

A Family Story

In December 2004 our son was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma at just 9 months of age. Although his age brought with it a good prognosis, he was also diagnosed with Opsoclonus Myoclonus Syndrome while on chemotherapy in June 2005. Since this date he has undergone many years of experimental Chemotherapy protocols and high dose steroids, and most recently a stem cell transplant.

With a cancer diagnosis in a Northern community brings financial burden due to extensive travel, accommodation, and lengthy stays away from home. During the past 6.5 years the NOFCC has provided us with grocery vouchers, gas cards, pre-paid phone cards, and parking vouchers for both Sick Kids (Toronto) and CHEO (Ottawa). The NOFCC has also been able to provide emergency funding to help with the cost of a very expensive drug that our son requires that is not approved in Canada, and three out-of-country trips to see a specialist in the field of Opsoclonus Myoclonus. The NOFCC has been instrumental in allowing us to keep in touch with family, and ease the financial burden of caring for a child with cancer.

The NOFCC not only brings financial aid, but also unites families who are going through similar experiences. These friendships last a lifetime, and are a life line when you are going through the most overwhelming time in your life.

Thank you NOFCC for your continuing support in our son's fight for remission

Sincerely

*Denise and Mike Squarzolo
Sudbury, Ontario*