

Badges of Hope

What is the Badges of Hope

This year Bethanys Hope Foundation is celebrating 20 years of Leukodystrophy Research and family support. Twenty years ago, at the time of our daughter Bethany's diagnosis with Metachromatic Leukodystrophy (MLD) our family was embraced by the men and women of the RCMP to help us find a cure this terrible disease. Our journey with the Force and their policing partners began in early 1996 with a Chili Day for Bethany at the HQ Mess followed by many, many charity hockey/golf tournaments. Together in the years that followed we completed the Hopes & Dreams House Lottery, launched the original "Badges of Hope" campaign at the OPP sponsored - Police Brotherhood gathering in St. Catherine's, followed by a meeting at the National Troopers Coalition Conference in Washington where we introduced the "Badges of Hope" campaign to our U.S. counterparts. As a family we were deeply moved to be part of a Musical Ride Day for Bethany in London in May 1996. Thanks to all their hard work, "Bethanys Hope Leukodystrophy Research Laboratory" was opened in London with several members of the police community led by RCMP - A/Comm. Al Hutchinson on November 5th, 1999.

Following that very special day the men and women of the RCMP and the London Police Services have been an integral part of our Team helping us in so many fundraising events for the children of Leukodystrophy. Our Research Program would not have been possible without the continued support of the membership...with thousands of Volunteer hours committed by the Force's employees / families in 12 years of Rock the Park!. These Volunteers and their First Responder partners have been instrumental in raising over \$4 million dollars for Research, public education and family support. A Clinical Trial under the direction of Dr. Tony Rupar of Western University is on the horizon to finally treat Metachromatic Leukodystrophy... right here in London! This would not have been possible without this community and the amazing generosity of time and talent by our First Responders.

Our Foundation is honoured to have been chosen to host the Musical Ride in London this August... What a perfect way to celebrate our collective accomplishments. to help us celebrate 20 years of "partnership" with all the entire First Responder community!

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