

2003/04 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

To build awareness and drive education, research, support, care and advocacy to help find a cure while always continuing to improve the quality of life of all individuals with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus.

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Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

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BINGO EVENT ORGANIZER
BABY BLANKET MAKER
CRAFT & GIFT MAKER
BINGO VOLUNTEER
AMBASSADOR
MEDICAL ADVISOR
MEDIA ADVISOR
PHOTOGRAPHER
RESEARCH ASSISTANT
MEDIA SPOKESPERSON
LIBRARY ASSISTANT
PUBLIC EDUCATION
WORD PROCESSOR
TRANSLATOR
REVIEWER
PATRON
WRITER

VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN!

We would like to thank the countless volunteers across Ontario who have made 2003-04 such a great year! Our dedicated crew sell the TGIF Lottery Calendar, share their insight and experience, and distribute valuable information to people around the world.

Thank-you volunteers! We appreciate everything you do!!

THANK YOU



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Wow! Our 30th Anniversary and what a year this has been! We've managed so much exciting change, and yet, our core values and services have remained as important as ever.

So how did it happen? Last spring SB&H received a three-year Trillium Grant. The Trillium resources are intended to allow SB&H to enhance our presence across the province. We started by hiring three regional coordinators for the central, east and west regions. The coordinators are expected to deliver programs, recruit members and volunteers and raise funds in their communities. Our central coordinator was instrumental in finding a pair of experts who helped us craft a new communications strategy. We worked with them to strengthen our Mission Statement. Then we took our new strategy and our new Mission Statement and we talked at length with an advertising genius, who took our thoughts about our organization and spun them into our new presence – Spirit, Breakthrough and Hope. In April 2004, we introduced our new logo, our new colours and our new look to our members and to the province.

How, you might ask, does this help even one child with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus? To be able to help, we need to be a well-known credible organization. We need an image that is eye-catching and memorable so that every time parents hear that their child has sb&h, they also hear about SB&H from their health-care providers, their friends and their families. We need to become so top-of-mind that whenever an elderly person starts to lose his balance, his continence and his memory care givers and family alike think of normal pressure hydrocephalus as quickly as they think alzheimers disease. We want every teacher to embrace teaching a pupil with spina bifida or hydrocephalus secure in the knowledge that they can get the necessary information on physical disabilities and learning disabilities from SB&H. Too often new members say, "I wish that I had known about SB&H years ago." We want them to say, "I heard the diagnosis and I knew to turn to SB&H."

And once people find us, we need to be able to offer them appropriate supports and services. To supply those services, we need resources, both human and financial. We need a fresh, confident, competent look to attract the attention of foundation grantors, employee groups, and grandmothers when they are making their funding decisions. We want to attract corporate sponsorship. We want old and new members to say, "SB&H helped me. Now it is my turn to give something back to the organization".

In tandem with creating a new image, we used our proven methods to disseminate our message. Steve Kean's beautiful pictures helped our many volunteers to sell our lottery calendars. As well as offering people nearly 300 chances to win, the calendars offer people a chance to learn more about sb&h and our Association every day. Our office staff and volunteers send out hundreds of information packages to families, professionals and the general public. We take our brochures and information units to school boards, treatment centres and health forums. Each direct mail fundraising package offers a little glimpse into the lives of people with sb&h.

Our magazine, Current, has incorporated our new image and continues to garner praise from our members and not-for-profit magazine critics alike. Our updated website receives thousands of hit a month and our staff hustle to answer the questions posed to provincial@sbhao.on.ca.

We have maintained our ties to disability related organizations around the world and have been working toward a closer association with the other sb&h organizations in Canada. And we continue to work with the Folic Acid Alliance Ontario to spread the word that all women of childbearing age should take a supplement containing 0.4 mg of folic acid every day. 2003 brought the hoped-for news that since the initiation of the fortification of flour products with folic acid, the incidence of spina bifida has fallen by about 50%

So, 2003-04 was a good news year. A year when both SB&H and the fight against spina bifida took huge steps forward. Another good year in SB&H's thirty years of achievement. Join us! These successes buoy us up and on to future efforts.

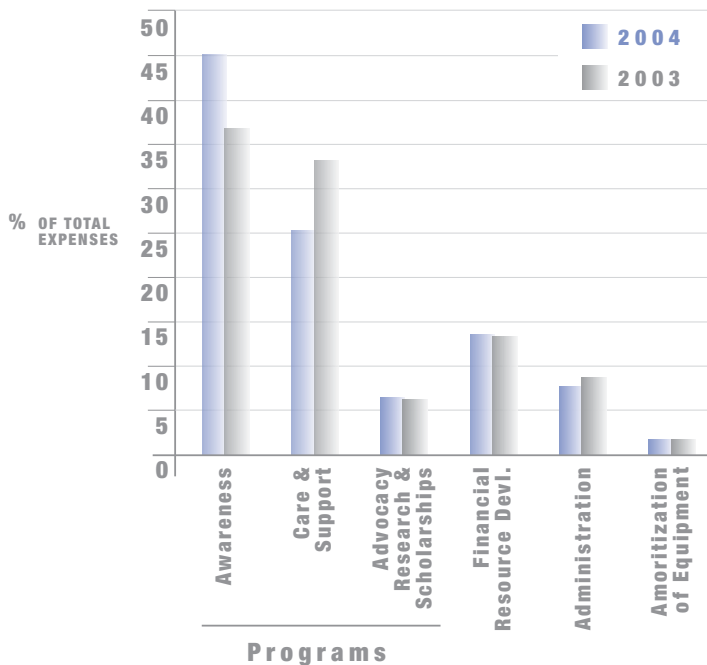
TREASURER'S REPORT

The Statement of Operations for the year ended February 29, 2004 reports an operating deficit for the year of \$10,633; although expenses have been reduced by \$39,000 or 13% over 2003, this has been more than offset by the decline in revenues of \$49,000 or 9.4% from 2003. As reported in previous years, revenues from fundraising activities continue to represent a very large percentage (54%) of total revenues and the Association's long-term strategy is to become less dependant on this source of revenue, and it has in fact declined from the recent years' level of 66%. Gaming revenues represent most of the total of fundraising revenue and continue to be under competitive and regulatory pressure with a comparative 3 year analysis as follows:

| (\$000 omitted) | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Break Open Tickets | \$148 | \$168 | \$180 |
| Bingo | 112 | 140 | 148 |
| Other (Lottery Calendar, Events, etc) | 34 | 35 | 72 |
| Total Gaming Revenue | \$294 | \$343 | \$400 |

The decline of over \$100,000 in this annual revenue since 2002 has been more than offset by a decline of about \$150,000 in annual overhead since 2002; however regrettably, this has not enabled the Association to function at a "break even" basis.

Overheads continue to be satisfactorily controlled and the Association anticipates no further ability to reduce these from their present level. In fact, the total of "Awareness & Education" and "Care & Support" has increased from \$191,000 in 2003 to \$248,000 in 2004, a very acceptable result.



The Ontario Trillium Foundation grant is to total \$200,000 and was made for the purpose of improving organizational capacity that will support the work of volunteers and increase awareness of the Association's programs and services, with \$58,000 remaining to be received in 2004/05 and \$31,800 in 2005/06.

Total program support, increasing from \$397,000 in 2003 to \$424,000 in 2004 or 7% underlines the Association's resolve to continue member services at historical levels. The financial challenges that continue in the years to come are expected to be satisfied by continued strong support from members, volunteers and corporate bodies as evidenced in the 2004 fiscal year.

The summarized financial statements are derived from the audited financial statements approved by the Board. The Association's financial statements for the year ended February 29, 2004 were audited in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. A copy of the complete audited financial statements, and the auditor's report, may be obtained from the provincial office on request.

SUMMARIZED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SUMMARIZED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Position

February 29, 2004

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash and short-term deposits | \$260,271 | \$251,267 |
| Other current assets | 62,398 | 50,947 |
| Total current assets | 322,669 | 302,214 |
| Cash, segregated for restricted uses | 150,858 | 145,106 |
| Equipment | 25,152 | 12,619 |
| Total assets | \$498,679 | \$459,939 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | \$34,063 | \$31,584 |
| Deferred contributions | 67,232 | 26,041 |
| | 101,295 | 57,625 |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Net assets invested in equipment | 12,331 | 12,619 |
| Net assets restricted for scholarships and research | 116,602 | 110,609 |
| Unrestricted net assets | 268,451 | 279,086 |
| | 397,384 | 402,314 |
| Total liabilities and net assets | \$498,679 | \$459,939 |

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended February 29, 2004

| | 2004 | | 2003 | |
|--|--------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Unrestricted | Restricted/other | Total | Total |
| Beginning of year | \$279,086 | \$123,228 | \$402,314 | \$398,505 |
| Deficiency of revenues over expenses | (943) | (9,690) | (10,633) | (397) |
| Endowment contributions and reinvested interest income | - | 5,703 | 5,703 | 4,206 |
| Investment in equipment | (9,402) | 9,402 | - | - |
| Internally imposed restrictions | (290) | 290 | - | - |
| End of year | \$268,451 | \$128,933 | \$397,384 | \$402,314 |

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended February 29, 2004

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| Cash provided by (used for): | | |
| General operating activities | \$29,755 | \$17,906 |
| Investment activities | (20,751) | (6,813) |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash for the year | 9,004 | 11,093 |
| Cash and short-term deposits, beginning of year | 251,267 | 240,174 |
| Cash and short-term deposits, end of year | \$260,271 | \$251,267 |

SUMMARIZED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SUMMARIZED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Operations

Year ended February 29, 2004

| | | | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | General | Trillium Funded | Total | Total |
| Revenues | | | | |
| Fundraising activities, net | \$294,282 | \$ - | \$294,282 | \$342,709 |
| Contributions | 164,437 | - | 164,437 | 164,385 |
| Amortization of deferred contributions | - | 68,659 | 68,659 | - |
| Membership dues, investment income and other | 13,168 | - | 13,168 | 13,417 |
| | 471,887 | 68,659 | 540,546 | 520,511 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Awareness and education | 193,862 | 54,948 | 248,810 | 191,421 |
| Care and support | 133,703 | 5,465 | 139,168 | 172,589 |
| Advocacy, research and scholarships | 32,444 | 3,182 | 35,626 | 33,140 |
| Financial resource development | 73,420 | 1,881 | 75,301 | 69,443 |
| General administrative | 41,530 | 1,054 | 42,584 | 44,996 |
| Amortization of equipment | 7,561 | 2,129 | 9,690 | 9,319 |
| | 482,520 | 68,659 | 551,179 | 520,908 |
| Deficiency of revenues over expenses | (\$10,633) | \$ - | (\$10,633) | (\$397) |

Auditors' Report on Summarized Financial Statements

The accompanying summarized balance sheet and statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows are derived from the complete financial statements of Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario as at February 29, 2004 and for the year then ended on which we expressed an opinion without reservation in our report dated June 3, 2004. The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarized financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the guideline referred to above.

These summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the entity's financial position, results of operations and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.


Chutkan + Stepczuk LLP
Chartered Accountants

Toronto, Ontario
June 3, 2004

“THANK-YOU! Recently I had contacted SBHAO on the internet...just wanted you to know that we are very thankful for your help! Keep up the good work!”

SB&H PROGRAMS AND SERVICES – WE’RE HERE FOR YOU!

2003/04 brought great, positive change to the Association. We worked on a new brand and strategy. Although our core programs remain essentially unchanged, a generous grant from the Trillium Foundation is making it possible for SB&H to reach out a little further. We are improving our capacity to support under served populations like people with hydrocephalus only. Having a Regional Manager as well as Eastern and Western Ontario Coordinators has allowed us to bring that all-important personal touch to more communities across the province. Over the life of the grant, these new positions will help us to expand service provision and develop community-based alliances and enhance volunteer resources.

A vital part of improving our outreach efforts is our redesigned SB&H website. Visit our site at www.sbhao.on.ca and you’ll have an amazing array of information and services at your fingertips:

- Become a member of SB&H
- Make a donation
- Use our Community Forums to connect to others who share your concerns and solutions.
- Access our publications list and resource library lists including books, periodicals, video and audio tapes
- Apply for the Dr. E. Bruce Hendrick Scholarship, or the Luciana Spring Mascarin Bursary and
- Find valuable links to other organizations with information about spina bifida, hydrocephalus and related issues

The website really is a virtual SB&H office. Almost anything you might need from us can be found online. But, if you can’t find what you’re looking for, just call us and we’ll do our best to help.

Our programs and services focus on four main areas: research, awareness, care and advocacy. Keep reading for an outline of what we do.

Dear friends at SBHAO,

I just wanted to thank-you in writing for the information you sent last year. It is great to know that you are there with information and support.

Our daughter, Meagan (see photo) turned one this summer and is doing great! She is a joy and is teaching us a lot. She is almost 17 months old now and is saying about ten words and 75-80 baby signs. She lets us know her needs and signs her favourite book to us...not just the titles, but the stories to!

Thank-you again, for your warm welcome to the spina bifida and hydrocephalus community.

Yours,

Pauline McGrath for the McGrath family



RESEARCH

The Association responds to requests to support research that will contribute to finding a cure as well as projects designed to improve the quality of life for all individuals with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus and their families. We work in partnership with the Hospital for Sick Children, the Bloorview MacMillan Centre, Easter Seal Society, McMaster Health Sciences Centre and other large research facilities by providing mailings, participation in focus groups and funding as appropriate.

SB&H monitors research and reports findings through CURRENT magazine and our website. Over the last twelve months, we have dramatically increased the number of web links related to sb/h research around the world.

“Thank-you very much for the videos and information you sent in the package...I got 100% on my presentation and 93% on my paper! I don't think I have ever done so well.”

SB&H PROGRAMS AND SERVICES – WE’RE HERE FOR YOU!

AWARENESS

Awareness activities are aimed at informing and educating the population of Ontario about spina bifida, hydrocephalus and the Association. We work to achieve this goal through the development and delivery of the following programs and services:

- 30th Year Awareness Campaign – To celebrate our third decade and to push us into the future, we undertook a broad based campaign highlighting the Association, hydrocephalus, spina bifida and prevention. Comprehensive information packages were sent out to health care professionals and facilities across Ontario. So far, we have reached out to the following with more to come:
 - geneticists
 - genetic clinics
 - hospitals
 - medical schools
 - nursing schools
 - mid-wives
 - public health units
 - treatment centres
 - CCAC’s and
 - community agencies

We received valuable media attention from an appearance on CTV’s “Canada AM” in November as well as an episode of “Health On The Line”, produced by Discovery Health Channel. Through this exposure, we were able to promote the mission, programs and services of SB&H; educate a large audience about spina bifida and hydrocephalus; and demonstrate how the lives of people and their families can be affected by these conditions.

- Folic Acid /Prevention Campaign - As a founding member of the Folic Acid Alliance Ontario, SB&H is committed to reducing the incidence of neural tube defects (NTD’s) by promoting the consumption of folic acid. Our alliance partners include Easter Seal Society of Ontario, The Fetal Centre at Hospital for Sick Children, Best Start: Ontario’s Maternal, Newborn and Early Child Development Resource Centre, and The Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in the Public Health. Visit their website at www.folicacid.ca.
- Kids on the Block - This cooperative educational and entertaining troupe of puppeteers, featuring puppets with and without disabilities, performs in schools. The program teaches educators and students, in grades 1-6, about various disabilities including spina bifida and hydrocephalus using humour and situations familiar to young people.
- Presentations, Displays and Public Relations - We strive to make people aware of spina bifida and hydrocephalus and the support available from SB&H. Secondly, we take any opportunity to encourage the public to form positive attitudes regarding the abilities of people with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus. Last year, we took advantage of more than 30 opportunities to get our message out to the broader community, putting us in touch with thousands of people.
- We sent information and public service announcements to 55 media outlets highlighting hydrocephalus and SB&H. We gave eight presentations and used eight events to display and give out SB&H materials.
- June is spina bifida and hydrocephalus awareness month in the province of Ontario. At this time, we make a concentrated effort to educate the public about spina bifida and hydrocephalus and our programs and services.
- Information Packages - Parents of babies born with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus and those newly diagnosed with hydrocephalus or spina bifida occulta, need up-to-date, quality information. This core program of the Association provides information in layman’s terms and answers to questions based on years of practical experience.

“This is a little thank-you from all the parents out there that count on your experience and expertise. Especially when they feel overwhelmed. Thank-you for all the encouragement and support that you’ve shown us and many others over the years.”

SB&H PROGRAMS AND SERVICES – WE’RE HERE FOR YOU!

SB&H has spent more than three decades gathering information on a variety of aspects of spina bifida, hydrocephalus and disability issues. From this mass of information, staff and volunteers prepare customized packages in response to requests. We develop new packages based upon identified needs.

Last year we distributed over 650 customized information packages based on requests.

- Resource Centre and Publications - In our lending library we offer comprehensive, reliable and accessible resources on spina bifida, hydrocephalus and other disability related topics. SB&H also produces and distributes unique materials such as booklets, kits, audio and video tapes and our news magazine - CURRENT to members, hospitals, health and education professionals. These services are provided free-of-charge and are available to the public year-round.
- Training and Education - We coordinate workshops and seminars for families, individuals with sb/h, professionals and the general public to learn more about living with these complex conditions. Workshops and seminars are developed and delivered throughout the province.
- Each year, SB&H collaborates with the University of Toronto Medical School. Prospective doctors work with us to gain an appreciation of what it is like to live with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus. The students’ research provides the Association with valuable information that can be used to improve and expand our services.
- Volunteer Program - Volunteers form the foundation of SB&H. Their contribution is present at every level of the organization, from governance and stewardship, program and service delivery, fund raising support to office assistance. The goal of the program is to increase volunteer interest, support and commitment. Countless volunteers have donated thousands of hours throughout the year.

CARE



Adult Hydrocephalus Support Group facilitator Gilda Katz (standing left) with group participants

- Direct support services are delivered to individuals with sb/h and their families to help them meet their daily needs and achieve personal goals. We are a source of comfort and understanding providing emotional support and information. Our staff and volunteers are empathetic, sharing the experiences of those we serve.
- Parent, Youth and Adult Support - SB&H assists individuals with the challenges that arise in special education, employment, health care and financial assistance and help them find ways to cope. Our interventions are intended to empower individuals to become self-advocates. Last year, SB&H provided over 500 hours of counselling support to parents, youth and adults. Support also includes providing social opportunities. The Taster’s Club offers monthly events at a variety of restaurants.
- Youth Support Programs - Children and youth from 9-19 with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus have access to organized programs aimed at increasing self-esteem and providing emotional and resource support through group discussion, skill enhancement and other therapeutic techniques such as role playing. This program is provided in partnership with the Bloorview MacMillan Children’s Centre. Over 30 youth took advantage of our Youth Support programs in Toronto, Windsor and Chatham. SB&H works together with other organizations to provide social opportunities for our youth as a partner in the Youth Drop-in (YDI).

“Thank-you so much for your comprehensive search to assist us in helping our son, Jeff. We certainly appreciate the information AND effort you made on his behalf to get it.”

SB&H PROGRAMS AND SERVICES – WE’RE HERE FOR YOU!

- **Clinic/Hospital Outreach** - SB&H representatives provide information and emotional support to parents of babies born with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus as well as youth and adults while in hospital. The service is extended to formal clinic settings at treatment centres and hospitals in Ontario.
- **Linking Service** - We facilitate one-to-one linking to help people deal with the issues presented by spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus from birth through old age. This past year, we facilitated more than 50 links in person, through organized social opportunities and our toll-free services. Knowing that others have found solutions to problems shared by many people with sb/h helps others to do the same. The emotional support and information available from others gives people with sb/h and their families some tools to cope with the impact of these conditions.
- **Member Sponsorship** - SB&H sponsors members’ participation in therapeutic programs and educational conferences such as summer camp and swimming programs. We were able to assist families in using accessible services at the Welland and St. Catharine’s YMCA over 200 times last year and 10 youth were able to attend the Tweens Camp in Ottawa at CHEO.
- **Scholarship Program** - Scholarship awards and bursaries are granted to individuals with sb/h to pursue their educational goals. These programs encourage and support students as they develop independence and learn to be responsible for their own future educational direction. The financial assistance provided by these scholarships assists them with the ultimate goal of obtaining a degree, graduate certificate or diploma. Current programs include: The Dr. E. Bruce Hendrick Scholarship Program, which has granted \$59,000 in scholarship funds since 1991, and the Luciana Spring Mascarin Bursary. We distributed over 1300 Scholarship brochures province-wide. As a result we received 19 applications for the Dr. E. Bruce Hendrick Scholarship and one for Luciana Spring Mascarin Bursary. We gave seven Scholarships and granted one Luciana Spring Mascarin Bursary.
- The 2003-04 recipients of the Dr. E. Bruce Hendrick Scholarship were:
 - Marya Carrol
 - Adam C. Siklosi
 - Regan Douglas
 - Bret Wills
 - Trevor Plug
 - Marianne Elizabeth Windrow
 - Tyler McBlain
- The recipient of the 2003-04 Luciana Spring Mascarin Bursary was Agatha Plizga from Windsor, Ontario.
- **Membership Program** - Upon joining the Association, you become part of a group of individuals and families united by a common cause. This program is maintained to ensure a large, stable foundation of members for the Association. Members enjoy the benefits of our programs and services, have voting rights at the Annual General Meeting and the opportunity to be a member of a committee or serve on our Board of Directors.
- The Adult Hydrocephalus Support Group provides monthly opportunities for adults with hydrocephalus from across Ontario to gather (physically and via telephone), exchange information and offer mutual support and coping strategies. There’s strength in numbers!



2003 Scholarship recipients (l-r) Marya Carrol, Regan Douglas, Education Committee Chair - Sylvia Langlois, Mrs. Hendrick, Bret Wills and Marianne Windrow

ADVOCACY

SB&H’s advocacy efforts involve taking action to ensure fair treatment and social justice for people with disabilities. Positive change is sought through participating, along with other like-minded organizations, in the process of influencing legislation, government policy and practices. Strategies employed include community development and education, resource development and lobbying and collective advocacy.

“Thank-you for all your help. I’ll never be able to thank you enough.”

SB&H PROGRAMS AND SERVICES – WE’RE HERE FOR YOU!

The Association networks with agencies around the world to support and coordinate planning, development and delivery of programs and services.

COALITIONS/ALLIANCES

The Association has partnered with the following organizations to achieve our shared goals:

- Folic Acid Alliance Ontario
- Kids’ Coalition
- Bloorview MacMillan Children’s Centre
- Hospital for Sick Children
- Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee (PAAC) on Special Education Advisory Committees (SEAC)
- Ministry Advisory Council on Special Education
- Provincial Coalition on Special Services at Home
- Individualized Funding Coalition



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

SB&H recruits, supports and trains volunteer members of the Association to be representatives on SEAC committees of school boards in Ontario. These representatives promote appropriate educational programs for all exceptional students, advocate for students with sb/h in general, and act as a resource to parents.

Issues/Trends

The Association responds to issues and trends that will improve the quality of life of all individuals with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus and their families. Our responses take the form of developing position papers, policies and proposals such as the folic acid policy and the education policy.

Over the last year, SB&H identified two important trends – a significant decline in the number of new cases of spina bifida, and an increase in the number of requests for service and information by people with hydrocephalus.

What does this mean for SB&H? It means that we must enhance our service and outreach to those with hydrocephalus.

Daniel & Boon travel together on the road to independence with the help of SBH&O

“On behalf of the youth at Children’s Development Rehabilitation Programme, McMaster Children’s Hospital, we would like to thank the Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario for your generous contribution to support programs for children and youth in the Hamilton region.

Thank-you for your commitment and support to children and youth with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus, as well as to Hamilton. We look forward to further opportunities for partnership and collaboration with SBH&O.”

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING - HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2003-04

SB&H is committed to increasing the Association's community profile through resource development. We are working to build corporate and organization alliances and partnerships while cultivating and encouraging grassroots support activities.

The year began on a high note with the approval of our Ontario Trillium Foundation grant proposal "Building Community Capacity and Quality Through Volunteerism," renewing our energy and focus.

We approached new businesses, corporations, foundations service clubs, individuals and employee groups to gain their support. A major gift was received from Green Shield Canada to assist with our 30th Anniversary Community Awareness project. New and established donors helped maintain our contribution levels. Activities such as Nevada Break-open tickets, community bingos, TGIF lottery calendar, and vending program made up the bulk of our fundraising revenues.

Our partnerships with the Molson Indy and Toronto Raptors Foundation continued with participation in their charity programs. The Corvette Club of Ontario, who has supported SB&H from the beginning, demonstrated their dedication and commitment by making their largest annual contribution to date.

We are grateful for the valuable gift of time and expertise given by countless volunteers who make it all possible!

COMMUNITY EVENTS ACHIEVEMENT

People from all over Ontario have come together to raise awareness and have fun while fundraising in support of the work of SB&H in their communities. Friends, family, neighbours, teachers, children, grandparents, our members and supporters took part in events from dressing down to dressing up, sinking billiard balls to spiking volleyballs, shaving heads and faces to running wheelchair races. We praise and thank innovators, organizers and participants. Your efforts have made a difference! Here are a few examples:

Kids Who Care – "I feel it's making a difference for people in the future"

-Michael Kahn

In the past five years the Race for Research at Unionville's Parkview Public School has raised hundreds of dollars to support SB&H's research programs, but this year's event was a fundraising bonanza topping \$7,000.00. Creator and organizer, teacher Tammy Urbach, wanted student Michael Kahn's last event as he moves on to high school to be a memorable one. And that it was!! Parents, students, teachers, friends, family and local businesses all contributed to the cause through cash donations, pledges, a bake sale and an on line E-bay auction. SB&H is grateful to everyone who played a part in this tremendous achievement. Perhaps, Michael said it best, "I know that SB&H appreciates the money raised and more importantly, in the future, kids like myself will benefit from the extra money for research".



RACK 'EM UP, THE SNOWMAN SERIES CHARITY CHALLENGE

The 2nd Annual Snowman Series Charity Challenge 8-Ball Tournament generated almost \$1,300 for the Association. Thank you to Milano Billiard Lounge & Bistro of Toronto for hosting the event, and to AceAwards.ca, Bacardi Canada, CoohoosToys.com, Federal Express, ImagesByKen.com and Print Three for their contributions. Also, thank you to the 16 participants and their pledge donors who helped us to exceed our goal by more than 25%. Pictured L-R are Champions Richard Roecker and Giovanni Caicedo, with second place finishers Bobby Kyriazis & Brett Bradley.

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING - HOPE FOR THE FUTURE



DRESSING FOR DOLLARS

On October 16, 2003 over 40 University of Western Ontario residence staff members donned bizarre outfits, braved the autumn chill, and roamed the Western campus in an attempt to raise money and awareness for two very worthy causes, SB&H and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Each staff member was to agree with the students on his/her floor on an amount of money in return for dressing in "odd" attire for the day on campus and in classes. This extremely successful event raised over \$7,000 for the two charities.



SKI FOR KIDS

Batawa ski hill in eastern Ontario was the sight of a unique new fund raising event for SB&H. Skiers and snowboarders competed to raise the most money and ski a minimum of three runs per hour throughout the night, under the stars. Participants who collected pledges to enter also enjoyed a torchlight parade, supper, midnight snack and a dance party. Thank you to everyone who supported this successful event raising over \$1,500.

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

The 6th annual Hamilton volleyball tournament organized by member Wendy Charlesworth was an overwhelming success reaching a new plateau, raising more than \$4,000. A special thank you to Home Depot and all the sponsors and participants. This event has been a labour of love for Wendy since the beginning. She has built a solid and enthusiastic group of players and sponsors who return year after year.

Thank you all for your generosity and support in creating **Rays of Hope!**

OUR DONORS

The Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario is not government funded. As a result, we are grateful to a community of donors who ensure that we are able to meet the needs of a growing and vital organization. We are truly fortunate to have the financial support of countless individuals, service clubs, employee groups, foundations and caring corporate citizens - far too many to list here – who have made our endeavours such a success. Although their names may not appear in print, we acknowledge each of them for their ongoing support.

We extend a special thank-you to the special event sponsors and those who contributed gifts in kind.

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The Ontario Trillium Foundation

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The Gordon Tait Family Foundation
Toronto Hydro Employees' Charity Trust
University of Western Ontario Residence Staff
WD-40 Products (Canada) Ltd.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

SB&H is honoured to recognize and acknowledge those individuals, groups and companies who have given of themselves and contributed to the success of the Association over the past year.

Citation of Merit Awards - Given in recognition of an individual commitment to the mission of the Association. We were pleased to present awards to the following people:

Tami Urbach

Fritz Schneeberger

Mara Meikle

Kathy Plug

Top Lottery Calendar Sellers:

Fritz Schneeberger - Toronto, Tom Dawdy - Wheatley, Eric Snow - Toronto, Brandi Edwards - Toronto, Amber & Connie Pelzer - Brantford, May Kean - Sudbury, Kim & Jenna Brough - Hampton, Jami-Lynn & Kristen Smith - Queensville, Angela Cinapri - Toronto, Barbara Protomanni - Woodbridge, Patrick Jordan - Toronto

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Service Clubs:

B'nai Brith Don Mills Lodge #2131

Grand Bend Optimist Club, Innisfill Lions Club

Employee Groups:

BMO Fountain of Hope Employees' Foundation

Toronto Hydro Employees' Charity Trust

Individuals:

Gordon & Janet Baker

Dorothy Davidson

James Moran

Kenneth Winter



Bonnie Charbonneau presents Dr. Robin P. Humphreys, Neurosurgeon-in-Chief (retired), Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, with the SBHAO Bonnie E. Charbonneau Award of Distinction

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