



braintumour
foundation
OF CANADA

2008 REPORT

to the Brain Tumour Community

YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE

During 2008 more people affected by brain tumours across Canada were brought hope because of the support of people like you, with your generous donations of money, time and talent.

Thank you on behalf of the Board of Directors and all members of the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada family. All of the services and programs provided by Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada are made possible solely through the generosity of individuals, companies and organizations that share our vision.

This report back to you, our community, is intended to share the positive impact your support has made.

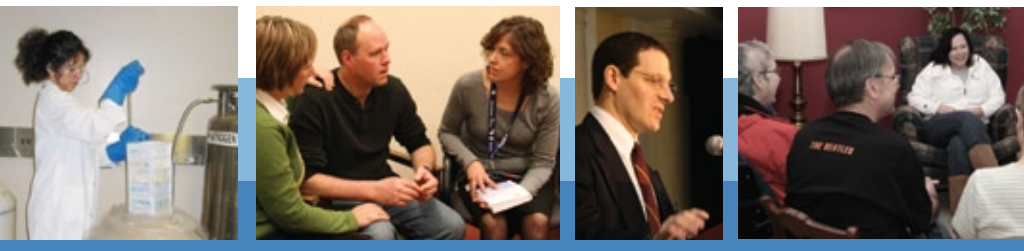
With heartfelt thanks,



Joseph Megyesi,
MD FRCS
Chair, Board
of Directors



Susan Marshall
Executive Director



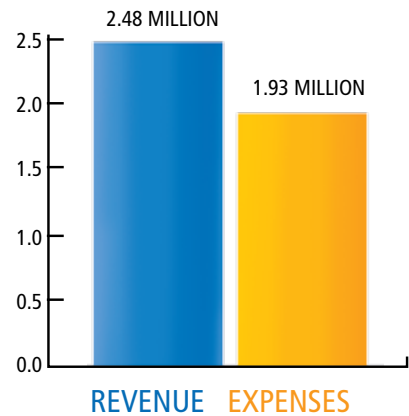
REACHING MORE PEOPLE IN 2008

- 6,603 Patient Resource Handbooks to patients
- 2,158 Children's Storybooks to families
- 1,442 people helped through toll free phone line
- 650 people participating in monthly support groups
- 129 families getting respite and support through BrainWave program
- 700 people educated at Brain Tumour Information Day Conferences
- 7 new brain tumour research projects awarded funding
- 60 patients who donated brain tumour tissue to the Brain Tumour Tissue Bank for research

GIVING HELP TOGETHER WE ARE REACHING MORE CANADIANS

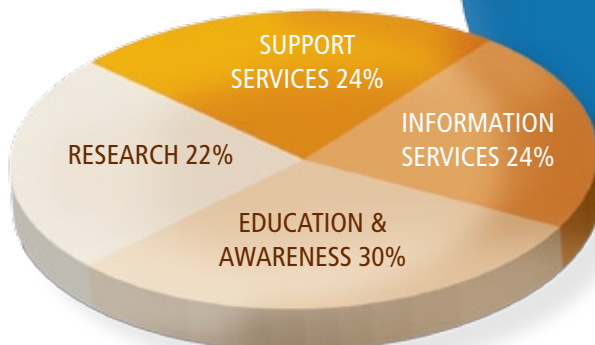
In 2008, our gross revenue exceeded \$2.4 million, a 30 percent increase over 2007 due to generous support from donors and those who raised funds through our special events. Supported by those who are passionate and concerned about the issues facing the brain tumour community, we continue to grow our efforts to bring information and support to more Canadians each year. This favourable financial situation allowed us to allocate a substantial portion of our funding to research, a growing direction and focus.

2008 REVENUE & EXPENSES



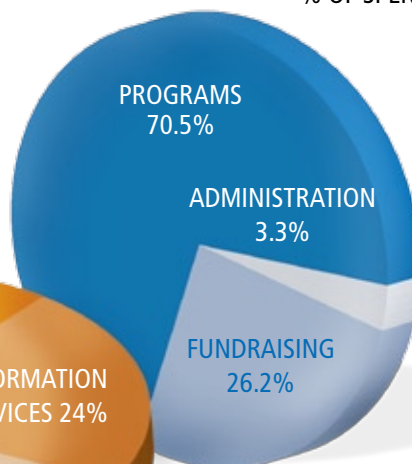
HOW WE SERVED THE BRAIN TUMOUR COMMUNITY 2008 PROGRAM EXPENSES

% OF SPENDING



HOW WE REACHED MORE CANADIANS AFFECTED BY A BRAIN TUMOUR IN 2008

% OF SPENDING



THANK YOU

THE KELLY SOCIETY

Thank you to our generous donors who make all of our programs possible. Named for Kelly Northey, this donor society recognizes the generosity and long term commitment of these friends.

Ken Arnott
Chantalle Butler
Ted Cooney
Pam and Rolly Del Maestro
Chauna Horner
Maryanne MacDonald
Susan Marshall
Heather Mastromattei
Joe Megyesi
Steve Northey
Susan Relecom
Phyllis Retty
Ben Seewald
Sean and Michelle Taggart
Beth Tyndall
Fred Wilder
Peter Yates



BEQUESTS AND SPECIAL GIFTS

The Crone Family
Alison and Darrell Jones
Estate of William Donald Nash
Grant and Karen Reynolds

LEGACY FUNDS

Thanks to the families who support these special legacy funds that help to fund programs and services.

The David Bloom Legacy Fund
The Kelly Northey Legacy Fund
The Hannah Patterson Legacy Fund

HERITAGE CLUB

Thanks to those donors who have made legacy gifts for the future.

Sue Barnes
Donna McKee
Susan Marshall
Grace Schenk
Loris Toll
Valerie Wicks

CORPORATE DONORS

A special salute to our Corporate Donors who make a real difference in helping to direct all donor dollars possible to support programs and services.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Thanks to the thousands of donors who supported the 4,700 participants in the 19 Spring Sprints in cities across Canada in 2008.

Thanks to the families, friends and co-workers of brain tumour patients who raised funds through the 87 Community Events held in their honour or memory.

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SUPPORT PROVIDING A SUPPORTIVE NETWORK

Throughout 2008, more than 650 patients, caregivers and their families were provided support in 21 communities across Canada. Brain Tumour Support Groups for adults were added in Niagara ON, Edmonton AB, Ottawa ON and Regina SK.



FAMILY SUPPORT PROVIDING RESPITE

" It has been a lifeline for me and a safe haven to discuss those thoughts and feelings that I couldn't possibly discuss with someone who is not going through this horrible ordeal."

Support Group Member

BrainWAVE is a growing program that is led by dedicated volunteers and parents. It provides a fun opportunity for children and teens to connect with others with similar experiences, while giving parents the opportunity to share information and network with other parents. In Southwestern Ontario more than 110 families participated in the parent support group and events program. There were opportunities for these BrainWAVE members to attend seven events in 2008 including a trip to the African Lion Safari. Meanwhile, families in the lower mainland of British Columbia came together for their first BrainWAVE event this year. The expansion of this program to B.C. has been an important touchstone for families coping with a child with a brain tumour.

" It is very difficult, not just for the child, but also their siblings and parents when a loved one is coping with a brain tumour. A program like this has never happened in British Columbia and just knowing a support network exists can be tremendously beneficial for families,"

Kathy Thornton, brain tumour survivor and BrainWAVE volunteer-leader

HANDBOOKS

EMPOWERING INFORMATION

During 2008 more than 6,600 Patient Resource Handbooks were distributed free of charge to meet the needs of patients, family members, friends, and health care professionals.



At diagnosis, families appreciate the reliable and credible information found in the Patient Resource Handbooks. 85% of the handbooks are given to patients by the healthcare professionals caring for them.

“ Within 24 hours of that first seizure, a very kind social worker at the hospital placed a copy of your Patient Resource Handbook in my hands. I want to thank you for creating, publishing and providing the handbook. It was immeasurably helpful as we were completely shell shocked and in a state of disbelief and non-comprehension during those first frightening weeks.”

Sister of a brain tumour patient.



HELPING CHILDREN UNDERSTAND

The English storybook titled, “A Friend in Hope,” and the French version, “Mon amie Claire,” helped young readers learn about brain tumours. The storybooks, distributed free of charge, tell the story of a young girl who has a brain tumour, through the eyes of her best friend. The story includes her journey with medical treatments, losing her hair, hospital stays and missing school.

In 2008 at East Hill Elementary School in Montreal, an Italian version of the storybook “La mia amica Speranza” was launched with the help of the students, teachers and volunteers. Through this community driven request from East Hill School and the Italian Consulate, more than 1,200 Italian storybooks reached families across Canada and in Italy.

“ The Quebec Education Program requires that schools connect learning to student’s lives and realities. Our project with La mia amica Speranza provided students with a tremendous opportunity to connect their cultural roots with their school and learning. It also allowed them to gain valuable information about an illness, the emotions involved and the hope that it inspires. It was a most successful project for our students, school and community.”

*Maria Di Perna, Principal,
East Hill Elementary School, Montreal*

EDUCATION INFORMATION DAY CONFERENCES

Internationally renowned brain tumour researchers, Dr. Peter Forsyth, Dr. David Eisenstat (pictured below), and Dr. David Macdonald shared their research advances as keynote speakers at the annual Information Day Conferences during 2008. Over 700 people were empowered with knowledge and found support and hope at the conferences held in Halifax NS, London ON and Calgary AB. An additional 300 people were reached through conferences provided through partnerships in Vancouver BC, Ottawa ON and Toronto ON.

“ This has been the most worthwhile event I have attended. Spiritually and informationally uplifting. Calmed my apprehensive attitude.”

A mother of a brain tumour survivor attending the Calgary Information Day Conference



The Hats Tribute is an awareness project of the Canadian Alliance of Brain Tumour Organizations and grew in 2008 to 133 hats. Each hat tells an inspiring story of courage and helps to raise awareness. Part of a travelling display, the hats are also posted on Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's website www.braintumour.ca

ADVOCACY BEING THE VOICE OF BRAIN TUMOUR PATIENTS

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is engaged in a number of advocacy efforts in Canada and Internationally.

We work towards improved patient care and increased government funding for brain tumour research as a member of the Canadian Alliance of Brain Tumour Organizations (CABTO). One example of this is our effort with the federal government where we campaigned for improved data collection around the incidence of brain tumours in Canada.

This led to the passage of Private Members Bill M235 and we are now actively moving towards the implementation of national standards. Through CABTO we are also advocating for equitable access to and coverage for cancer drug therapies in all provinces.

As a member of the Canadian Cancer Action Network (CCAN), we are promoting the importance of a national system that optimizes care and treatment outcomes through all phases of the cancer control continuum, from prevention, through treatment and palliation. We represent the brain tumour patient voice through membership on the board of directors, most recently served by one of our co-founders, Pamela Del Maestro.

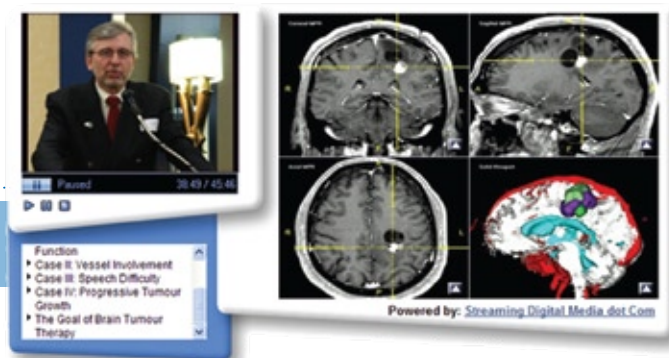
We also support international efforts towards increased awareness and research advances through the North American Brain Tumour Coalition (NABTC) and the International Brain Tumour Alliance (IBTA).

RESEARCH BRINGING HOPE

A highlight in 2008 was a Think Tank which brought together the best and brightest in brain tumour research and patient support from across Canada to exchange ideas. The group explored new ways to collaborate together for the betterment of the brain tumour community. The group agreed that with the changing landscape of clinical trials, drug therapies, and a greater focus on individualized treatment, there is great hope for the future for people affected by a brain tumour. This Think Tank provided future direction for the expansion of the research funded through your generous support.

Seven brain tumour research projects were selected for funding in 2008. Goals of these projects include increasing the knowledge of the biological make up of brain tumours to improve outcomes for patients. These projects will address the challenges of the most devastating brain tumour in adults, glioblastoma multiforme, and one of the most difficult brain tumours to treat in children, atypical teratoid rhabdoid.

High quality brain tumour tissue samples are critical to advances in research. During 2008, the Brain Tumour Tissue Bank, wholly funded by Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada for the past 15 years, collected samples from 60 cases and provided samples to 11 research investigators at institutions in Canada, the United States and internationally.



Think Tank Guests (left to right): Dr. Joseph Megyesi; Dr. Penny Costello; Dr. Jeff Cao; Linda Clarke, RN; Dr. David Macdonald; Dr. Rolando Del Maestro; Maureen Parkinson, RN; Maureen Daniels, M.Ed., C.C.R.C.; Dr. Norm Laperriere; Pam Del Maestro, RN; Dr. Dan McNeely; Dr. James Perry; Dr. Glenn Bauman; Meredith Morrison, RN; Dr. Kevin Petrecca; and, Dr. Ab Guha.

VOLUNTEERS DEDICATED AND PASSIONATE

The Volunteer of Distinction Awards are given annually to our volunteers who embody the spirit of volunteerism and give of their time to support the mission and vision of Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada. In 2008, we were proud to recognize the following four volunteers with this special award:



Theresa Acchione, Support Group Convenor & Spring Sprint Coordinator, Calgary, Alberta



Dave D'Entremont, Spring Sprint Coordinator, Fredericton, New Brunswick



Margaret Dodgson, Support Group Convenor, London, Ontario



Marianna Hope, Support Group Facilitator, New Glasgow, Nova Scotia

VISION

To find the cause of and cure for brain tumours while improving the quality of life for those affected.

MISSION

To reach every Canadian affected by a brain tumour through Support, Education, Information and Research.

VALUES

These serve as our guidelines for our conduct and behaviour as we work towards achieving our vision:

- Hope
- Caring
- Integrity
- Accountability
- Collaboration
- Connecting the Brain Tumour Community



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2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

Chair: Dr. Joseph Megyesi
Vice-Chair: Beth Tyndall
Treasurer: Chantalle Butler
Secretary: Shauna MacDougall

Directors at Large

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Brenda Croucher
Chauna Horner
Marianne Lee
Maryanne MacDonald
John Stevenson
Sean Taggart
Fred Wilder