



BALDING FOR DOLLAR\$
Supporting Children with Cancer & Blood Disorders
B.C.'s Children's Hospital
www.baldingfordollars.com

**BC Children's
Hospital™**

2015-16
Report

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Balding for Dollars

MAKING A DIFFERENCE SINCE 2000

Balding for Dollars is a beloved event started by patients, families and staff that has been improving the lives of children with cancer and their families for the past 17 years.

Each year, money raised through Balding for Dollars and its supporting events funds critical care items and programs that enhance the lives of children and teens, no matter where they are on their cancer journeys.

Thanks to the dedication and generosity of its supporters, Balding for Dollars has raised \$4.5 million over its 17-year history for oncology, hematology, and blood and marrow transplantation programs and research at BC Children's Hospital.

We are pleased to report on the impact of your contributions over the past two years.



Dr. Baadjes before



Dr. Baadjes after with oncology patient Will Heine



Dr. Rassekh and son Zach before

BALDING FOR DOLLARS MAIN EVENT

Over the past few years, the main event for Balding for Dollars has been held in the lobby of the BC Children's Hospital Research building. For one day, the space turns into a family carnival, with musical performances, kids' activities and, of course, a temporary "hair salon" where courageous men, women and kids get their heads shaved or hair cut – all in support of BC's kids.

Last year, the event was held on May 23 and raised \$80,000. In 2016 the event took place on May 14 with 70 participants who raised \$70,000.

More than 500 family members, friends and staff gathered at BC Children's Hospital to shave their heads or cut off their locks at the 17th annual Main Event for Balding for Dollars.

The participants included two BC Children's Hospital oncologists, who braved the scissors and razors for a good cause.

Dr. Rod Rassekh took part in the event, shaving his head with his son Zach, as did Dr. Bjorn Baadjes (seen post-cut in photo above, with oncology patient Will Heine). Dr. Baadjes, who wore long dread locks for many years, courageously sacrificed them to benefit kids in treatment for cancer and other serious illnesses. Both doctors participated in the fundraising as well, with Dr. Baadjes raising \$8,086.27 and Dr. Rassekh and Zach raising \$6,339.

Balding for Dollars wishes to thank all the brave shave-ees.



**A LETTER FROM PATIENT
AND FUNDRAISER**

**SELENA
SENGHERA**

The past year while I was in treatment for Ewing's sarcoma (rare bone cancer). I often thought about how I could contribute to finding a cure for cancer and support families who are affected by cancer.

This motivated me to take action and raise awareness through fundraising. I discussed some ideas with friends and family. They all encouraged me be creative and explore my options on how to support charities and organizations that fight against cancer. That is how I came up with the idea to make and sell rainbow loom bracelets!

In between my treatments, when I was not feeling sick, my friends and I would gather to make rubber band bracelets. I even made personalized bracelets for those who had special requests for colors or style. I sold large batches at family gatherings and I sent several batches to my parents and grandparent's work sites. I let the buyers decide the amount they wish to donate for the bracelets. People were eager to show their support, especially once they knew the cause I am fighting for.

I continued to collect funds for several months. I am so happy and proud of myself and my supporters because this past May I was able to participate and make my first donation to Balding for Dollars.

I will always support BC Children's Hospital and charities and organizations that promote cancer awareness and research and kick cancer in the butt!

Always have hope.

Selena Senghera

**Selena's has raised nearly \$11,000 to date. Thank you Selena for supporting Balding for Dollars!*

INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Balding for Dollars is supported by a number of independent community fundraising events organized by caring individuals and groups throughout BC. Together, these events help to make Balding for Dollars successful year after year and have an enormous impact on the lives of children and families.

These events come in the form of jewelery sales, head shaves, pub nights, and fundraising at workplaces and schools. We are thrilled to share stories of the following independent community events that reached significant milestones this year.

SFU CLUB FOR THE CURE

In March 2016, Simon Fraser University's Club for the Cure reached a cumulative fundraising milestone of \$100,000 for BC Children's Hospital since 2008. The club is run by a group of passionate students dedicated to raising awareness of childhood cancer and blood disorders, prevention and research. Club for the Cure members exemplify true community leadership and inspire other young people to give back to the community. Congratulations and way to go, Club for the Cure!



Meet Roohy Thandi

This year I was the SFU Club for the Cure's Balding for Dollars coordinator. I had the huge task of planning, organizing and managing SFU's Balding for Dollars event, which was held on March 16 of this year. This one-day event brings SFU students together to donate their hair to be made into wigs for kids with cancer and also raise money for the oncology ward at BC Children's Hospital. Our team spent many hours planning this event and were able to raise about \$5,000! We had over 20 people donate their hair and shave their heads! We had equally as many dedicated volunteers helping throughout the day. For me, this event is very personal as I am a cancer survivor

myself! One of the best things you can do for someone going through cancer, is this! By shaving your head you're showing that person that they're not alone in their fight and that you support them! It was an incredible privilege to be able to help plan and coordinate this year's SFU Balding for Dollars event.



BERNIE RYAN AND FRIENDS

In May 2016, Bernie Ryan organized his 13th annual Balding for Dollars event, which raised \$12,000 for BC Children's Hospital and another \$12,000 for the Pediatrics team at Kelowna General Hospital. Formerly known as Bernie Ryan's Daytona Party in Vancouver, the event has been reinvented as Bands, Burgers, Beers and Balding, and now takes place in Kelowna. In

The reality is, when your child has cancer you don't have time or energy to do stuff like this. Somebody has to step up.

his 13 years of supporting Balding for Dollars, Bernie has raised more than \$155,000. He's also shaved his head at every annual event. "There is just something so wrong with children with

cancer, so unfair, and I had a unique opportunity to help out, so I did. I've been asked why I do this, a lot of times, and I answer, 'why not?,'” Bernie says. “The reality is, when your child has cancer, you don't have the time or energy to do stuff like this. Somebody has to step up.” Bernie has no kids, nor cancer, and he believes people shouldn't have to have either to be motivated to help. Bernie is already thinking ahead to the Bands, Burgers, Beers and Balding event in 2017 and looks forward to welcoming more supporters next year. Bernie says he's inspired to keep going year after year because of the people he meets. “You meet the greatest people with the biggest hearts when you do community work,” he adds. “I look for people who ask me what they can do to help, as opposed to what I want.”

Thank you to Bernie, and all of his supporters for making a big difference!



BALDING FOR DOLLARS WHISTLER

What began as a dream 14 years ago, has turned into a quarter of a million miracles for BC's children. Dave and Wendy Clark founded Balding for Dollars Whistler in 2002 and partnered with Michael Varrin, former manager of Garibaldi Lift Co (GLC) Bar & Grill in Whistler, to establish an initial goal of raising \$1,000. The Clarks found their inspiration in the stories of friends and friends of friends who were affected by cancer. Since the event's inception, the couple has created a grassroots organization called Whistler Friends to support other organizations along with BC Children's. In March 2016, Balding for Dollars Whistler celebrated a remarkable \$250,000 cumulative fundraising total through the event. Congratulations to everyone involved in Balding for Dollars Whistler on your achievement in reaching the quarter-million mark and thank you for all of your support!

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

In addition to those that reached significant milestones, we would like to recognize and thank the following events that raised \$1,000 or more for Balding for Dollars in the past two years:

- ▶ Balding Beatrice
- ▶ Claude's Motogp Memorabilia Sales for Kids
- ▶ Cleveland Elementary School
- ▶ Ecole Cedardale
- ▶ GVMC Ride for the Kids
- ▶ KPU Club for the Cure
- ▶ Shave for the Brave
- ▶ Teatr Polski-Polish Theatre
- ▶ Todd Family Balding for Kaiden
- ▶ UBC Balding for Dollars - Totem Park
- ▶ Valleycliffe Elementary School
- ▶ Walter Gage Goes Balding for Dollars

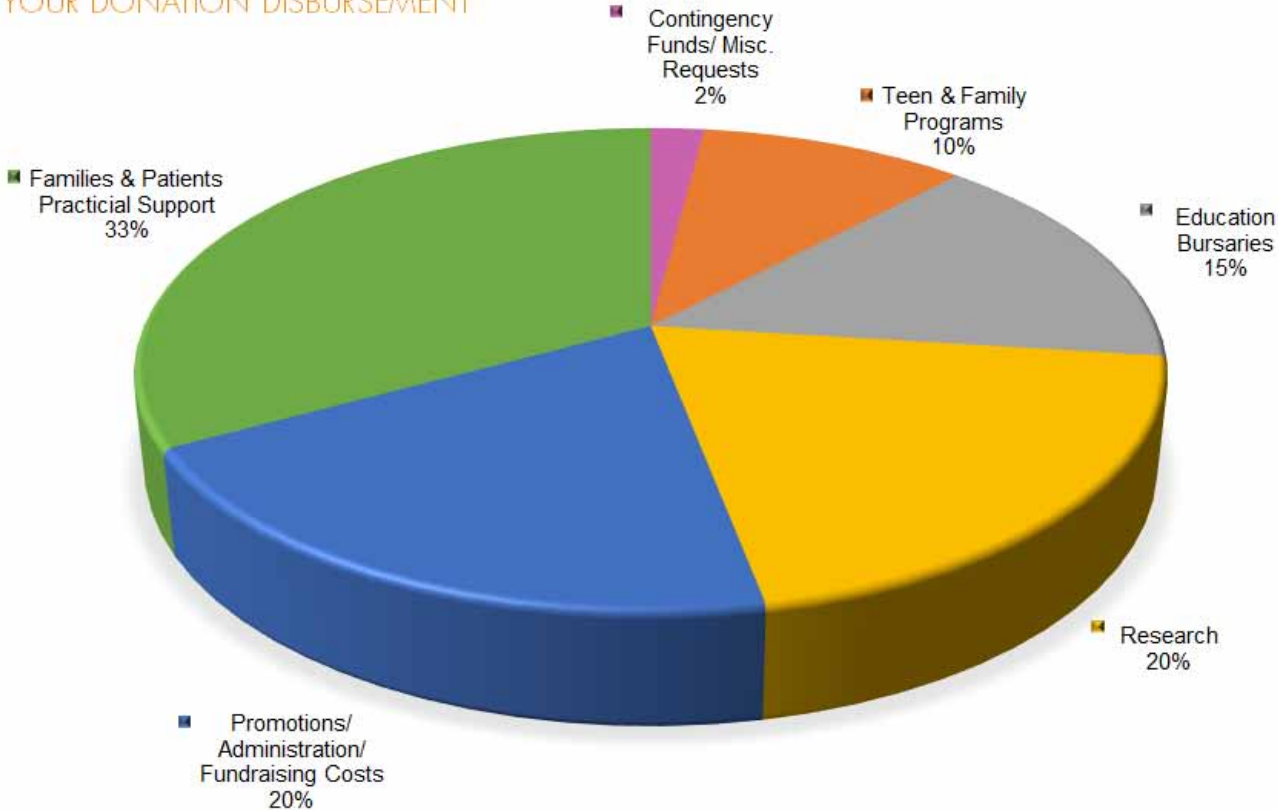
WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

The money raised by Balding for Dollars goes to programs that support patients' quality of life while they undergo treatment. These amazing programs help to improve the lives of patients, their siblings and parents. Balding for Dollars believes in complete transparency in the use of funds and wants donors to know that their contributions directly help families.

Donor funding has a life-changing impact. It sends teens to university, helps families find accommodation while their children are in treatment, supports BC Children's researchers while they look for cures for cancer, gives medicines not covered by health insurance to children, and provides teens and families with fun and exciting escapes from the hospital through outdoor and local adventures, among many other initiatives.

Funds are disbursed to the areas below.

YOUR DONATION DISBURSEMENT



FAMILY AND PATIENT PRACTICAL SUPPORT

Family and patient practical support makes up the bulk of Balding for Dollars's fund disbursement, supporting the hospital's social workers, and Child Life program among other areas. Here are some examples:

- Helps cover accommodation and travel costs for families, medications not covered by medical or extended health, food vouchers for families staying in the hospital, gift cards for gas and groceries, and other similar expenses.
- Supports the important Child Life program at BC Children's Hospital.
 - Child life specialists help to reduce the stress of hospitalization on children and their families through play, music and art therapy, and other distraction techniques. Funds from Balding for Dollars are used to purchase programming supplies for patients in the hospital's Oncology/Hematology Inpatient Unit – including crafts, games and food supplies for baking.
- Provides support for siblings dealing with the cancer diagnosis of a brother or sister through 'Siblings Coping Together,' a time-limited group therapy program for siblings of patients receiving treatment for cancer
- Honors children and teens who have lost their battle with cancer through an annual event called Remembering our Children.

RESEARCH

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute is one of the leading institutes in North America dedicated to child and family health research. The institute's childhood cancer research program is staffed by some of the most renowned childhood cancer researchers in the world. These researchers have an impressive track record in making discoveries that can change the lives of children with cancer in BC and globally.

Currently, the hospital's scientists are conducting leading-edge research to understand the biology of cancer cells and immune function, to identify the complex conditions that result in relapse, lead clinical trials on drug therapy and develop innovative therapies that are more personalized, safer, less invasive and do not damage a child's developing body.

TEEN & FAMILY PROGRAMS

Opportunities to participate in outdoor activities can make a big difference on the mental and physical well-being of children and teens affected by cancer or blood disorders, and their families.

The funds raised are so vital for our program. Parents, families and our patients are so grateful for some of the support we can offer them. It is a very stressful time for the entire family when a child is being treated for cancer or a blood disorder and I know first-hand what these funds mean and how much they do help. I would like to personally thank all our donors!

-Suzanne Dunbar, Patient/Parent Advocate for Oncology/Hematology

Donor support funded two Teen Adventure trips in 2015, and three in 2016, with approximately 40 teens participating. Teens were able to go surfing in Tofino, paddling at Strathcona Park Lodge in Campbell River, and river rafting in Whistler. They took day outings to engage in rock climbing, to Wildplay outdoor adventure park, and to Cates Park.

Younger children aged six to 12 participate in fun days, including a day at the rock climbing gym. There was also an Oncology Family Fun Day at BC Children's Hospital in February 2016.

Other fun activities included going to the Carousel Theatre to see "Go Dog Go" for some families. Patients and their families who are from out of town and receiving treatment at the hospital were given passes for admission to VanDusen Gardens and Bloedel Conservatory, among other sites.



DESIREE'S STORY

“When I first found out about Teen Adventures last year, I was really excited for a program geared toward people my age who have had experiences like me. Looking through the list of different adventures that they offered, there wasn't really an adventure that didn't appeal to me. I was really excited though when I heard I had been accepted into the Tofino surf program, I couldn't wait to try something new since I hadn't done anything like it before.

On the first day I met up with my group at the ferry terminal in Nanaimo. Although I was excited, I was also a little nervous. Suzanne and Dr. Ashling were really friendly and welcoming. We took a bus up island to Tofino. The bus ride there was pretty quiet, not knowing each other yet, but by the second day we were all talking to each other and becoming friends. We were able to share our stories and support each other because we all “got it.” We were all somewhere else in our cancer journey, whether we had finished treatment recently, still had cancer, had been in remission for years, or were the

sibling of someone with cancer – we all had something to bring to the table. It happened on its own, none of the leaders even suggested it, but by letting us be independent in sharing a girls' cabin together and the supportive atmosphere, we just started sharing and, through that, the relationships were built. During the five days there was a real emphasis on team-building. It's great; it makes you feel empowered. We did everything together as a team: cooking, cleaning and daily activities. Sometimes two other girls and I would just go for a walk on the beach together. I love how the leaders trusted us in that and didn't treat us like kids. My favourite activities in those five days were probably surfing, walking down the road to the smoothie shop and exploring downtown Tofino.

On the bus ride back we were all talking about the awesome time we had had, taking selfies together and getting contact info. I have made friends on that trip that I still keep in contact with to this day. I had a lot of fun and my only complaint would be that it's not long enough. I can't wait for this year's Teen Adventure!”



EDUCATION BURSARIES

Balding for Dollars provides bursaries to support the education of survivors of childhood cancer or blood disorders who were or are being treated at BC Children's Hospital. The amount of bursaries varies each year, depending on budget and amount of raised funds. In 2016, Balding awarded approximately 35 bursaries to deserving cancer survivors who applied and will attend a post-secondary institution. Kate Mitchell was one of this year's bursary recipients.

A letter from Kate Mitchell, 2016 Bursary Recipient

"My name is Kate Mitchell and I am a survivor. Like all recipients of the Balding for Dollars' educational bursary award, my journey is unique. In October of 2010, I was a patient at BC Children's Hospital for a life-saving treatment of my severe Crohn's disease. I received an autologous stem cell transplant, which has put me into remission after a very long, painful journey. I also have two blood disorders that can leave me immune-compromised.

I am very grateful to Balding for Dollars for their support and compassion. I have been a continuing recipient of the Balding for Dollars educational bursary award, as well as an active volunteer and participant in the main event in May. I have been greatly influenced by the kindness and love of staff such as Suzanne Dunbar and Dan Mornar. The organization has had a very positive impact on my life.

Five years later, I am still in remission from my Crohn's disease and have flourished in life. Because of my greatly improved health, I have been able to pursue a full course load at Simon Fraser University. I am studying to complete my Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature, and from there, I will be entering an education program for a degree in teaching. I have wanted to be an elementary school teacher since I was 12 years old, and I look forward to this dream becoming a reality. In addition to post-secondary education, I work in Burnaby Parks and Recreation as an after-school program leader, and volunteer at my local elementary school. I also volunteer for Balding for Dollars through BC Children's Hospital as a way to give back for the amazing support I have received. Last year I raised over \$1,100 for the main event in May and shaved my head, donating two very long ponytails to be made into wigs for kids with cancer."

THANK YOU!

Thank you for supporting Balding for Dollars and its mission to enhance the quality of life for children, teens and families affected by cancer and blood disorders. Your support makes a world of difference and helps to make a difficult time in their lives easier.