Camp Ooch is a privately funded, volunteer-based organization that provides children with cancer and their families with unique opportunities for growth through challenging, fun, enriching, and magical experiences.

Our aim is to serve every child and family affected by childhood cancer at no cost to them, in communities across Ontario.

Our daily in-hospital, community, and overnight camp programming is designed to support every stage of a child’s cancer journey, and includes palliative and specialty programs for bereaved siblings.

Campers can play, laugh, and grow with other kids like them—even while in active treatment.
Message from the CEO and Chair of the Board

This was a year of exciting growth for Camp Ooch. Our commitment to kids and families criss-crossed Ontario, providing 1,895 happy Campers with thousands of experiences, new friends, and a community of peers who know what it’s like to have childhood cancer affect you or your family.

Overnight camp at Ooch Muskoka served a record number of Campers (940), and community programs continue to attract new families—fifteen per cent more than last year, with a whopping fifty-six per cent more families from Ottawa. Our in-hospital programs flourished, especially in London. In 2019, we not only grew our capacity, we also reached more kids and families who need our programs more than ever before.

Even adults enjoyed camp! We debuted the Bonfire Bash at Ooch Muskoka—an all-new biennial fundraising event. It was a roaring success; guests enjoyed a camp-themed scavenger hunt, a gourmet dining hall meal, and a lakeside campfire concert.

We launched our transformational Path to Play Campaign, breaking ground to make the outdoor spaces at Ooch Muskoka fully accessible. Inclusivity is a cornerstone of our work at Ooch. This project will ensure that anyone attending overnight camp can do so with dignity and independence.

In September, we announced an exciting merger with Camp Trillium. This historic union with a trusted peer organization will support further growth outside the GTA—as we continue our mission to reach every child and family affected by paediatric cancer in Ontario.

None of this would be possible without you. Thank you for believing in the magic of camp. We are so thankful that we can rely on the support and generosity of donors, fundraisers, partners, and volunteers like you.

Alex Robertson
Chief Executive Officer

Mark Redmond
Chair, Board of Directors
Donor Dollars at Work

- **25%** Fundraising and awareness helps us engage and diversify a committed community of donors
- **10%** A strong administration ensures a stable and accountable organization
- **65%** A heavy focus on program delivery and operational growth allows us to reach more Campers

Program Spending

- **50%** Community programs engage entire families and reduce isolation
- **30%** In-hospital programs serve up fun and friendship at five Ontario paediatric cancer centres
- **20%** Overnight camp programs in all four seasons keep kids connected to peers
54% more Campers went to summer day camp than last year

746 volunteers joined our largest volunteer cohort ever (100 more than 2018)

420 families experienced programs in their home communities

100 medical staff & volunteers supported the healing magic of camp

1,895 individual patients enjoyed over 13,000 in-hospital experiences

940 Campers experienced overnight camp at Ooch Muskoka (10% more than 2018, and 17% were first-timers)
Cancer changes a child’s life. So does camp.

**Confidence & Self-Esteem**
At camp programs, campers can express themselves in a safe and supportive way. There are moments to “shine,” feel pride, or be recognized for accomplishments.

**Inclusion & Social Connections**
Campers connect with kids just like them and are valued for who they are. Those struggling socially can practice their skills safely.

**Normalcy**
Kids can “just be kids” when times are stressful and uncertain. Regular milestones can still be celebrated—like birthdays or award celebrations.

**Growth & Empowerment**
Campers choose their own activities and their level of participation. They gain and hone skills while pushing their boundaries and taking on new challenges in ways that work for them.
Accessibility is essential to kids and families

We strive to ensure all our programs are universally accessible and support the individual needs of each child and family. Here’s how:

**Accessible Healthcare**
Our renowned medical program ensures that even kids in the most intense stages of their cancer journey can experience the magic of camp. Ooch Muskoka is the only overnight camp in Canada delivering intravenous chemotherapy, central line care, and blood transfusions to kids away from hospital. Oncologists schedule rotations and nurses volunteer at camp, supervising Campers’ medical needs—oncology and otherwise.

**Financial Accessibility**
Families dealing with the immediate and long-term impacts of childhood cancer carry a heavy financial burden. That’s why our programs are provided at no charge to families.

**Universally Accessible Spaces**
Indoor facilities at Ooch Muskoka were redeveloped for universal accessibility in 2018, and our Path to Play Campaign renovations will extend that accessibility to the outdoors. 20% of Campers arrive at camp with mobility devices, and up to 40% of them are on active treatment. Soon, Campers will have the freedom and independence to safely explore all that camp offers, indoors and out.

**Geographic Accessibility**
Complimentary transportion is provided to day camps, overnight camp, and some community programs. Travel, including flights when necessary, is arranged with parents and local health teams so that no child is excluded because of where they live.
"Camp programs have had a huge impact on our family. In his first year, our son attended a program without us for the first time. This was hard for us—we had not left him with anyone since his diagnosis—but we knew he was safe in the hands of two caring Camp Ooch professionals. Camp has given our son an amazing place to be himself, beyond disease and treatment."

—Camper parent

THANK YOU!

Contact Us:
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