

## **Financial Resources for Families with Children with Cancer**

### **Travel, Accommodation and Living Expenses for Patients and Families that Need to Travel Across Canada when their Child has Cancer**

Last Updated: March 27, 2019

#### **National:**

##### **Air Canada Foundation**

<https://www.aircanada.com/en/about/community/foundation/htp.html>

- Providing airline seats to parents and children with advanced medical treatments.

##### **Alex's Lemonade Stand**

<https://www.alexlemonade.org/travel-for-care>

- Travel assistance within Canada or to the USA provided up to \$4,000 annually (or \$8,000 annually for patients enrolled in ALSF funded trials).
- Family must meet various criteria that are all listed on the website (e.g., age at diagnosis, annual household income, etc.).
- ALSF pays the travel vendors directly or works directly with the Social Worker/Care Team at your child's hospital.

##### **Hope Air**

<https://hopeair.ca/>

- You must have a confirmed appointment that is covered by your provincial healthcare plan, be medically cleared to fly, and have a financial need. Flights are within Canada, and if certain criteria are met, they will assist with travel outside of Canada too.

##### **Jennifer Ashleigh Children's Charity**

<https://jenash.org/application/>

- Provide financial support for expenses directly related to your child's illness. Please see website for eligibility criteria (e.g., combined gross household income).

##### **Love, Team Tessa**

<https://loveteamtessa.org/>

- Families should contact Love, Team Tessa through their website and detail their travel requirements. The organization is small and may not be able assist every time; however, they will provide funds directly to the family as agreed upon together.

### **Phoebe Rose Rocks Foundation**

<http://phoeberoserocks.com>

- Family Support program for families who have to travel 200km from home to access oncology treatment for the child.

### **Shine Through the Rain Foundation**

<https://www.shinethroughtherain.ca/rainydayfund/>

Rainy Day Fund:

- Application deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.
- Patients must be in active treatment.
- A maximum of \$1,000 per family per year.
- A brief medical history is required by the patient's social worker, and copies of bills (e.g., transportation) must be submitted with the application.

### **The James Fund**

<http://www.jamesfund.com/james-fund-for-neuroblastoma-family-support/>

James Fund for Neuroblastoma Patient Amenities

- A fund to provide financial assistance to families in treatment for neuroblastoma cancer.
- An application for funds can be submitted through your social worker at the Hospital for Sick Children.
- The child must be a patient at the Hospital for Sick Children.

### **Thrive Alive Foundation**

[www.thrivealive.ca](http://www.thrivealive.ca)

- Application process required
- Must be a Canadian citizen and qualify as low income

## British Columbia:

### Believe in the Gold

<https://www.believeinthegold.com/supporting-families-1>

- Provides travel support with specific criteria for distances under 40kms, between 41-80kms, and over 80ks.
- A note from a member of your primary oncology care team is required and original receipts.

### Canadian Cancer Society

Transportation Program

<http://www.cancer.ca/en/support-and-services/support-services/financial-help-bc/?region=bc>

- Travel treatment fund, BC.

### Cops for Kids

[www.copsforkids.org](http://www.copsforkids.org)

- Provides funding to those families living in the BC RCMP Southeast District Jurisdiction ([http://bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/pdf/maps/en\\_SEDistrict-opt.pdf](http://bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/pdf/maps/en_SEDistrict-opt.pdf))
- Provide funding for expenses related to medical treatments.
- Grant Application submission required

### Friends of Children

[www.friendsofchildren.ca](http://www.friendsofchildren.ca)

- Assists Northern British Columbia families with Travel expenses related to child's medical appointments.

### Childhood Cancer Family Support (CCFS)

[www.ccfssupport.com](http://www.ccfssupport.com)

- Provides a "Family Financial Aid Program" and must be referred by your social worker
- Works with: BC Children's hospital, Surrey Memorial, and Victoria General's Pediatric Oncology Departments.

### Ruby Slipper Fund

<https://www.rubyslipperfund.com/assistance-application.html>

- Must be a resident of the Sunshine Coast (Langdale to Earls Cove, BC).
- Complete the online application and provide a letter about your situation.

## Alberta:

### Adam's Army (Edmonton Area)

<https://www.facebook.com/adamsarmycharitablefoundation>

- Provide assistance with living expenses. Contact the charity directly.

### Believe in the Gold

<https://www.believeinthegold.com/supporting-families-1>

- Provides travel support for distances under 40kms, between 41-80kms, and over 80ks.
- A note from a member of your primary oncology care team is required and original receipts.

### Haying in the 30s

<https://www.hayinginthe30s.com/victim-assistance>

- \$1000 provided to the family with confirmation of diagnosis from the care team/Social Worker.

### Helping Families Handle Cancer Foundation:

<http://helpingfamilieshandlecancer.com/>

- Require a referral from the patient's Social Worker at Alberta Children's Hospital.

### Jack Davis Hope Foundation:

<http://www.thejackdavishopefoundation.com/read-me/>

- Funds provided to families for costs not covered by insurance and other costs such as transportation, accommodation, and meal costs when travelling for treatment.
- Application is found on their website with all of the criteria.

### Kev's Kids (Grand Prairie Area):

<https://www.977rock.ca/kevs-kids/>

- Application form found online. All "reasonable submissions" will be considered.

### Keyed

<http://keyed.ca/application/>

- Help families who are caring for a seriously ill child by paying their mortgage or rent payments.
- Application is found online.

### Kids With Cancer Society

<http://www.kidswithcancer.ca/>

- Financial assistance for families in Alberta (focused in Edmonton)
- Will offer up to \$2000.00 for family travel and expenses when traveling for treatment
- Other financial resources available upon consultation.

## Saskatchewan:

### **Believe in the Gold**

<https://www.believeinthegold.com/supporting-families-1>

- Provides travel support with specific criteria for distances under 40kms, between 41-80kms, and over 80ks.
- A note from a member of your primary oncology care team is required and original receipts.

### **Brayden Ottenbreit Close Cuts for Cancer**

<https://www.facebook.com/Cuts4Cancer/>

- Contact the charity directly for information on financial assistance related to childhood cancer treatment.

### **Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital Foundation**

<https://pattisonchildrens.ca/>

- Contact your social worker – they use a partnership with Air Canada to provide transportation for treatment out of province.

### **Ride to the Max – Motorcycle Club**

Contact Jenz Wollny at 306.220.6440

- Each year the charity raises about \$5000.00 and gives it to families with children fighting cancer. 100% of all the money raised goes to the family.
- The child must be under 14 and either in active treatment or just finished treatment. Families in with lower annual incomes are typically chosen. They also pick a family that isn’t worried about meeting a bunch of bikers. 90% of the money raised comes from the Motorcycle community, a motorcycle club with heart.

### **TeleMiracle: Kinsmen Kinettes, Kinsmen Foundation**

<https://www.telemiracle.com/index.cfm>

- Families can apply directly to the charity as a fund of “last resort”.

## Manitoba:

### Cancer Crossing

<http://www.cancercrossing.org/>

- Contact the organization to determine ways they may be able to help with financial challenges associated with medical costs that are not covered by government agencies.

### Never Alone Foundation

<https://neveralonefoundation.ca/direct-support/>

- Contact the organization to determine ways they may be able to help with financial challenges associated with medical costs that are not covered by government agencies.

### The Dream Factory

<https://www.thedreamfactory.ca/howwehelp>

- Dream family fund provides financial assistance to assist with medical bills, medical travel costs, etc.
- Referral form is found on the website.

### Variety Manitoba

[https://varietymanitoba.com/programs\\_apply-for-support/special-needs-program/](https://varietymanitoba.com/programs_apply-for-support/special-needs-program/)

- Applications can be made to assist with financial challenges families face when their child faces special health needs.

### Westman Dreams for Kids

<http://wdfk.ca/>

- Fulfilling dreams may include helping with medical expenses. Referral form found on the website.

## Ontario:

### Canadian Cancer Society

#### Transportation Program

<http://www.cancer.ca/en/support-and-services/support-services/transportation-on/?region=on>

- Subsidies for travel expenses incurred when parents/guardians drive their child to cancer related care when travelling 200km or more (one way).
- Volunteer drivers are available to take parents/guardians and patients to medical appointments related to cancer care.
- Public transportation assistance for the child and one return adult fare.
- The hospital Social Worker will help you with the registration form.

### Candlelighters Ottawa

<https://candlelighters.net/>

- Children must be from the National Capital Region and referred to the Candlelighters program through their hospital Interlink nurse or Social Worker.
- Parking program provides parking passes to member parents.
- Provides \$200 in gas cards to assist with travel when the child is newly diagnosed.
- Provision of funds in a crisis situation
- Journey Forward Packages providing \$200 in various gift cards post-diagnosis to help families through difficult times.

### ChildCan

#### Parking Program

<https://childcan.com/our-programs/>

- Parking passes provided in the Childcan Care Package.
- Parking tokens provided for Windsor Regional Hospital and Kitchener Grand River Hospital. Also provided for families travelling from Windsor and area to the Hospital for Sick Children.

#### Family Financial Assistance Program

- Application submitted by the Hospital's Social Worker.
- Financial support for costs associated with treatment (e.g., medication, mortgage payments, grocery costs, travel costs, etc.).

### Help a Child Smile

<http://helpachildsmile.com/index.shtml>

- Children under the age of 18 with cancer, diagnosed/treated at McMaster Children's Hospital.
- Provide parking passes and phone cards for newly diagnosed families who spend an extended time in hospital (+one month). Also support wish trips.

### **Katelyn Bedard Bone Marrow Association**

<http://www.givemarrow.net/mobileFamilySupportProgram.html>

- Provide financial support to families of patients in need of a bone marrow transplant when referred from Windsor Regional Hospital and the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario (London, Ontario).
- Contact your Social Worker about this program or contact information is on the website.

### **Northern Ontario Families of Children with Cancer (NOFCC)**

<http://nofcc.ca/programs-services/>

#### Financial Assistance Program

- For families where their primary residence is in Northern Ontario who must travel +100kms for treatment.
- A per diem of \$10/day for local appointments and \$20/day for out-of-town appointments.
- A form is filled out and signed by the pediatric oncology centre to validate.

#### Home FAP

- A per diem to offset costs while remaining in city of residence for treatment (e.g., lost wages) when receiving treatment within 100kms of home.

#### Emergency Program

- Funds for household expenses, travel, and personal emergency. Application is filled out by the hospital Social Worker.

#### Accommodation Support

- Covering the costs of hotel stays when the Ronald McDonald House is not available.

NOFCC has many other financial support programs for Northern Ontario families listed on their website.

### **Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer (OPACC)**

#### Parking Reimbursement Program

<http://www.opacc.org/parkingprogram>

- A maximum of \$50/12 months per family.

### **Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario (POGO)**

#### Financial Assistance Programs

<https://www.pogo.ca/programs-support/financial-assistance/>

- Financial assistance to families who have a primary residence in Ontario.
- Coverage of food costs of \$7.50/day for out-patient stays and \$15/day for in-patient stays.
- Coverage of accommodation costs of \$10/night for Ronald McDonald House or \$20/night for other accommodations when the Ronald McDonald House is not available.
- Coverage of childcare cost up to 120 hours per year at an hourly rate of \$8.00/hour.



## Quebec:

### Fondation Marie-Eve Saulnier

<https://www.marie-eve-saulnier.org/bientre-aux-familles>

- Funds are provided to patients under 20 years of age who are in treatment for cancer. Criteria and application instructions are found on the website.

## Leucan

<https://www.leucan.qc.ca/en/find-help/financial-assistance/>

- Initial grant is systematically distributed to all families with a newly diagnosed child.
- Support grant provided for the cost of travel, food, and accommodation costs associated with a bone marrow transplant.
- Grant provided if the cancer recurs.
- Monthly care access allowance provided during treatment to cover part of the travel and accommodation costs associated with therapy.

## Prince Edward Island:

### Fuel the Care – Irving Energy

<https://fuelthecare.ca/>

- Referral to the program must come from the child's oncology care team.
- Fuel gift cards are provided to families who must travel to receive treatment that is greater than 100kms one way and 4 or more trips in one year.

## New Brunswick:

### Fuel the Care – Irving Energy

<https://fuelthecare.ca/>

- Referral to the program must come from the child's oncology care team.
- Fuel gift cards are provided to families who must travel to receive treatment.

### The Lions Sick Children Funding

[http://www.gmdbf.ca/lions\\_sick\\_kids/application.html](http://www.gmdbf.ca/lions_sick_kids/application.html)

- Referral to the program must come from the child's oncology care team.

- The child being treated for cancer must be younger than 18 years old, live in New Brunswick and treatment must be causing financial hardship for the family.
- Application is found online.

### **Nova Scotia:**

#### **Medavie Blue Cross: Boarding, Transportation and Ostomy Program**

<http://souwestnovatransit.ca/bto.pdf>

- Available to Nova Scotia families with a gross income less than \$25,500/year. Application must be submitted with the most recent copy of the family's tax return.
- Funding for travel and accommodations for cancer patients who have to travel for treatment.

#### **Fuel the Care – Irving Energy**

<https://fuelthecare.ca/>

- Referral to the program must come from the child's oncology care team.
- Fuel gift cards are provided to families who must travel to receive treatment that is greater than 100kms one way and 4 or more trips in one year.

#### **Katrin's Karepackage**

<http://www.katrinskarepackage.com/en/>

- Instructions on how to apply for funding for medical travel are found on the FAQ section of the website.
- Can not be receiving MSI BTO funding (Nova Scotia).
- Must live 50km or more outside of St. John's or Halifax and be in active cancer treatment

### **Newfoundland and Labrador:**

#### **Fuel the Care – Irving Energy**

<https://fuelthecare.ca/>

- Referral to the program must come from the child's oncology care team.
- Fuel gift cards are provided to families who must travel to receive treatment that is greater than 100kms one way and 4 or more trips in one year.

### **Katrin's Karepackage**

<http://www.katrinskarepackage.com/en/>

- Instructions on how to apply for funding for medical travel are found on the FAQ section of the website.
- Can not be receiving MSI BTO funding (Nova Scotia).
- Must live 50km or more outside of St. John's or Halifax and be in active cancer treatment

### **PAL Airlines**

<https://www.palairlines.ca/en/sponsorship/>

- In kind travel donation for non-profits.

### **Dr. Jack Hand Legacy Foundation**

<https://www.jackhand.ca/>

- Contact the organization for information about travel assistance.

### **Candlelighters Newfoundland and Labrador**

<http://www.candlelightersnl.ca/main/>

- Contact the organization for information about travel assistance.

### **Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut:**

None known at this time.

**Other Organizations (Not Financial Support):**

**Childhood Cancer Canada**

<https://www.childhoodcancer.ca/Programs>

**Children's Wish**

<https://www.childrenswish.ca/wishes/refer-a-child/>

**Give A Mile**

[www.giveamile.org](http://www.giveamile.org)

- Flights both national and international for end of life.

**Kids Cancer Care (Alberta)**

<https://www.kidscancercare.ab.ca/our-programs>

**Make a Wish**

<https://makeawish.ca/referachild>

**Million Dollar Smiles**

<http://www.milliondollarsmiles.ca/>

**Ronald McDonald House**

<https://www.rmhccanada.ca/>

**Starlight Children's Foundation**

<https://www.starlightcanada.org/our-programs/>

**The Donald Berman Chai Lifeline Canada**

<https://chailifelinecanada.org/what-we-do/>



## Camps for Children with Cancer

### **Camp Goodtimes**

<http://www.campgoodtimes.org>

### **Camp Kindle**

<http://www.campkindle.ca>

### **Camp Oochigeas**

<http://www.ooch.org>

### **Camp Trillium**

<http://www.camptrillium.com>

### **Camp Quality**

<http://www.campquality.org>

### **Authors:**

Antonia Palmer and David Mendenhall

Neuroblastoma Canada and Advocacy for Canadian Childhood Oncology Research Network, Ac2orn

[antonia@ac2orn.com](mailto:antonia@ac2orn.com)