



"A clown is like an aspirin, only he acts twice as fast."  
Groucho Marx

### • What is Dr Clown?

Dr Clown is a charitable, non-profit organization that contributes to improving the quality of life of hospitalized patients through its program of professional therapeutic clowning, using friendship, play and imagination.

### • What is Dr Clown's mission?

The mission of clown-doctors is not only to entertain but also to playfully reverse roles with the patient. Clown-doctors are vulnerable and clumsy and call upon the patient to get them out of the comical fixes they get into. Their gentle games empower patients allowing them to take care of someone else for a change, thus boosting their confidence and self-esteem.

When they are with children, therapeutic clowns help alleviate fears regarding the hospital setting. With senior citizens, clown-doctors open a regular dialogue thereby alleviating solitude.



### • What is a therapeutic clown?

A therapeutic clown is a professional performer trained to work in a healthcare environment. Dr Clown employs professional stage performers, all of whom have training in theatre, clowning, dance and/or music. These performers then undergo special training focussed on working in healthcare: respecting confidentiality, understanding the psychosocial behaviour of patients and their families, and sensitive to caregiver objectives, hygiene and disease control regulations.

### • Where does Dr Clown go?

- Centre de réadaptation Marie-Enfant
- Montreal Children's Hospital
- Sainte-Justine Hospital
- Institut universitaire de gériatrie de Montréal
- CHSLD Résidence Paul-Lizotte
- Montreal Jewish General Hospital

### Dr Clown - Making Its Mark!

- In 2004, over 10,000 Dr Clown visits were made to sick children.
- In 2003, Dr Clown won the Montreal Alzheimer Society's top award.
- In 2002, Dr Clown received the first prize to be conferred by *Youth Employment Services* and *Fondation du maire de Montréal*.
- Dr Clown has also received official support from *Dr Patch Adams' Gesundheit! Institute* (USA); *Collège des médecins du Québec*; *Leucan*; *Aide psychologique sans frontières*; *Association Le Rire Médecin* (France); *Hearts and Minds* (Scotland) and *Therapeutic Clowns Canada*.

### • Members of the Board of Directors

- President:* - Germaine Gibara, Avvio Management Inc.  
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- Charles Terreault, Engineer and Consultant

### • Important dates

- 1986 The profession of therapeutic clowning is born simultaneously, in New York City and Winnipeg.  
1999 The Dr Clown project is founded.  
2000 The first Dr Clown pilot project is launched in a CHSLD working with senior citizens.  
2002 Dr Clown officially becomes a non-profit, charitable organization.

### • Main partners

- Astral Media Inc.
- Sun Life Financial

### • To reach Dr Clown, just call:

(514) 845-7628

Or visit [www.drclown.ca](http://www.drclown.ca)

**Dr Clown's prescription is simple but effective, with no negative side effects:  
unlimited tenderness and fun for every patient.  
*Repeat as needed!***