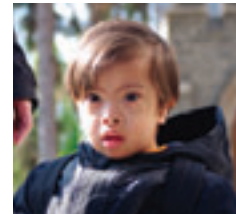


Centennial Infant and Child Centre



Fall/Winter 2011

Newsletter

A MOTHER'S LETTER

My name is Natalie Naiman and I am a proud member of the Centennial Infant and Child Centre (CICC) family. My membership is not as a Board member or staff, but as the mother of a child whose life has been forever changed by CICC. I now, and always will, consider Centennial to be a part of my extended family.

Let me start from the beginning. My eldest son, Matthew, was born 5.5 weeks prematurely with a laundry list of health concerns. He was diagnosed at 1 week with a rare chromosomal abnormality. We were told that he would develop to become anywhere from a "complete vegetable" to "normal". In other words, the medical community was telling us that "we don't know anything about what Matthew will be". That day in the hospital, when we were informed of the options for enhanced care for Matthew, my husband and I chose Centennial for its location and the idea of an integrated environment and the philosophy that came with it. On that day, we had no idea or appreciation for what that actually meant or what we had just done. However, four and a half years later, we are completely engrossed into the Centennial world and would not know what we would do without it.

When Matthew was discharged from hospital, I felt scared and alone. None of my friends (or anyone in my immediate world) had a child with special needs. Matthew had almost no muscle tone and he could not focus his eyes nor could he grasp a toy or even my finger. I felt like he was a delicate china doll that was so fragile I was going to break him. Then I got a phone call from my Centennial early interventionist, Frances, my savior. She quickly came over with knowledge, warmth, compassion and an ability to make all of my fears subside. We hung blank CDs in front of Matthew to help focus his eyes. We created a lying position (I nicknamed the canoe) to help lift Matthew's arms so that grasping and batting at toys was less difficult. We even adapted his highchair to allow for ease of feeding. Without these early steps, support and guidance, I was completely lost in regards to how to care for my own son.

Later when decisions regarding pre-schools needed to be made, my husband and I decided to enter Matthew into the Centennial preschool family. The only way I can describe what the community there did for Matthew, is to describe him before and after. Matthew entered the school at 21 months not being able to sit independently and left at 4.5 years walking independently. Matthew entered the school not uttering a sound and left with a vocabulary of 10+ words of his own and a confidence to act independently. Matthew "graduated" from Centennial in June 2011. He has since moved on to 2 other schools, one integrated and one that is not. While both are amazing schools in their own rights, neither has done for him what Centennial did. From the staff, including reception, teachers and therapists to the most AMAZING group of volunteers that have shared his journey with him, all have given Matthew and my whole family an amazing gift- the gift of helping to realize Matthew's true potential.

As I write this letter to you, tears quickly fill my eyes. Without Centennial, I am really not sure where Matthew would be right now. Luckily, I will never have to think about that.

Sincerely yours, Natalie Naiman



MATTHEW, 4 YEARS OLD

"Without Centennial, I am really not sure where Matthew would be right now. Luckily, I will never have to think about that."

Natalie Naiman

ANN SMITH



This summer we lost one of the bright lights of the Centennial community. Ann Smith had been involved with Centennial from its beginning days in the basement of St. Georges United Church and, throughout her life, participated tirelessly in every capacity available to volunteers. She began as a dedicated volunteer with the children at the Centre and went on to become the Chair and Founding Director of the Foundation. She also served as the Chair of the Centre Board. While Chair of the Foundation she led the campaign that eliminated the mortgage on our current premises. In addition, she was an active participant on the committees of many of our successful events from galas to golf tournaments.

Ann led a life full of love, laughter and service. Her enthusiasm about the work done at Centennial was contagious. Her family, husband Bill and children Alison and Blair, all became active volunteers at Centennial as did many from her wide circle of friends.

Centennial is so much richer for all that Ann brought to us. We honour a life lived well.

THE AMAZING AD, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Occupational Therapist (OT), Ad Rosszell, came to Centennial Infant & Child Centre in 1999. She received her degree in OT from McMaster University in 1995, prior to studying (child) psychology and kinesiology. Ad chose to work with children in the field of OT as she believes that early intervention is the key to establishing the foundation for the building blocks required for a child to meet their maximum level of independence.

Children learn through play. At this stage of life, playing and exploring the world is their occupation! Children with special needs often require assistance to enhance their ability to move about and engage in their environment, resulting in exploration and learning. OTs use play to help children interact with their environment and those around them.

Ad started out in the Early Intervention (EI) Program at CICC. She teamed up with the Early Childhood Interventionists to support families in their home environment. It soon became evident that having OT consultation would also be of benefit to the children, families, teachers and volunteers in the CICC Specialized Preschool Program. Ad now divides her time between the two programs.

The focus of OT at CICC is to enable the children to develop as much independence as possible. On any given day Ad may be providing recommendations on positioning, equipment, movement skills (gross motor), hand skills (fine motor), feeding skills (oral motor) and/or sensory processing skills. This work, in combination with the cognitive, social and communication skills worked on by the Early Childhood Interventionists, Specialized Preschool and Kindergarten Teachers and Resource Teachers, provides a comprehensive approach to helping children and their families to attain their maximum level of potential – now that is something to strive for!



MEET JET, PRESCHOOLER AT CENTENNIAL



The happiest day of our lives was when our beautiful little boy Jet was born. Two days later he stopped breathing. This was the beginning of a three month nightmare. Jet endured invasive medical intervention to stop his intractable seizures and apneic spells, but little headway was made. The future for Jet was unclear.

Miraculously, when Jet was 3 months old the seizures stopped. We were never given a diagnosis, prognosis or cause for the seizures. The ambiguity has been difficult for us.

In the fog of chaos after discharge, I was connected to a very resourceful and compassionate early intervention worker named Francis Mahoney. If it were not for her we would never have known about Centennial. From the moment we set foot in Centennial we knew this was the right place for Jet. The warmth and positive energy exuded by the staff and volunteers was genuine. I can't tell you how often I heard: "Don't focus on what he can't do, let's focus on what he can do".

Jet is now in his second year at Centennial. The gains he has made in his gross/ fine motor development, speech and language, and social development have been so exciting for us to see. Centennial has provided our family with confidence in knowing that we are doing everything we can to provide Jet with a stimulating and supportive environment that meets his needs.

Jet's parents, Michelle and Ilan

"From the moment we set foot in Centennial we knew this was the right place for Jet."

Michelle, mother of Jet

We often heard: "Don't focus on what he can't do, let's focus on what he can do."

Michelle, mother of Jet

MAGICAL TRANSFORMATIONS

October 16th was a truly magical day! Centennial Infant and Child Centre teamed with Camp Winston and Kohai Educational Centre to celebrate the wonderful experiences at our Centres, that have changed the lives of young children and youth with developmental challenges. The Wychwood Barn was filled with balloons, magicians, stilt walkers, clowns, face painters, circus acts...popcorn, pizza and candy floss and families with children of all ages.



Over 1000 people attended from 'our families' and the surrounding community. Thank you to all our volunteers, participants and generous sponsors who made it such a great success!

See our website www.cicc.ca for more pictures

DON'T MISS THE FUN! REGISTER NOW FOR CENTENNIAL'S 3RD ANNUAL CURLING EVENT



Open Your Heart to Centennial
Centennial Infant and Child Centre Foundation 3rd Annual
Fundraising Curling Bonspiel

Join us! Join us!

Date: Sat. Jan. 28th, 2012
Time: Registration 12:30 p.m.
Place: Toronto Cricket Skating and Curling Club

A good time for all. No curling experience necessary. Register as a team or a single.

Two four-end fun games
Yummy snacks
Cocktail reception
Special Chef's dinner

Raffle
Live Auction
Team Prizes

Funds raised will provide crucial services to children with special needs in the Toronto area. We support over 500 children and their families annually.

Secure your spot, register early.
Register online or download forms at www.cicc.ca
For more information contact events@cicc.on.ca



YOUR GENEROUS DONATION AT WORK

Preschool Specialized Transportation

A key element of Centennial's commitment to serve all children equitably is our preschool transportation program, which is offered to families at a subsidized minimum cost.

A donation of \$450 provides transportation for one child for one month.

Kidcart

To support children who have complex physical needs, kidcarts are used and adapted to individual needs by our physiotherapist and occupational therapist.

A donation of \$6000 would purchase a new kidcart for our Centre.

Early Intervention

Our in-home early intervention program is provided to families, with young children who are developmentally challenged, across the city of Toronto. This program is not fully funded by the province. Over 350 families receive these services annually; waitlists continue to grow.

A donation of \$1600 provides this program to one family for a year.

Parent Workshops

Several workshops are offered to families every year. Providing information on planning for future education, financial planning and advocacy is considered key to ensuring ongoing optimization of the potential of our children.

A donation of \$200 would support one workshop.

Current Renovation Project

In order to provide necessary space to ensure the ongoing quality of our programs and meet Ministry requirements, a small renovation is required on the main floor of the Centennial building.

A donation of \$10,000 would cover the cost of this renovation.



DONATING YOUR PUBLICLY TRADED SECURITIES

Canadians are known as generous and caring people by nature. These traits are ever more apparent when donating to charitable organizations. What some Canadians might not know is that by donating your publicly traded securities will not only make a meaningful contribution to your favorite charity but will also reduce your overall tax bill.

How it works:

Under normal circumstances you are subject to income tax on 50% of the increase in value or capital gain when you sell a publicly traded security. However when you donate an appreciated investment to a registered charity, you do not have to pay tax on any of the gain. This means that the donor receives the usual charitable contribution tax receipt and associated tax deduction plus the capital gains tax is waived. So the actual out-of-pocket cost is lower than if you were to donate cash.

Stocks, bonds, futures and options, as well as shares in mutual funds are all eligible for donations to registered charities.

Here is an Example:

Consider an investor in Ontario's highest tax bracket of 46% who has already donated \$200 this year to her favorite charity (remember the first \$200 of charitable donations attracts tax credits at a lower rate).

Assume she donates \$10,000 of securities for which she paid \$4,000.

	Sell Shares/Donate Cash	Donate Shares to Charity
Amount of Donation	\$10,000	\$10,000
Adjusted cost base of shares	(\$4,000)	(\$4,000)
Capital Gain	\$6,000	\$6,000
Taxable portion of gain @ 50% Inclusion	\$3,000	N/A
Tax on capital gain at 46%	(\$1,380)	\$0
Tax benefit of gift at 46%	\$4,600	\$4,600
Combined Tax Savings	\$3,220	\$4,600
Out of Pocket Cost for a \$10,000 Donation	\$6,780	\$5,400

Source: CIBC, December 2008

You can see from this example that the same \$10,000 donation yields an extra \$1,380 in tax benefit to the investor when she donates her shares to charity.

Further Information:

- Donation credits can be carried forward for up to 5 years, and 2 or more years of charitable donations can be combined into one year.
- Greater tax savings if you combine charitable donations with your spouse and claim them on the higher-income spouse's tax return.
- By declaring in your Will that you want some or all of your publicly traded securities to be donated to an eligible charity you can reduce the amount of tax payable for the year of and year before death. For those years, donations of up to 100% of net income can be claimed.
- Selling securities at a loss will also provide additional deductions against capital gains.

As you can see, donating appreciated investments to charity can save you tax dollars. As a result, you may even consider increasing the size of donation to your favorite charity.

If you have questions about donating securities to charity or other investment dilemmas please contact me, Susan Carson, at The Carson Advisory Group, CIBC Wood Gundy (416)-594-8832.

Please note that the information here is general in nature and is not a substitute for independent financial planning advice. We recommend and encourage you to seek professional counsel before donating.

Susan Carson CFP, FCSI, CSWP, EPC
Investment Advisor, CIBC Wood Gundy, The Carson Advisory Group

CENTENNIAL FINANCIAL STATISTICS

Year ended March 31st 2011

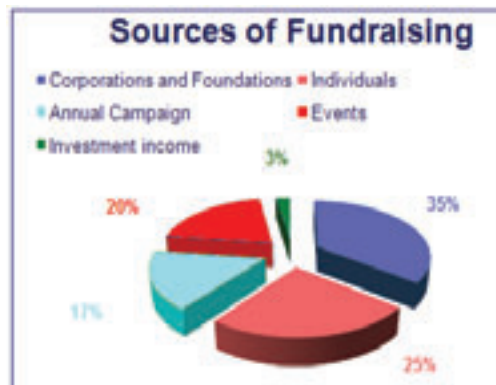
The Centennial organization is comprised of two entities: the Centre and the Foundation. The Centre is responsible for managing all the programs from Early Intervention to Preschool while the Foundation is responsible for Fundraising and the management of the facility. Each entity has its own Board of Directors and produces annual financial reports.



In fiscal 2011, our programs reached more than 500 families across Toronto. Not only do our staff and volunteers help families with specialized services like Occupational and Physical Therapies, they also help families navigate through the health and educational systems to obtain the best available care. We all pride ourselves on seeing each child and family as unique and tailoring our services to those very individual needs.



The Provincial Government provides funding for our Early Intervention Program and the City of Toronto provides funding for our preschool programs. Together though, these two sources only cover 57% of the services we offer. The balance is funded through interest, fees from parents and the Foundation.



We are fortunate to be supported by numerous Corporations, Foundations and private donors. Many have supported Centennial's work for several years and others have committed to multi- year donations. We are also fortunate to have a wide circle of individuals and organizations who support our events and contribute generously to the Annual Campaign. Centennial changes lives and we can only do that with the help of all these donors.

Centennial Infant and Child

Centre Board of Directors

David Naiman (Chairperson)

Carol Gibson

Robyn Campol

Jean Holm

Alexandra Landsberg

Jen Watson

Terri O'Brien

Centennial Infant and Child

Centre Foundation Board of

Directors

Laura Wallace, (Chairperson)

Jeff Arnold

Jessica Caplan

Carol Gibson

David Kaiser

Alexandra Landsberg

David Naiman

Susan Prince

Alison Smith

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of Centre

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Visit our Website

www.cicc.ca

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(2011 Donations over \$1000)

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BMO Financial Group
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