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Dr Clown Newsletter
Vol. 3, No. 1
A prescription of tenderness, imagination and fun



Hello one and all!

Saint-Justine's Hospital: We're Almost There!

All the required steps have been taken with the hospital and a letter of intention has been signed. We need \$40 000 to start-up a program and already \$28 000 has been raised thanks to many partners such as Sunlife (\$10 000), Holdun Investments, Inc. (\$10 000) and Pfizer (\$2000). We would like to thank all those who have contributed and to those who would still like to contribute. Cheques can be made out to Dr Clown and sent to 350 Lemoyne, rez-de-chaussée, Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1Y3. Tax receipts will be distributed for donations of over \$20.

The Montreal Children's Hospital: A Second Program!

It has already been one year that Dr Clown has been visiting the Children's Hospital twice a week, thanks to the generous support of the Starlight Children's Foundation Canada.

*"Everyone anticipates the visits of these amazing doctors!"
(a nurse)*

The pilot-project was more than a success: almost 100% of the departments consider Dr Clown an essential service and would like us to visit more often.

*"The presence of the clowns is really essential for everyone. They are even therapeutic! We should all include them in our work."
(a nurse)*

The Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation has therefore decided to add two more clown-doctors per week, thanks to the efforts of Mrs Heidi Coleman of the Hospital's Foundation. The new team should be starting in July.

Marie-Enfant Rehabilitation Hospital of Saint-Justine: Successful Integration

The pilot phase is over at Marie-Enfant, analysis of evaluations has been made and Dr Clown seems to "be a part of the family" for the long haul.

*"The clowns? I think they should be in every hospital!"
(a mother)*

*"Above all what I appreciate is that they adapt every little thing for each child. With the children that can't communicate verbally, they'll find a way to get into contact with them."
(a Special Education teacher in residence)*

*"One day, Dr. Frogge, in order to stimulate my daughter in her exercises, squirted me with each step my daughter took. I told my daughter: stop walking or I'll be soaked! We laughed a lot together!"
(a father)*

*"The clowns are there for joy. They bring me wisdom."
(a teenager)*

The Paul-Lizotte Seniors Residence: Great Achievements in the Last Ten Years

Dr Clown was presented at a meeting of recreational therapists as "a great achievement" of the Paul-Lizotte residence. Mrs. Martine Dallaire was very proud to present to her colleagues the Dr Clown team and their work. Dr Clown continues to visit the residence in Montreal North thanks to the Paul-Lizotte Foundation. Our visits have been embellished since Christmas by our collaboration with accordionist Mrs. Genevieve Birrabén.

Villa-Medica Rehabilitation Hospital

Since January we have undertaken a pilot-project at Villa-Medica Rehabilitation Hospital for adults. We work mainly with the amputee population. Working with an adult clientele is a completely new experience for Dr Clown. However, the results are increasingly interesting. It has been noted that some patients use less pain medication on the days of our visits. Of course we will investigate this further when we analyse the evaluation questionnaires.

*"Dr Long Shortcut can't say enough good things about you. It has been for him a new openness to life that he has embraced like a budding flower in springtime."
(a friend of a double amputee who baptised himself "Dr. Long Shortcut" after receiving a "red nose transplant")*

Our Board of Directors

This year, Mr. Brian Bringolf, expert in fundraising for the Starlight Children's Foundation Canada, has joined our board. His expertise comes at the right time for our first fundraising campaign aimed at starting a program at Saint-Justine.



Une prescription de tendresse, d'imaginaire et drôleries
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President: Germaine Gibara, business consultant
Vice-President: Phoebe Greenberg, artist and consultant
Treasurer: Charles Terreault, engineer and consultant
Councillors : Marie Gagnon-Malo, lawyer, Brian Bringolf, fundraiser and Dr Jean-Guy Mongeau, pediatrician

Finances

Mrs. Cécile Arian, chartered accountant, has prepared our financial statements for 2002. They will soon be available on our website.

Co-ordinates

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If you would like further details please feel free to contact us.

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

Help us to spread the Dr Clown epidemic! We would be pleased to forward this letter to whomever you think would be interested.