

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Richmond Hill Dental Centre “Adopts” Scholarship for Childhood Cancer Survivor

Bayview Hill Dental Centre in Richmond Hill, Ontario is the first Canadian dental office to Adopt-A-Scholarship for a childhood cancer survivor. In fact, the idea for the program was created in the chair by a hygienist and her patient!

The patient’s daughter, Harriet, a childhood cancer survivor, had applied for a \$1,000 university scholarship from the Childhood Cancer Foundation. Harriet herself had run a very successful high school fundraiser to raise enough money to support five scholarships for other survivors. This inspired hygienist Beth Desanti to say, “Why couldn’t we fundraise here and adopt a scholarship?”

So, through the Foundation, a student was selected from the list of 50 or so applicants and the fundraising began at Bayview Hill for Megan. Megan was diagnosed at 14 with osteosarcoma, survived a 19 hour leg salvage operation, six months of chemotherapy, more surgery on her lung and now, at 18, was poised to start university in Halifax and fulfill her dream - to become a fashion journalist.

Within just a couple of weeks, the generous office, their families and friends had donated \$1,000 and Megan’s scholarship was complete and the cheque on its way to Megan through the Foundation.

For many years, the Childhood Cancer Foundation has been offering university scholarships to survivors embarking on their second chance at life. This year, due to the increasing survival rates of children who have been treated for cancer (now about 75%), the Foundation received more applications than even before – nearly 50. More are anticipated next year.

Applications come from all across Canada and tell the stories of young people who know far more than anyone should about chemotherapy, surgery, radiation, blood transfusions, transplants and fear. But they are the faces of hope...hope that we will one day raise the survival rate to 100%, and improve the quality of life for survivors.

If you would like to know more about how to Adopt-A-Scholarship, and the Childhood Cancer Foundation, please contact Mary Lye at mlye@childhoodcancer.ca, or call 1-800-363-1062.

About the Childhood Cancer Foundation Canada

Founded in 1987, the Childhood Cancer Foundation is the only national charity supporting the fight against childhood cancer in Canada. The Foundation provides support programs, funds research and advocates for children and their families who are affected by cancer. For more information about childhood cancer please visit www.childhoodcancer.ca

Wristbands help raise funds for the Childhood Cancer Foundation

To help raise money for a Scholarship for a childhood cancer survivor, the Childhood Cancer Foundation has green "We Will Win" wristbands in adult and youth sizes. Sell them at your office and to friends and family for \$2.00 or more, and help raise money and awareness for 10,000 children in Canada with cancer. See Noelle is 5... (attached)