



# Friends of Ooch

An update on how you're an ongoing part of our story!

SPRING 2019

Friendship and fun is  
around the corner!  
Camp is almost here!

You can help make Jada's dream come true!

If you ask a bunch of Ooch Campers what they are most looking forward to about Camp, you'll hear things like, *"playing in the water!"*, *"campfire sing-a-longs!"*, *"the smell of the forest!"*, *"seeing my old friends and making new ones!"*

Thanks to your kindness and generosity, kids affected by childhood cancer in your community and across the province are getting their gear together and counting down until their time at Camp Ooch. Thank you for your amazing support! **You make the magic of Ooch possible.**

What you won't hear kids say—but is critically important—is that they are looking forward to being in a safe and supportive space where they can get excellent medical care. Of course, they don't think about that—they are too busy having the time of their lives! But, because of donors like you, safety and accessibility have always been at the heart of Ooch.

Right now up here at Ooch, we are working quietly on a major project that will improve the Camp Ooch waterfront and "Camphitheatre", where we have our campfires and sing-a-longs. With your help, we can make the heart of Camp



more accessible for kids using walkers, wheelchairs, canes or crutches, to help all our Campers get around independently.

**Your support of this project will make dreams come true for kids like Jada.** Jada had a very rare and aggressive cancer in grade 8, and partway through her intense treatment, the doctors recommended she have one of her legs amputated below her knee. Jada's spirit is stronger than you can believe but she still needs a little help getting around at Camp. **But with your help, we can make the changes needed to make the whole heart of Camp accessible so kids like Jada can feel independent getting around Camp all on their own.**

*"I'm on a mission to prove that getting an*



## Friends of Ooch



*amputation doesn't hold you back. I can see in people's eyes when they watch me knee-board or swim—they're like, 'Whoa, that's awesome!' Getting up on the knee-board, and then going skiing with one leg—I just felt incredible. They finally had to stop the boat and force me out of the water.*

*It bugs me a little bit that I need help at the waterfront. I want to be able to do it all myself. I don't want to have to ask for help getting down there. There's always someone to help me, and my friends and the gang at Ooch are so loving and kind, but I'm just independent.*

*"This new waterfront would be amazing. I can't even tell you how psyched I am about it. And Camphitheatre! I think my very favourite part of Ooch is the campfires. I play guitar and it's the best when I play songs and everyone starts to sing along, clap and stomp their feet. I hear they're talking about adding ramps and leveling out the area to make it more accessible. That would make so many kids like me happier than you can even imagine. It would be a dream come true! Thanks for your support of Ooch and for helping with this epic project. I can't wait!"*

Our project is getting underway this summer, and our goal is to begin work this fall. We're planning right now! **Will you help make dreams come true and make your gift to help make the heart of Camp Ooch more accessible?** A growing number of our donors are making extraordinary gifts to this project. I hope you will consider giving as generously as you can.



**You have a very special place in the story of Camp Ooch. We would not be where we are today without your caring and compassionate support as part of our Ooch family of donors.**





## Your Gifts in Action: March Break Camp Fun!



Thanks to your support, we expanded our March Break Day Camps beyond Toronto to Ottawa and London—and had more Campers than ever before! Our Campers got to “explore” outer space, go snowshoeing, learn magic tricks, take swimming and cooking lessons, and more!

*Jack\* loved hanging out with Ooch in the hospital waiting room in London before his appointments, but because he lives in Windsor, he couldn't participate in Ooch's community programs. But when March Break Day Camp in London came around, Jack's family decided it was worth the drive! They registered for one day of camp, but when Jack's parents picked him up, his smile was SO BIG they decided one day just wasn't enough. They booked a hotel, and one day turned into three, then three turned into the whole week! Thank you for making programs in more communities possible!*

Programs like our March Break Day Camp are made possible thanks to the generosity of our Campfire Circle donors. Campfire Circle is our special group of donors who give every month to Ooch, allowing us to offer amazing community

*\*Camper's name changed by request*

programs year-round. Ooch mom Andrea had this to say about what it means for her and her daughter Jordyn to know they are supported by families in the community every month: *“It brings me to tears to think about the amount of time, effort and donations it takes to make Ooch so amazing, so saying “thank you” to donors doesn't seem like enough. It's such a blessing to have Ooch activities in our lives, and my daughter gets to experience so much more than we ever thought possible.”* Monthly gifts make the magic of Ooch continue to happen for Jordyn and so many other families.

Thank you, Campfire Circle!



You can join the Campfire Circle by making a monthly donation using the enclosed reply form.

You can also give online at

[www.ooch.org/monthly](http://www.ooch.org/monthly), or contact me at 647-973-7495 or [rachel@ooch.org](mailto:rachel@ooch.org). As soon as you sign up, I'll be in touch with you right away to welcome you to the Campfire Circle and share special updates about your monthly gifts in action! Thank you! –Rachel



## Meet **Ron and Deb**: Ooch Volunteers, Donors and Brave Spirit Circle Donors

When we visited the camp, it really was magical. Seeing the faces of the kids—what a riot, what an absolute hoot they were having. Kids paddling, swinging, climbing walls, this is something that, instinctively, you know you want to help in any way you can. We're both archaeologists and we were excavating a Huron Wendat village and we asked the elders if we could bring some campers to the site to join the dig. What kid doesn't like to dig around in the dirt looking for arrowheads?

While we're alive, we are happy to give and see our support in action. But we want to help forever, even after we're gone—that's why we added Ooch to our Will. We knew we wanted to take care of nieces and nephews and

family, but we wanted to do something more. As you age, and you think more about it, you want to be sure the right things are done with your money. It was important to us that we were crystal clear about our wishes and hopes.

Ooch is definitely part of our biography, part of our life story. We all have many passions, curiosities, inquisitive minds, and all those things together make us who we are and what we believe. While our lives have been devoted to archaeology, a huge part of who we are is expressed by our giving to Ooch.

*Thank you, Ron and Deb! We love hearing your stories about*



*why you give to Ooch—and we love sharing the stories of our Brave Spirit Circle Donors too. If you'd like to share your story, or learn more about joining the Brave Spirit Circle by remembering Ooch*

*with a gift in your Will, you can contact me any time for a confidential conversation. You can reach me at 647-557-6503 or [stephanie@ooch.org](mailto:stephanie@ooch.org).  
– Stephanie*



## Thank You Participants, Volunteers and Fundraisers in the Sporting Life 10K Race:

Because of You, 475 Campers are going to Ooch!

The Ooch community came out in full force on Sunday May 12 to support Camp Ooch and participate in the Sporting Life 10K. 22,000 people joined us in both Toronto and Ottawa and raised an incredible \$1.9 million to bring Ooch to kids through In-Hospital, Community and Overnight Camp programs across Ontario. Thank you for walking, training, volunteering, fundraising, hosting bake sales, asking for donations on social media and bringing the Magic of Ooch to this event. We couldn't do it without you!



Your 2018 Annual Report is now available!

Read more about the impact you have, and how Ooch invests your donations. Your 2018 Annual Report is available at [ooch.org/AnnualReport](http://ooch.org/AnnualReport)

The printing of this newsletter was generously donated by **Donnelley Financial Solutions**