

## Dr Clown Newsletter

Vol. 4 N° 1

### A prescription of tenderness, imagination and fun

Hello all!

#### A few accomplishments

The pilot-project at Ste. Justine has ended and the verdict is...an overwhelming success! We are currently compiling the evaluation questionnaires and already 100% of staff respondents believe that the presence of Dr Clown is beneficial...60% have even said that Dr Clown has become a necessity. We will soon have more details of the evaluation and the official launching of the program...We would like to thank all staff, particularly Ms. Martine Legault, Department Head, for their warm welcome.



A pilot-project began in October at the Jewish General Hospital thanks to the generosity of a private donor. We work mainly in the Hemodialysis and Cardiac Units. The clientele is largely multi-cultural (and quite to our surprise, the clowns have suddenly discovered aptitudes in Russian, Greek, Yiddish, Arabic, and Vietnamese!). The Humanization of Care Committee even asked us to present a seminar on clowning in a multi-cultural environment. We extend our sincere thanks to Ms. Mimi Goldenberg.

#### A few sightings

Dr Clown was happily caught in a media avalanche: a full page article in Le Devoir started it, followed by The Health Channel, CKMF, CBC, Dernière Heure, RDI, L'Actualité Médicale, TQS, 7 jours, Global, TVA and even CBC Saskatchewan! Dr Fifi made the cover of L'Actualité Médicale and appeared in 7 jours with the one and only Dr. Patch Adams.

#### A few words

*"The Clown Doctors bring new perspective to the atmosphere that radiates a sense of joy, peacefulness and life. The quality of the interaction is so significant that the service is irreplaceable."* Martine Legault, Head of Unit, Ste-Justine

*"I think you have done some of the most impressive work anywhere of integrating clowning into conventional healthcare settings."* Dr. Blair Voyvodic, President, Gesundheit! Institute (Dr. Patch Adams, U.S.A.)

*"These Clowns are heroes because of their sensitivity and generosity, and for the joy that they bring to this cruel and unfair world of illness."* France Lajoie, L'actualité médicale

And from parents...

*"For a moment we forget the anguish."*

*"As soon as he needs to, my son talks about his visit with the clowns."*

*"They help in coping with big emotions."*

*"My daughter had a wish that if she had to be hospitalised, she wanted to receive a visit from the clowns, like in the film Patch Adams. Thank you for making her wish come true."*

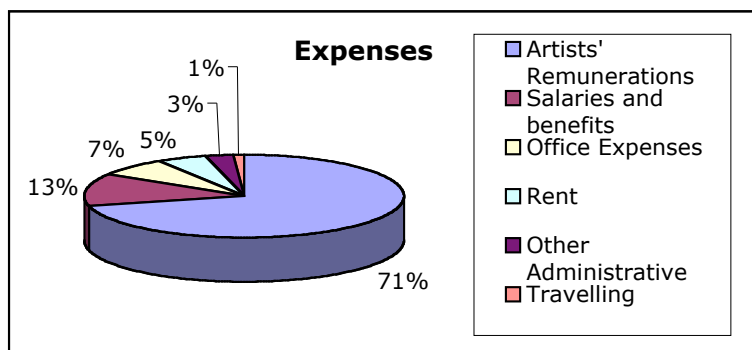
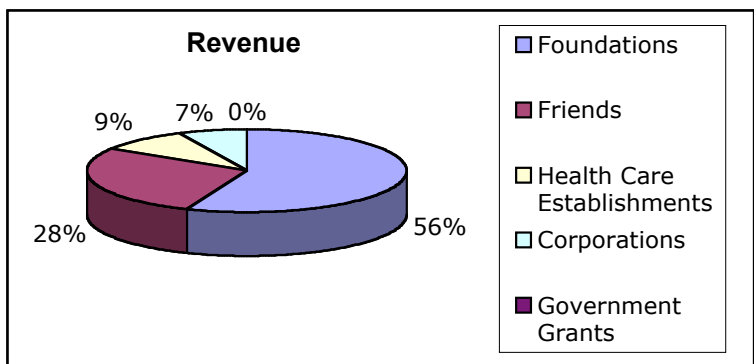
#### Some figures

Ms. Cécile Arian, Chartered Accountant, has prepared our financial statements for 2003.

Your donations received in 2002-2003, along with those of our principal partners **Starlight Children's Foundation Canada, The Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation and Clarica**, totalled \$236,909 with expenses of \$196,550. Out of the \$40,359 surplus, \$40,000 was reserved for the pilot-project at Ste-Justine in 2003-2004, thus leaving a net surplus of \$359.

Your donations allowed our artists to visit with more than **6,300 children** at Marie-Enfant and at the Montreal Children's Hospital, as well as with more than **2,100 adults** at the Paul-Lizotte Residence and at Villa Médica.

Your donations also served in training the artists and in providing them with psychosocial follow-ups.



With four programs instead of three in 2003-2004, we expect to be able to visit and interact with up to **12,000** children and their families. Now that we have three adult programs we also have the opportunity to visit and establish special friendships with up to **2,250 people**.

**To continue our current activities, we still need to raise \$80,000.**

*Please continue to give. We are extremely grateful for each of your donations. Tax receipts are available for donations of \$20 or more.*

**Help us spread the epidemic!**

Forward this message to everyone you think may be interested. We are happy to send this message by email or by post.

**Please note that our offices have moved:**

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If you would like more details, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the development of Dr Clown.