



# Champions Among Us

## Winter 2009 Newsletter



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## A Night of Miracles

On October 25, 2008, the Delta Winnipeg was the site for A Night of Miracles, the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation's 6th annual Dinner and Dance. The four course meal was paired exquisitely with fine wine and guests danced late into the night to the music of The Dave Lawton Band.

**Special thanks** to 3-Phase Electric, our presenting sponsor, and to the excellent organizing committee chaired by Shelly Wiseman.

## Cruisin' for Christian

A tiny boy, **Christian** tried riding a bike once with disastrous results! It was no wonder his Mom was reluctant when his therapist suggested he might be able to ride a special needs bike. A trial was set up and Christian rode a bike for the first time. He was so happy! His Mom was in tears and the kids at school were so excited they were cheering him on in the hallway. At a cost of \$2,978.60 financial help was going to be needed to get Christian a bike.

Christian's therapist submitted a funding request to the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation. The Winnipeg Beach Resource Coordinator involved the community and with the support of the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation planned a fundraising drive. Local businesses displayed coin boxes with Christian's story and the school hosted a walk-a-thon. The local Manitoba Hydro chapter and the Rotary Club attended the event and presented cheques.

Christian had been 'signing' bike for weeks and was wonderfully surprised when he was presented with his brand new bike in front of the Mayor, his family and the entire student body. He got right on it and started to ride, leading the school in the Cruise and making the most laps around the school yard. The squeaky rubber ducky horn on his bike had a great work out that day.



*Christian and his classmates at the walk*



*Christian and his family at the walk*

Christian, his mom, grandparents and cousins were overwhelmed by the community support in helping Christian to realize his dream...to cycle like other children. Christian's Mom stated that he is very proud of his bike. "We take it back and forth to the campground and he likes to ride on the nice roads there. We cannot believe how one child's wish for a bike could bring a community together like it has! Almost everywhere we go, someone asks about how Christian is enjoying his bike. Biking is part of Christian's learning program at school to teach him road signs, safety, left and right, stop and go, etc. He is learning, having fun and getting exercise at the same time!"



## Kids Helping Kids

Youth today are our philanthropists of tomorrow. We are honoured to have the chance to work with caring youth who are making a difference today. Children like:

### Cecil Rhodes Students

produced a video "Ability" which outlines the work of the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation. Seeing kids through the eyes of kids, this video is played to great reviews and is the next best thing to coming for a tour of the Rehabilitation Centre. Copies of the video are available from the Foundation office, call today for yours.



Lorissa

### Lorissa's Labour of Love

When Lorissa was eight she decided to make a difference. She was determined to collect pop can tabs to help a child get a wheelchair. Lorissa had no idea how many tabs were needed! She placed containers all over her community and enlisted the help of friends, families and neighbors. Four years later, 12 year old Lorissa donated four and a half bags of tabs to the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation. Combined with the tabs collected by Seven Oaks School Division, one more child has a new wheelchair. Lorissa's determination and generosity is sure to benefit many people in her life.

### Vincent Massey Key Club

Rosalie Rasmussen belongs to the Vincent Massey Key Club, a youth group that raises funds for worthy causes. The Children's Rehabilitation Foundation is a cause Rosalie cares about. She has received services and support from the Rehabilitation Centre for Children for many years and knows how important donations are in helping children live a better quality of life. Through bake sales, coin collections and participation in Cruisin' Down the Crescent the group raised enough funds to help purchase five-year-old Sammy's first bike. And they met Sammy and his family at Cruisin'. Great work!



Rosalie and three other members of the Vincent Massey Key Club meet Sammy and his family at Cruisin'. Sammy is seated on his Dad's lap



### Kasra's Gift

For Kasra Khaden's tenth birthday party he asked his guests to make a donation to the Foundation to buy toys for the Toy Lending Library. Kasra chose the Foundation after learning about the Centre from his mm, who is doing her orthopedic residency at the RCC. Thanks to the generosity of Kasra and his 8 guests, \$90 was raised and unique sensory toys were purchased so special kids can play.



These young people are helping to change the lives of children in their own communities . . . and we are grateful for their support!

Children's  
Rehabilitation  
Foundation  
RBC Cruisin'  
Down the  
Crescent

The RBC was the Title Sponsor for the 12th Annual Cruisin' Down the Crescent.

Along with its employees, customers and Foundation families over \$75,726.00 was raised for the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation. Cruisers walked, cycled and rolled down Wellington Crescent, enjoyed music, BBQ, had fun and helped families.

The 13th annual Cruisin' Down the Crescent is June 14, 2009. Plan to come out and participate!

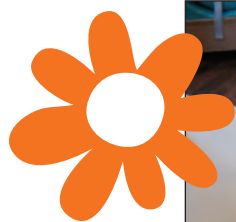


## Manitoba Truckers Wheelin' for Kids Bring Ashley Smiles

For the third year, Beaver Trucks hosted the Manitoba Truckers Wheeling for Kids Golf Tournament to enable children living with disabilities to have special mobility devices. In total over \$135,000 was raised and hundreds of children have received strollers, wheelchairs, walkers, transportation devices, and more...

Recently Jolene Allen shared how this tournament has changed her family's life. "The Centre has been a blessing to our family. We tell everyone about Beaver Trucking Company because their generosity brought back Ashley's smiles. Ashley has uncontrolled seizures and severe psychomotor delay which leaves her with

a lot of 'issues'. We have never thought she could see very much, because she just doesn't respond to us. You should see her responding now as she sits in the KidKart. I'm laughing at my son and when I glance at Ashley, she appears to be looking right at me and smiling! It's very seldom that we see smiles, and I've always said she can't focus or follow. But now, I see her eyes tracking us as we walk by, and I often catch her looking at me and smiling. There's a 'real', little girl in there. Due to the proper position of her head, which the KidKart allows, she isn't looking at the ceiling. Perhaps that's why she isn't crying so much anymore, she can see the world around her. What a blessing."



Ashley before



Ashley in her new KidKart



Thank you to the organizers, sponsors, volunteers and participants. Together you have made a huge difference in the lives of many children like Ashley.

## Road to Rehab

In August 2008, for the 8th year, Cal Higgins and Les Wiens led a group of enthusiastic cyclists on their road trip through southwestern Manitoba to raise funds for children. They met Chase, who desperately needed a better fitting wheelchair to keep him safe and secure. Not only did the cyclists successfully raise enough in pledges for Chase's chair but they were able to fund the needs of four more children. Two children received laptop computers so they can keep up with their schoolwork, another child received a portable lift, and Madison, had her request for a bike funded. Their continued commitment to children and their families is so appreciated; their support has helped in many lives.



Road to Rehab Cyclists meet Madison and her family and are delighted to see her on the bike they helped to fund.

## Manitoba Street Rod Association

For the second year the Manitoba Street Rod Association donated the proceeds of their Annual Toy Run to the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation. These toys are given to children when they attend appointments at the RCC's clinics, at Christmas, on birthdays and sometimes to dry tears. The MSRA generously funded bikes for three children living with special needs in 2008. Thank you MSRA members for putting smiles on children's faces and getting little legs moving those wheels!



*N'Tanis at 16 months of age picked her very own Teddy Bear. Both she and Elizabeth (her mother) were delighted with the gift.*



## Accutech Helps Kids



**Kathern and Ken Drysdale**, of Accutech Engineering in Winnipeg have chosen children and the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation as their charity of choice. They are particularly interested in helping children meet their educational goals. Two years ago they funded a computer for nine year old Elly. Elly has a condition that prevented this bright young girl from writing as fast as other kids in her class. It would take her hours to complete her work. With the computer she is now able to do her work quickly and express herself, resulting in great grades.

After meeting Elly and seeing how their donation was directly helping they responded in a big way. Accutech provided information to their employees who decided to annually contribute to the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation, which is matched by Accutech. To date they have helped eight children to get the equipment they need!



## Sgt. Andrew McLean, Soldier On

**Military officer Sgt. Andrew McLean** was awarded the prestigious King Clancy Award and a \$1000 donation to a charity of his choice, the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation. Although now stationed in Ontario he had fond memories of running down Wellington Crescent past the RCC and knew that it was a place that helps thousands of children. Unable to attend personally, a representative from his previous Squadron 435 presented the cheque on his behalf.



*Sgt Shawn Harrison presents cheque to Gay Kirby.*





# The Children's Rehabilitation Foundation relies on public donations to fund programs at the Rehabilitation Centre for Children. Programs like:

## RBC Therapeutic Recreation & Wellness Program

Providing programming that gives children living with physical disabilities or special needs more opportunities to engage in leisure and recreation, to make new friends, and most of all to have fun is the goal of this exciting program! Initial funding was provided by donations from the RBC Foundation, The Manitoba Moose Yearling Foundation, Forekids Charity Classic and Ken and Lesley Powell. Children can try out adapted bowling, curling, gardening, music and art activities. The program is expanding to include drop in fun nights and more opportunities for socializing.



*Glenn Crook, Vice President Commercial Financial Services RBC, Meaghan and Linda Dueck.*



### Children's Rehabilitation Foundation Board Members

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**Sandra Oakley,**  
Rehabilitation Centre  
for Children  
Representative

**Cheryl Susinski, RCC**

If you are interested in learning more about being on the board please contact

**Gay Kirby** at  
**475-5073.**

## Take Out Toy Service (TOTS)

Children learn through play. Sometimes kids with disabilities benefit from specialized toys. A musical toy can be adapted so a child can make music at the touch of a switch. A penguin can move down a slide, bringing laughter to a child with limited hand movement. Children learn about cause and effect, colours, sound, counting, interacting and having fun. The Take Out Toy Service at the RCC is free for families, therapists and daycares.

Choose TOTS for your donation and turn it into **smiles**.



## The Active Living Centre

In April 2009, the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation was pleased to help launch the Active Living Centre, a lending library of adapted recreation equipment for kids with special needs. Thanks to start up grants from Ronald McDonald House Charities and the Dr. Alfred E. Deacon Medical Research Foundation, Manitoba children are able to borrow specialized bikes, adapted gardening tools, winter sleds, swimming aids and much more. Ongoing funding is needed as there were more requests to borrow equipment than could be met in its first summer. Therapists often hear parents say, "I didn't know my child could do that!"



*Gay Kirby, Ronald McDonald, Kathleen Wryha, Jolie-Anne C. Horn and Amanda Klassen*



## Technology Learning Centre (TLC)

Children who cannot use standard keyboards to control a computer need different tools. Thanks to donations to the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation the Rehabilitation Centre for Children was able to develop a Technology Learning Centre. Here children have access to hundreds of equipment options for trial and loan. Computer access tools include tiny mice, special switches, onscreen keyboards, infra-red head mice, Alpha Smarts and more. There is also software that can predict words and recognize speech. As technology advances, new options become available. Donations enable the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation to fund the newest tools to help all children use a computer for school – or **FUN**.



*Mom secures Demetrius in the Hippo Car Seat for the first time!*

## Hippo Car Seat Lending Program

The Children's Rehabilitation Foundation partnered with Manitoba Public Insurance, Children's Hospital and the Rehabilitation Centre for Children in providing medical car seats for children in hip spica casts. These casts prevent children from fitting in their regular car seats. Until this program was implemented families had very limited options to access medical car seats. Thanks to donations these children have the opportunity to ride more safely. The initial program costs were over \$9,000.00 and will keep approximately 24 children with lower body casts tucked safely in their family cars each year.



Your donations to programs make a huge difference in children's lives. Thank you for your support.





633 Wellington Crescent  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3M 0A8

Phone 204.475.5073  
Fax 204.453.5182  
Email [crf@crf.mb.ca](mailto:crf@crf.mb.ca)  
Website [www.crf.mb.ca](http://www.crf.mb.ca)

**Gay Kirby**  
Executive Director  
475.5073  
[gaykirby@crf.mb.ca](mailto:gaykirby@crf.mb.ca)

**Chris Schollenberg**  
Development Officer  
477.4587  
[chris@crf.mb.ca](mailto:chris@crf.mb.ca)

**Rita Michasiw**  
Office Manager  
453.9838  
[rita@crf.mb.ca](mailto:rita@crf.mb.ca)

**Pauline Reynolds**  
Media Relations and  
Marketing  
453.9840  
[pauline@crf.mb.ca](mailto:pauline@crf.mb.ca)

**Carole Gingera Kowalchuk**  
Fundraising Assistant  
452.4311 ext. 182  
[carole@crf.mb.ca](mailto:carole@crf.mb.ca)

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## 2009 Coming Events

- April 13 Manitoba Restaurant and Foodservices Association, Chocolate for Kids
- May 13 Rotary Club of Winnipeg West, Rotary Chicken Fest
- May 9 Manta Swim Club, Shaw Relay Challenge
- June 14 RBC Cruisin' Down the Crescent, a 10 km walk, bike ride or run down Wellington Crescent to raise funds for kids with disabilities.
- July 16 Starkids Golf Tournament, helping kids to communicate
- August 8 2nd Annual ECM Golf Tournament
- September 12-14 Fab 50's Weekend
- September 27 Manitoba Street Rod Association, Annual Toy Run
- October 17 A Night of Miracles, Gala Dinner & Dance



*For complete list and more information visit our website.  
Our new website is being developed! Please check it frequently!*

**[crf.mb.ca](http://crf.mb.ca)**



**YES! I want to make a difference in the lives of children. With your help we can continue providing equipment and programs for children with disabilities so they can lead happier and fuller lives in their communities.**

I want to donate \_\_\_ \$35 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ other amount

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please find my cheque enclosed payable to the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation,  
or please charge my credit card  **Visa**  **Master Card**  **AmEx**

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please cut out and return to the

**Children's Rehabilitation Foundation, 633 Wellington Crescent, Winnipeg, MB R3M 0A8**

Or donate online at [crf.mb.ca](http://crf.mb.ca) or donate by phone at (204) 475-5073 or toll free 1-800-855-kids (5437)

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