCCFA

Campers' medical needs

Camp. A place of sunshine, best pals and beetle bugs. The last thing on your child's mind is his or her medical concerns. This is how it should be with kids. But the medical needs of campers are always top of mind at KCCFA. We've put together a strong medical team, so, as a parent, you too can rest easy this summer.

Camp nurse

- KCCFA recently hired a permanent part-time nurse. Sherry McKeil will provide volunteers with basic training in oncology, liaise with hospital staff, schedule blood work and chemo treatments. Sherry will also be on hand at all KCCFA camp and community programs, ensuring continuity of care all year long.

Resident oncologist

- One of three resident oncologists will be at Camp SunMaker the entire summer, rotating shifts throughout the summer. Dr. Bansal, the KCCFA resident at the Alberta Children's Hospital, will be on camp duty

for two weeks and two other residents will assume responsibility the other two weeks.

Camp medics

- Complementing the medical staff at SunMaker is a contingent of volunteer paramedics, EMTs and EMRs. One medic is assigned to each camper team, so your child will receive excellent care at all times.

If you have any concerns about the medical needs of your child at camp, please contact Mary Phillip, our camp administrative assistant, at 403.984.1227 or phillipo@kidscancercare.ab.ca.



A team of medical personnel is with kids at Camp SunMaker for the entire summer. Karen, a Calgary-based nurse, has been helping out at KCCFA camps for years.

Unique Perspectives Artistic Photography

Our People

Kristie Pshyk: fresh & fabulous events

Kristie Pshyk received the best special event training anyone could hope for, when 12 years ago she took on a gig with Up With People just three weeks before the show. “It was really event management by fire,” laughs Kristie, KCCFA’s event manager. “I came on board about three weeks before the performers and crew were due to arrive in the city and in that time I needed to get all the logistics and marketing in place and the box office ready. I learned the core of event management that month.”



Unique Perspectives Artistic Photography

Kristie and her husband Brian at the Cougar Cabaret, a fundraising birthday party for KCCFA CEO Christine Wandzura, which raised big dollars for the new KCCFA Derek Wandzura Memorial Scholarship fund.

Kristie oversees two signature events at KCCFA: the Trico Homes Ride for a Lifetime and the Parents’ Quest for the Cure, presented by Meyers Norris Penny LLP. Both events are growing by leaps and bounds, bringing in well over \$400,000 in combined revenue last year alone.

Although Kristie enjoys a saner pace and a more strategic approach to events these days, she still thrives on the adrenaline rush of event management.

“What I really love about event management,” says Kristie, “is event day! I love seeing it all come together. This is the day. And the 364 days leading up to it make the 365th day worth everything. If something goes wrong today, there’s no time for discussion, you’re trouble-shooting from your gut. And you’ve got to be decisive and quick. I love it.”

If pressed, Kristie might admit that she prides herself on lean, mean event management. Her events must make sense. Every single element—from ambiance to appetizers—must

make sense logistically and thematically and they must make sense strategically for the Foundation. Above all, they must make cents financially.

“I love creating fresh, exciting events in the most simplistic way,” says Kristie. “I want to make it big and amazing in the most efficient manner.”

Kristie thrives on creating and responding in the moment but that doesn’t mean she doesn’t have plans for the future. Her goal is to create a signature event for KCCFA that will take the Foundation to a whole new level. “KCCFA has three great events,” she says, “but I know there’s room for one more and I want to make it big.”

*“I love **creating** fresh, exciting events in the most simplistic way.”*

Kristie enjoys a new pace today but she has yet to completely shake the travel bug

she picked up with Up With People. “I would love to take off for a year and live in another country,” she says. “I want to teach my children to travel and to live in a different country.” But with a two-year-old daughter at home, she and her husband Brian are not quite ready to pull out the suitcases just yet. They do, however, look forward to the day. And when those suitcases and passports are finally packed away, they look forward to settling in a remote spot in the mountains. “That’s our ultimate goal.”

To learn more about KCCFA events, visit www.kidscancercare.ab.ca.

Our Volunteers

Who's in the spotlight?

Volunteering: the cure for what ails

We have all heard the saying that it is better to give than to receive but did you know that in giving you are actually receiving, specifically benefits to your health.

Research suggests that volunteering positively affects physical and mental well-being. By helping others, we experience a lowering of the heart rate and a decrease in blood pressure—physiological benefits known as the helper's high. These benefits are similar to the effect of practicing yoga and meditation.

The benefits don't stop there. By giving their time and talents, volunteers expand their social networks and community bonds, which, research suggests, may account for lower premature death rates, a decrease in depression, less heart disease and stronger immunity in volunteer populations. Let's face it, being part of the bigger picture allows community members to stay connected and work together to improve life in general.

It appears that seniors may reap the most benefits from volunteering. Research suggests that volunteering stalls the aging process by keeping the mind sharp and the body moving. It also provides a renewed sense of purpose, — an added bonus for retired seniors who may have more time on their hands. In western culture a lot of emphasis is placed on

what people do as a way of measuring contribution. Volunteering helps seniors remain productive, while creating a renewed sense of self-worth.

Volunteering is really a win-win situation for everyone. The charity or organization benefits by having talented and enthusiastic individuals share the workload, while volunteers reap the rewards of good health.

Why do we volunteer?

There are countless reasons people volunteer. Here's a list of some of the most common reasons:

- Helping others
- Achieving new status, such as job title
- Expanding social networks
- Reducing loneliness
- Using free time meaningfully
- Enhancing personal growth by acquiring new skills and training
- Gaining approval and recognition

For more information on the health benefits of volunteering, visit the Canadian Health Network online.

To volunteer at KCCFA visit www.kidscancercare.ab.ca or call 403.984.1222 or email smeltzer@kidscancercare.ab.ca.



Nicole Archambault
Nurse – ICU Foothills Hospital, Calgary
Camp nurse
2004 to present, 576 hours

Nepalese trekker, always smiling, gentle soul.

Photo courtesy of KCCFA



Ron Busch
Support Worker – Blue Heron, Barrhead
Camp one-to-one aide
2002 to present, 758 hours

Warm heart, passionate helper.

Unique Perspectives Artistic Photography



Unique Perspectives Artistic Photography

It's true. Volunteers have more fun.

Perspectives

My best friend's wedding *By Sheena Hammond*

Maggie and I met in fourth grade gym class and I don't think we will ever know if it was our mutual love of over-sized Disney sweatshirts or an infatuation with slouch socks that sealed our fate as best friends but either way, magic, or at least cheap polyester, was in the air.

Maggie was diagnosed with a rare brain tumour in grade 10 and our worlds took an interesting detour that would forever change both our lives. While most girls her age were worrying about boys and the latest fashions, Maggie was worrying about pathology results, losing her hair and keeping her weight up, so she could keep the feeding tube out of her nose. She faced each challenge head on, whether it was surgery, chemo or radiation. She faced them all with a smile on her face and with grace and poise far beyond her years. It was that strength and determination that sparked a passion in me to become a registered nurse and work with cancer patients today.

I remember vividly the day Maggie was diagnosed. She called me early one morning to give me the news.

After weeks of severe headaches she finally had an answer: it was a tumour. From the first night I visited Maggie in the hospital, just hours after surgery, I took an interest in her care. I spent hours at her bedside talking with nurses and doctors, while she recovered. Somehow I found comfort in amassing information. It gave me a gripping place to begin grasping what was happening to Maggie, my best friend. I supplemented information from health professionals and Maggie's family with web searches and trips to the school library. There was never a doubt, in my mind, during Maggie's treatment that she would beat cancer. Her strength and determination never allowed me to think otherwise.

When I sat down to fill out my university application forms two years later, nursing was the only program option for me. My experiences with Maggie came up again and again during my university education. I knew that a diagnosis of cancer was not always terminal. I knew that it could be beaten even with so many odds stacked against the patient. I was exposed to many areas of nursing but I always came back to oncology. In May 2006, I started working on

an adult oncology unit in Calgary. Oncology has always been where my passion lies. It is where my passion for nursing began. Maggie's

cancer taught me so much but most importantly it taught me the importance of hope.

In October, Maggie was married and it was my great pleasure to be her maid of honour. She married Tyron Burgos and it gives me joy, knowing how happy they are together. Standing up there with Maggie on her wedding day was amazing, especially when I thought about how far she has come since her battle with cancer. She is now a beacon of hope for those who are currently battling cancer as well as those who have yet to start the battle.

*It was that strength and determination that **sparked** a passion in me to become a registered nurse and work with cancer patients today.*

Photo courtesy of Sheena Hammond



Former KCCFA camper Maggie Hamilton with husband Tyron Burgos. They were married last fall.



Sheena Hammond (centre right) has seen her best friend Maggie Hamilton (bride) through some of her worst and best days.

Our Sponsors

Heart of gold: Bernard Florence

Bernard Florence of Calgary Jewellery is more than a highly skilled, well-clad business man. He's a tour de force. The man behind the bold designer frames is a dedicated professional and philanthropist who receives as much joy from creating unique articles of jewellery as he does watching someone's face light up as they acquire one of his masterpieces or philanthropic gifts.

tournament. Calgary Jewellery is now entering its third year of sponsorship. Always exciting, always creative, Bernard routinely pushes his sponsorship to new, invigorating levels. And he always has something up his sleeve, when it comes to surprising and entertaining 216 golfers.

Bernard is a gentle soul with a passion for giving back with creative flair. But the most

*"I was **touched** by the kids' smiles and their desire to live a full life."*

rewarding part of being a KCCFA golf sponsor for Bernard is putting a smile on the face of a child. "I was touched by the kids' smiles and their desire to live a full life," says Bernard. "Their eyes spoke to me in a way that one cannot put into words but I knew it was as honest as the day is long. They showed me what living is all about and it went straight to my heart."

Calgary Jewellery's mission is "To help celebrate the special moments in your life," a direct reflection of how Bernard Florence lives life. Each year, Bernard and Calgary Jewellery help create hundreds of special moments in the lives of children affected by cancer by helping send them to camp. As with his customers, Bernard is behind the scenes, celebrating as they live out their special moments. Thank you for making the celebration possible, Bernard.

Bernard Florence and Carol Burch at the Don, Joanne & the Coach Golf a Kid to Camp tournament. The best part of giving for Bernard is putting a smile on the face of a child.

Les Florence, Bernard's father, started Calgary Jewellery some 53 years ago. Today, the designer store is an institution in Calgary with a growing international reputation for superior design and customer focus. Some say Bernard, who joined the family business more than 30 years ago, is an institution in his own right. Just ask his customers and his beneficiaries.

Bernard brought his significant talents and gifts to KCCFA in 2006, when he came on board as a Diamond in the Rough sponsor for the Don, Joanne & the Coach Golf a Kid to Camp

Sponsorship opportunities

At KCCFA, we are committed to creating meaningful partnerships that help your company meet its goals, while helping us support our families. There are countless ways you can get involved—from sponsoring an event or camp program to helping offset operational costs by sponsoring equipment, vehicle leases or printing costs. To find out more about sponsorship opportunities with KCCFA, call Jodi McNabb, development manager, at 403.984.1226 or email mcnabb@kidscancercare.ab.ca.

Sponsors like Calgary Jewellery make the golf tournament possible each year. Have you reserved your spot this year? See page 12 or visit our website for registration details.



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Fundraising Events



Mike Drew, Sun Media Corp.

Have you pledged a rider today? More than 100 bikers could use your support to reach their fundraising goals for the kids. Visit www.kidscancercare.ab.ca to pledge a rider.

Trico Homes Ride for a Lifetime • June 20 to 22, 2008 Calgary – Revelstoke – Vernon – Revelstoke

Take the high road for children with cancer this spring and pledge a biker on the 2008 Trico Homes Ride for a Lifetime. Now in its sixth year, the Trico Homes Ride for A Lifetime has raised more than \$1.25 million since its inception. Registration for this popular event is full. Contact Kristie Pshyk at 403.984.1225 or pshyk@kidscancercare.ab.ca to pledge a rider or to add your name to a registration waiting list. For more information visit www.kidscancercare.ab.ca.

Tour for Kids July 18 – 20, 2008 Canmore – Sundre – Banff – Jasper Registration fees vary – TBA

Ride somewhere meaningful this summer on the second annual Tour for Kids Alberta, a breathtaking bicycle tour from Canmore to Jasper. Take the one-day *Spirit* ride (registration is \$130) or take the three-day weekend *Epic* tour (registration is \$260). Tour for Kids looks after all the logistics, so you're free to enjoy the ride. Last year's ride raised more than \$150,000 for KCCFA camp programs. To register or pledge a rider, visit www.tourforkids.com.

Don, Joanne & the Coach Golf a Kid to Camp

Thursday, August 7, 2008 7:00 am
Cottonwood Golf & Country Club
\$500 registration fee

Join Calgary's favourite radio personalities for a day of golf at the 14th annual Don, Joanne & the Coach Golf a Kid to Camp tournament at Cottonwood Golf & Country Club. Last summer's tournament raised close to \$190,000, bringing accumulated totals over 13 years to more than \$1.3 million. The tournament sells out fast, so register early at www.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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