



Review from the Executive Director

Desirée Sher

At the end of 2010 we reported how the BCNF had thrived during an economically challenging year. A year later the landscape looks very different for the organization.

While we have continued to provide programming for families and individuals with NF, due to reduced funds we lost one of our own family members in December when our long term Program Coordinator, Susan Wood, was laid off. Due to a delay in receiving our community grant, reduced donations from our Christmas appeal, a tsunami in Japan, and an auction event that could not compete with the Canucks in the Stanley Cup playoffs, the BCNF has found itself struggling to stay afloat.

With limited funding we continued our commitment to add additional new videos to the Support Through Technology project. Through the use of online video clips, parents of children newly diagnosed with NF are now able to learn from the experiences of more seasoned parents and adults living with the disorder. This year we added three new stories.

At the heart of our mission's work are our volunteers. In 2010 through various fundraising events, including the Campbell River Recycling Program, a Williams Lake fishing derby, and the Vancouver based Jeans for Genes dinner & auction, vital funds were raised.

Volunteers also assisted in programs. This past spring we had some very talented volunteers put together a PowerPoint presentation to accompany our *Parents Guide to Learning Disabilities* handbook. The presentation will be available to view on the website and will be used in schools to educate teachers who have a child with NF1 in the classroom.

One of the common concerns facing individuals with NF is that they take on the role of educating their own doctors about the management and treatment of the disorder. Now, thanks to our own board member, and medical student, Suzanne Mitrovic Gilmour, members can download a fact sheet on NF developed specifically for general practitioners. Our hope is that every member will download the brochure from the website and take it along to their next doctor's appointment.



Camp continues to be a cornerstone in our youth programming.

This year the BCNF and NF Canada partnered together to send kids to the Children's Tumor Foundation Camp in Utah. You can read about of their experiences on page 2.

This year an Educational Award was presented to Rebekah Prette to pursue post secondary education to be a librarian. Rebekah has opted to delay her education for one year to travel the world. We wish her a safe journey!

In June the Board and staff came together to review the year and set goals and objectives for 2011/2012. The meeting left us feeling energized, focused and with a strong sense of motivation and commitment. The Board and staff are confident that we can continue to provide important services to our community even in the current difficult economic environment. But we need your help!

Your personal support is vital to the sustainability of the organization. We have one major campaign in November in addition to a number of fund-raising functions. I personally wish to ask for your support of this campaign when it arrives in your mailbox. Please support us so that we may continue to provide our services crucial to those living with NF.

I heartfully thank you, our generous and committed donors, volunteers and board members for your dedication and support for the past 27 years. With your involvement, we can continue to help those who face the daily challenge of living with NF. Together we have some challenges to tackle, but together we can, and will make a difference.

A few messages from the Kids at Camp 2011



Thank you for sending me to camp. I met new friends and have memories for the rest of my life. Camp K was a great experience, it made feel less alone and more positive about my having NF.

At camp we did various activities such as going to the water park and driving go karts. Also on one day a doctor came in and answered some questions we had. We didn't really talk about NF but we told stories about what was happening in our lives.

The last day was the best because we did all sorts of competitive things such as time trials and races. Horseback riding was another thing we did. In other ways it was a great experience because I got to fly alone, which made me feel more mature and confident.

Thanks to my new found confidence and other great memories I am able to face life's challenges with more optimism. I hope to go back to camp next year!

Thank you for sending me to camp.

Tristan K.

Thank you for making it possible for me to attend camp once more. As always I enjoyed my stay there and got to meet old friends again and make new ones.

I enjoyed the trips we went on to the water parks and amusement parks, it was great to have a week to be with other kids who have NF and have similar challenges. The camp activities were fantastic and most if not all involved some sort of teamwork.

Thank you again for your donations, without them I might not have been able to go.

Patrick G.



My name is Khy Anne, I'm 21 years old. I have NF 1 since I was born. This year, I had the opportunity to participate in an NF camp and I would like to thank BCNF and BCNF donors for the experience.

This year, camp was at the Kostopulos camp in Salt lake city, Utah, USA. We did many activities: wall climbing, horseback riding, fishing, rope course, team sports, etc. We also had a day at the water park, a day at the movie theatre, and we had a trip to Park city.

Camp give you the occasion to meet people who have NF like me and to be able to feel free and to do everything you want without feeling that people will look at you in a strange way that makes you feel different.

The thing that I like the most about the camp was the afternoon where Dr. Viskochil came to camp to answer to questions that we had about NF. No one was shy to ask questions and I found that amazing. If you never have been to a NF camp, you should try it at least one time, because when you come back of camp, you have another idea of NF, you begin to see the positive side of NF and not only the negative side. You will make friends for life at camp and you will know that you can count on them if you need to talk.

Thanks again to BCNF to give me the opportunity to go to camp.

Khy Anne K.



Volunteers

Cara Grimshaw



Paul Ralfs Volunteer Award

Each year the BCNF presents the Paul Ralfs Volunteer Award to an individual who has exemplified the spirit of volunteering. This year's award was presented to Cara Grimshaw. Cara is relatively new to the BCNF but from the first time she heard the word 'neuro-fibromatosis' she jumped right in to help the community.

From shaving the BCNF logo into her scalp, organizing a bake sale and other fundraising initiatives, as well as utilizing her extraordinary photography skills to capture the many faces of NF, she continually shows incredible enthusiasm, humour and grace with all her volunteer responsibilities. We are thrilled to have her continue her commitment on the Board of Directors.

The BCNF's success depends on the commitment of volunteers who provide assistance in numerous to the Foundation's programs and fundraising events. This year we thank the following individuals who gave generously of both of their time and energy: Ivan Junek, Suzana Mitrovic Gilmour, Cara Grimshaw, David McNaughton, Suzanne Sorensen Desormeaux, Betty Hersey, Tim Columbia, Alan Meadows, Holly Meadows and Paul Ralfs, Jenece Edroff, Angie Edroff, Liam Blacknik, Ada Li, Lisa Keshavjee, Inara Kundzins, Julie De Silveira, Kirsten Marhue, Ryan Benn, Mary Centola, Morgen Valle, David Desormeaux, Maikel Tawadrous, Allan Amott, Beatriz MacDonald, and Adrienne & Adele Duimering.

Treasurer's Report

Tim Columbia



fundraising event. Why not become an NF Champion by joining the monthly giving program. Imagine: for about 70 cents a day, or just \$20 a month, your small donation adds up to \$240 a year, with you barely noticing the debit. If 20 people become NF Champions at \$20 a month that quickly becomes \$4,800 a year for BCNF programming. Imagine if each of these individuals asked one family member and one friend to also champion the cause. The yearly donations quickly double, triple and so on. For a small organization that amount can make a real difference! It doesn't matter how you choose to contribute; every penny helps. But only together can we stand strong and weather this economic challenge. Please support the BCNF today!

Reviewed financial statements are available on request.

I am pleased to present the financial statements for the organization's 2010 fiscal year. The statements prepared by Collins & Co. show the Foundation experienced a marked decrease in revenue and expenses during the last fiscal year.

Although the Board continues to seek other revenue streams, our dependency on community gaming grants continues. The delay in receiving our grant last year required the organization to use its operational funds to pay program costs typically covered by the grant. By time the gaming funds arrived we had depleted most of our reserves and the Board was faced with reducing overhead. As the BCNF runs a tight budget the only place to reduce costs was to reduce staff. We had hoped our staff layoff would be temporary. However, the auction fell short of its financial targets, leaving BCNF on shaky financial footing.

As we move forward I ask that you please make a donation to the BCNF's winter campaign and support an upcoming

Thank you for your support!



We rely on the generous financial support of our community to sustain our services. Thank you to all our donors and funders whose gifts made a difference to the lives of many this year:

Guy Adams
Linda Bernier
James .T Black
Sheila Blom
Lois Bodenham
Kurt Bonkowski
June Burley
Al Chambers
Robert W. (Toby) Clark
Maggie Collett
Tania Corby
John & Julie De Silveira
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Surrey Memorial Hospital – Acute
Telus Communications Co.
The Toronto-Dominion Bank
United Way of Lower Mainland
United Way of Victoria
LBL Holdings Ltd.
Malahat Lions Club
Sierra Electric Inc.
Ritchie Auctions
Community Gaming Grant through the Province of BC

Thrifty Foods- Smile Card Program
Liquor Board Distribution Office – Coin Drop Program

We have made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of our records. If we have omitted your name please accept our deepest apologies. Please let us know of our error by calling the office at 1-800-385-2263

Mission & Vision Statement:

The BC Neurofibromatosis Foundation empowers those affected by neurofibromatosis.

The BCNF envisions a world without NF.

2009-2010 Board of Directors:

Paul Ralfs, *President, Founder*
Tim Columbia, *Treasurer*
Cara Grimshaw, *Director*
Betty Hersey, *Director*
Suzanne Sorensen Desormeaux, *Director*
Suzana Mitrovic Gilmour, *Director*

Staff:

Desiree Sher, *Executive Director*
Susan Wood, *Program Coordinator*
Delina Squire, *Program Coordinator*

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