

LEGACY

MAKING IT POSSIBLE: Verna Massam's Story

One woman's hope to change lives today and tomorrow

Verna Massam's oldest memory is being woken in the hospital by the noises of nurses and doctors. It was 1936, and she had just been diagnosed with polio at three years of age.

Another of Verna's earliest memories is of supporting March of Dimes Canada. She recalls her mother and sister going door-to-door on behalf of the charity in the early 50's. They collected dimes in milk jars to raise money for a cure for polio.

Since 1991, Verna has continued her family's legacy, and has supported March of Dimes for 23 years. She became a monthly donor 14 years ago, and has also included a gift to March of Dimes in her Will. She knows her legacy will continue to help Canadians living with physical disabilities to lead more independent lives.

"March of Dimes Canada does so much good work," says Verna. "I am very impressed by the number of people with different disabilities that they help. When I visited my doctor, I met a another person who was wearing a March of Dimes t-shirt and was moved by this, knowing that a charity I support is helping many people with various disabilities."



Verna Massam with her mum

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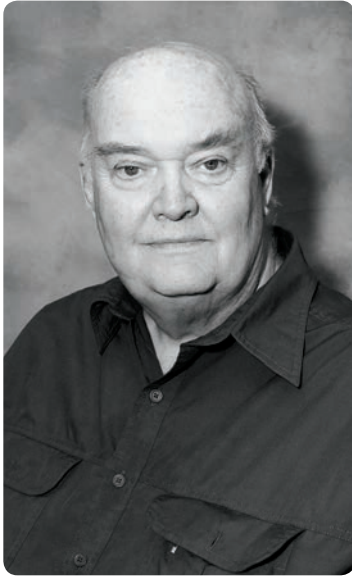
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DR. DAVID LOGAN

Member Emeritus with March of Dimes and Legacy Donor



Each year thousands of Canadians designate a portion of their assets by making a bequest to benefit charitable organizations. Dr. David Logan has included March of Dimes as part of his estate plan.

Dr. Logan became involved with March of Dimes almost 35 years ago when he became a member of the Board of Directors. He is now a member for life, the only person to hold that position.

Dr. Logan has always been involved with a number of charities. In the 1990s he was recognized with a Volunteer Award from the federal government for his extensive charity work. His work with March of Dimes was borne out of his and his wife's desire to provide support to people who need help and are less fortunate. What has kept him active with March of Dimes over the years has been the leadership team at March of Dimes and the organization's willingness

to try new ideas, implement new programs and continually innovate. Dr. Logan has been proud to have been a part of the evolution of March of Dimes, and that this legacy has offered opportunities for independence to thousands of Canadians living with disabilities.

Dr. Logan not only volunteers his time and expertise to March of Dimes, he is also a donor, and has pledged a legacy gift.

"I have spent so many years with March of Dimes and have seen firsthand how many people are helped by this organization," says Dr. Logan.

"It may be on some level a feeling of altruism, but I consider March of Dimes to be a part of my family, my other child. Imagine the impact you will make in others people's lives when you make a donation to March of Dimes. Your gift can provide so much good and help people who need it," he continues.

"I enjoy knowing that my bequest might inspire others to do the same, and I would encourage others to leave a lasting legacy that will help children and adults with disabilities to live more independently for years to come."

Gifts of RRSP/RRIF Funds

Retirement funds are one of the best ways to grow wealth during your lifetime, but one of the worst ways to transfer wealth to the next generation, as they are among your most heavily taxed assets. Registered assets can only be rolled over to a surviving spouse, but are taxed if transferred to children or next of kin.

A gift of RRSPs or RRIFs is a worthwhile alternative to a cash gift. You can donate all, or a portion of your retirement funds to March Dimes.

The benefits of donating RRSPs and RRIFs include:

- satisfaction of providing a future gift, while retaining ownership and use of the fund during your lifetime;
- a charitable tax receipt for your estate;
- offsetting estate taxes and reducing probate fees
- the ability to donate while also providing for your family by naming more than one beneficiary.

Please contact us to receive more information on how to donate these funds to March of Dimes Canada.

Share With Us

If you have an idea for a story or would like to make a general comment or suggestion about the contents of this newsletter, we invite you to contact **Daniella Sretenovic, Associate Director, Individual Giving** at 416-425-3463 ext. 7338 or e-mail dsretenovic@marchofdimes.ca



RESTRICTED MOBILITY? MARCH OF DIMES CANADA WANTS TO RETROFIT YOUR RIDE!

\$15,000

TO BE AWARDED IN THE Istvan and Barbara Haas Assistive Devices and Vehicle Retrofit Initiative!

MARCH OF DIMES CANADA: Istvan and Barbara Haas Vehicle Retrofit Initiative

In 2012, March of Dimes received a significant bequest from a long-time donor who wished to see his gift increase the independence of Canadians living with disabilities. From this, was born the Istvan and Barbara Haas Fund, a memorial tribute to the late parents of Mr. John Haas.

Through a series of competitions across Canada, the Istvan and Barbara Haas Fund will grant between \$10,000 - \$15,000 to successful candidates, depending on region and need, towards recreational devices or vehicle retrofits. Funding comes from the estate of the late John Haas, who directed that funds should be allocated to the acquisition of assistive technology, for people whose needs are both physical and financial. The fund is in memory of his late parents who were Holocaust survivors.

In 2013, a vehicle retrofit was awarded to a family in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the Lemonds and two families in Summer, British Columbia, one with a young girl living with cerebral palsy and a polio survivor.

In 2014, the initiative provided a vehicle retrofit and an assistive recreational device in Nova Scotia and Quebec respectively. March of Dimes plans to expand this initiative in Alberta in 2015.

Vehicle modifications allow people living with disabilities the freedom of mobility, as well as access to and participation in the community that so many of us take for granted – but modifications can be prohibitively expensive, and out of reach for those with limited or fixed incomes.

Kimberley Lovett was the grateful recipient of funding from the Istvan and Barbara Haas Vehicle Retrofit Fund in Nova Scotia.

Kimberley is a 40-year-old single mother of three living in Howie Center, Nova Scotia. As the result of a rare spinal cord infection contracted in 2012, when she was eleven weeks pregnant with her third child, Kimberley now needs a wheelchair for all mobility.

“There aren’t the words to properly express my gratitude,” says Kim. “Not having access to transportation has been the biggest obstacle to getting my independence back, being able to work, take my children places, and go to my medical appointments. This funding is going to completely change my life. It’s like a window has been opened for me, and I have hope again. I will never, ever forget this,” she continues.

André Bougie of Montreal was also the grateful recipient of this funding. André lives with spina bifida and uses a manual wheelchair. Declining health and strength have made it harder for him to pursue the sports and recreational pursuits he so loves. He will use the funding towards the purchase of an electric wheelchair to play modified soccer. He is also the new President of Powerchair Soccer Canada, and the funding will help him grow this sport across Canada.

Both Kimberly and André were formally recognized at Rock for Dimes Battle of the Bands, fundraisers in Halifax and Montreal, respectively.

If you would like to include March of Dimes Canada in your Will and designate the funds to a local community program, chapter, or initiative that is personal to you, please call **Daniella Sretenovic at 1-800-263-3463 ext. 7338** or email dsretenovic@marchofdimes.ca

OPEN UP A FUTURE OF POSSIBILITIES.

Make March of Dimes part of your legacy today.



THE BENEFITS OF LEGACY GIVING

- A gift in your Will is a way to do even more for people with disabilities in a cost-effective and meaningful way.
- You can retain the use of your assets and keep your cash flow today, while making a more substantial gift than you might have been able to make otherwise.
- Your gifts help you to reduce estate taxes on your final tax return and to increase inheritances to loved ones.
- Setting up a gift in your Will is very simple, and you can make changes at any time.
- You can designate your gift to a local community program, chapter or initiative of March of Dimes, that is personal to you.



Daniella Sretenovic, Associate Director, Individual Giving

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Charitable Registration No. 10788 3928 RR0001