

2005/2006 Report to Donors and Volunteers

Dear Donors and Volunteers,

Year after year, we at Muscular Dystrophy Canada (MDC) ask you to help us keep on doing a few crucial things for people who live with neuromuscular disorders. We sum up these very crucial things under three words: research, advocacy, services.

Here's what you made possible for us to do in the fiscal year 2005 - 06

Research

You helped us invest, together with our research partners, \$3,700,000 in the quiet, steady, leading-edge work of scientists who chip away at the mysteries that still surround neuromuscular disorders. That's up from the \$2,700,000 when we reported to you in 2004 - 05. In 2005 - 06, we gave twelve (12) new Neuromuscular Research Partnership grants. Besides those new ones, we continued to support twenty-one (21) ongoing research projects that received grants in earlier years.

And we're learning to bring the researchers closer to the people who need them most. We've been organizing direct participation in scientific conferences by the people who live with the disorder being studied. In Quebec City, for example, at a conference on myotonic muscular dystrophy, there was a full-length question-and-answer session at which the leading scientists met face to face with Canadians and Americans who live with that disorder. The presence

of those "people on the front lines" helps spread the word about best practices and most recent findings to the doctors and technicians who work with them, all across Canada.

Advocacy

We have developed a wheelchair funding strategy that we are promoting with the federal government and provincial governments across Canada. We think it will make a strategic difference. Right now there are sharp differences in what is provided by the way of mobility equipment, from one province to another. We think there should be generous minimum standards for the whole country. Governments, we believe, should take care of this need. But until they do so - adequately - we're glad you help us buy equipment for people. Please help us spread the message that such an essential task belongs to government.

Services

We spent \$1.769 million in 2006, on direct services to people living with neuromuscular disorders. That

means helping people get exactly the equipment they need. It means helping their families with the costs of transporting their son or daughter to clinic appointments far from home. It means getting precise, up-to-date treatment information into the hands of people with the disorder, or into the hands of their doctors and their local hospital. This is part of Muscular Dystrophy Canada's service because we want *everyone* registered with MDC to receive best practice treatment, no matter where in Canada they are being treated, no matter which of the neuromuscular disorders they are living with. Our improved web site does part of this job. Printed information sheets help a great many people. Our experienced staff members sometimes step in when more is needed, on a person-to-person basis.

During 2005 - 2006, we spent \$927,000 on mobility equipment for persons with neuromuscular disorders.

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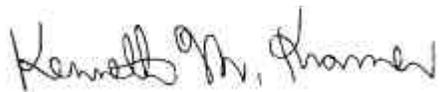
How did you manage to help with all this?

First of all, you raised the money we needed to do the work. Our life-saving Fire Fighters led the way with a stunning total of \$2,232,000. That's about 28% of Muscular Dystrophy Canada's total revenue for 2006. To give you an idea of how far they went to achieve this, consider the three Edmonton Fire Fighters who camped out on the roof of their station for nearly a week, and wouldn't come down until they raised \$50,000 in donations.

As in every year, thousands of donors and volunteers were creative in thinking of special events, campaigns, and other new and old ways to raise money to support the work of MDC. Collectively, these special-event efforts garnered 26% of MDC's revenue for 2006. Just one event – the Kevin Harrison Gala in Quebec – raised \$314,000. We were thrilled. But we also love the surprising small events that bring brand new people into our network ... like a co-op nursery school in the town of Beamsville that raised \$ 1,571 for Muscular Dystrophy Canada.

Every so often, a donation like a comet streaks across our sky. One of you, all by himself, gave MDC a million dollars. His name is Mr. Al Libfeld. His gift will give added energy to research on myotonic muscular dystrophy, through the new \$900,000 Rachel Fund. As a bonus, one-tenth of Mr. Libfeld's million added new staff to our Major Gift Office and our corporate sponsorship search. Just watch us go now!

The pie chart shows the numbers. What can't be included in any chart is the human generosity, the determination, the community, the joy and warmth that went into this massive volunteer effort. And if we could show a graph of how grateful we feel for all of you, the line would go soaring right off the page.



Kenneth M. Kramer

President and Chair of the Board

How your investment helps “make muscles move.”

Distribution of Program and Service Funding

