

WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE AT CAMP Ooch IN 2018



A diagnosis of childhood cancer is big and scary and changes life in an instant. Cancer is a difficult journey, especially for a child, but you are part of the community that is giving fun and friendship back to kids who deserve to just be kids.

This past year, you have made it possible for Ooch to provide more Camp programs to more children affected by childhood cancer and their families than ever before. Here are some updates from our 2018 programs - none of these programs would be possible without you. As we look toward 2019, and our goal to bring more Ooch to more kids than ever before, we are so grateful to have you as a friend and partner.



Because of you Ooch was able to:

- Bring camp programming to **1,600** Campers and their families
- Provide **23,984** Camper days
- Expand our programs into new communities **across the province**
- Host 132 days of **Leadership** programming



Thank you, for being an Ooch Champion and making so much possible for our Campers and their families!



WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE AT OVERNIGHT CAMP

Ooch Muskoka is the only oncology camp in Canada equipped to give IV chemotherapy and blood transfusions. This means that for many Campers Ooch is the only place where they're able to enjoy traditional outdoor activities like swimming and canoeing, can challenge themselves on the high ropes course, and make friends with kids who understand their journey.

You made incredible changes at Ooch Muskoka possible in 2018. Together we:

- Welcomed **540 Campers to summer overnight session** - 25 more than last year.
- Gave **330 Campers a fall or winter Camp** experience through Weekends at Camp
- **Expanded our Ooch Muskoka site**, opening new buildings so that we're ready to welcome more Campers than ever before. This included a new Med Shed, so that more medically fragile kids can access Camp, and the new Slight Arts & Music Centre, a winterized space for Campers to get creative.
- Added a **second boat and doubled our capacity for waterskiing**. Even Campers with mobility or limb strength challenges can be supported in the water thanks to our equipment and trained program staff.
- Added a **Camper support staff member** - this person will support volunteers to better **accommodate behavioural, cognitive and physical differences** amongst Campers.

“Camp is more than a place you go to in the summer. Camp is a place where you meet people who have gone through what you've gone through. You're no longer different, you're just the same. You can reach your goals that seem impossible elsewhere.”

- Ooch Camper



WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE AT COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

You aren't just providing kids with summer programming – you are creating a year-round support network! Camp is where our Campers are – at overnight camp in Ooch Muskoka, or in the many programs we provide at specialized paediatric cancer centres and in communities across the province.



Some of the Community Programs you made possible in 2018 include:

- **Summer Day Camp:** for Campers four to seven years old who are too young for overnight camp, but ready for the fun of camp experiences. In 2018, **43 Campers** joined us for Day Camp!
- **March Break Day Camp:** For the first time ever, we offered 5 full days of fun and friendship in both Toronto and Ottawa!
- **New programs:** Ooch community programming is growing rapidly across Ontario, in regions like London, Hamilton and Ottawa. London had 50% more community programs in 2018, including the city's first PA day program.
- **Family Camping Trips:** families affected by childhood cancer have the chance to spend some quality time together on overnight camping excursions. This past year **Ottawa trips were added**, and we now have a waiting list for the next round of trips.
- Overall, last year Ooch offered **110 days of community programming across Ontario.**

“There is nowhere quite like this where he would have the opportunity to experience what he does at Ooch. My son would have shrunk back from challenges and hence experience less success, less joy and less confidence. His life and outlook would be less broad and future less embraced. Ooch is fantastic!”

– Camper Parent



WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE AT IN-HOSPITAL PROGRAMS

The In-Hospital Program brings the fun and friendship of Camp to the spaces where Campers are treated: at bedsides, in waiting rooms and in playrooms at hospitals and specialized paediatric cancer centres across the province.

Some amazing In-Hospital highlights you made possible in 2018:

- Ooch now offers **full-time programming at the Children's Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre** and holds a permanent physical space in the hospital. This is a rare and special sign of trust and partnership!
- Ooch's 2018 theme "That Camp Feeling" was a focal point at overnight camp in Ooch Muskoka and at our SickKids Camp Day, ensuring **kids in the hospital could experience the same Ooch Magic** that Campers outside of the hospital enjoy.
- In 2018 **940 individuals** benefitted from Ooch programs at 4 hospitals and 3 regional cancer centres across the province – and we can't wait to serve more in 2019, thanks to you!

"Our daughter fell into a dark place when she was diagnosed with cancer. Ooch staff and volunteers were always there for her...and for us. It's hard for parents to watch their child go through all the stages of cancer, but angels truly walk among us and that's what Camp Ooch people are. It's so heartwarming when there's a knock on the door and someone with a huge smile in a Camp Ooch t-shirt appears- holding a box of crafts and games, ready to sit with your child. When your child looks at you and says, 'Go get a coffee Mom, I'm going to play cards.' Angels. That's all I can say."

- Camper Parent



LEARN MORE

Camp Oochigeas
416-961-6624 ext. 233
caley@ooch.org
464 Bathurst St