



2006-2007 ANNUAL REPORT

  
*Spirit. Breakthrough & Hope*  
Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus  
Association of Ontario

*Spirit. Breakthrough & Hope*

# 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.

# OUR Vision

To facilitate the reduction and ultimate eradication of spina bifida and hydrocephalus, and build a society that is sensitive, supportive and responsive to the needs of those living with or affected by these disabilities.

## HONOURARY PATRON

Hon. James K. Bartleman  
*Lieutenant Governor of Ontario*

## MEDICAL ADVISOR

Dr. James Drake

## MEDIA ADVISORS

Gloria Martin  
David Onley

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Derryn Gill, *Chair*  
Marc Garson, *1st Vice Chair*  
John MacLachlan, *2nd Vice Chair*  
Sylvia Langlois, *Secretary*  
Zalina Roth, *Treasurer*  
John Bothwell  
Claudio Cinapri  
Mary Dufton  
James Lindsay  
Ian Mendes  
Justin Parappally  
Brian Sneek  
Glen Thordarson

## STAFF

Joan Booth  
*Executive Director*  
Helen Sklarz  
*Director of Development & Promotion*  
Barbara Aldridge  
*Information & Services Assistant*  
Audrey Azulay  
*Development & Promotion Coordinator*  
Shauna Beaudoin  
*Information & Services Coordinator*  
Steve Kean  
*Programs & Services Coordinator*  
John Thompson  
*Development & Promotion Coordinator*

## COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION

Burlington/Oakville  
Hamilton  
Hanover  
Kitchener/Waterloo  
London  
Mississauga  
Niagara  
Oshawa  
Ottawa  
Owen Sound  
Peterborough  
Richmond Hill  
Sault Ste. Marie  
South Georgian Bay  
Sudbury  
Toronto  
West Lorne  
Windsor

# MESSAGE FROM Our Honourary Patron



**THE LIEUTENANT  
GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO**  
JAMES K. BARTLEMAN



THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO  
LE LIEUTENANT GOUVERNEUR DE L'ONTARIO

2006 - 2007

As the Honourary Patron of the Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus (SB&H) Association of Ontario, I am pleased to extend greetings to this worthy organization.

For over thirty years, you have made a marked difference in the lives of those with spina bifida and hydrocephalus, and their families. The services you provide from parent, youth and adult support programs to resource information, advocacy and public awareness, all work towards a better life for those living with SB &H. Another year has past and research has evolved, public awareness has grown, and services have expanded.

As The Queen's representative in Ontario, I send best wishes and congratulations to the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and supporters, for another accomplished year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James K. Bartleman". The signature is written in a cursive style.

James K. Bartleman

WWW.LT.GOV.ON.CA QUEEN'S PARK TORONTO ONTARIO CANADA M7A 1A1

# MESSAGE FROM The Chair



In 2006-2007, SB&H undertook a Strategic Planning exercise. The Board reviewed the possible directions and implementation plans that the Association could pursue. After careful consideration, the Board espoused the following four strategic directions:

- 1. Foster strategic linkages**
- 2. Maximize public awareness of spina bifida and hydrocephalus**
- 3. Strengthen our leadership**
- 4. Build a stable and sustainable revenue base**

Those four short statements were expanded and clarified into a twelve-page document that outlined the goals, expected results and the necessary tasks over the next three years. One of our goals will be to educate the public about spina bifida and hydrocephalus and increase SB&H's profile in Ontario. We will also broaden our service impact to individuals with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus, their families and the medical community. Support and care for individuals who have sb/h are the founding tenets of the organization and remain at the heart of what we do. While always trying to enhance programs we are looking at new ways to facilitate direct support through community partnerships.

To strengthen our leadership within the organization, we continued to build a broad-based, dynamic Board of Directors. This year, we welcomed four new members, Rev. James Lindsay, Ian Mendes, Brian Sneek and Glen Thordarson. These individuals have experience and knowledge that brings us closer to our goal of building a board with a breadth of diversity, fundraising experience, influence, affluence and expertise.

An exciting development has been our alignment with a new corporate partner, Codman Neuro, a leading shunt manufacturer. The focus of this effort is to inform the public and medical practitioners about hydrocephalus and, in particular, the diagnosis and treatment of Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus (NPH). Since individuals with hydrocephalus have been identified as an under-served population, SB&H has dedicated more resources to addressing the needs of those affected by this condition.

SB&H has been working on the development of a sustainable fundraising activity. In its first year, our new special event, a *100-Hole Golf Challenge* raised thirty thousand dollars to fund our programs. Sponsors, members and surgeons from the Hospital for Sick Children participated in the event. Players who came to try their luck at 100-holes of golf in a day, left with a sense of accomplishment and a new respect for those golfers with sb/h who also hustled to play a crazy amount of golf.

In 2006-2007, we developed a new program to distribute age-appropriate books to help children and youth understand and cope with their condition. We have received very positive feedback from parents and professionals regarding this initiative. Our thanks go out to the foundations, corporations and service clubs that funded this program.

This year SB&H received a significant donation from Dr. James Gill and Aur Resources Inc. to fund a new \$5,000.00 scholarship for students with spina bifida. Thank you to Dr. Gill and all our members who contribute to our effort to honour students with sb/h who aspire to a college or university education.

We hope that the outcome of the new strategic directions will be a stronger SB&H that is better able to meet the needs of its members. We can't meet any of our goals without the tireless efforts of our staff and many, many volunteers. At this time, I would like to thank Patrick Jordan, our outgoing treasurer who contributed his expertise in financial management and knowledge of the charitable sector, over the past five years.

As I finish this, my last Annual Report, I would also like to thank every one who has given their time, effort and expertise to SB&H. Thank you for helping us to carry out our Mission.

Derryn Gill

# TREASURER'S Report

The Statement of Operations for the year ended February 28, 2007 reports a slight excess of revenues over expenses of \$463, demonstrating another year with positive results and a continued steady performance by the Association.

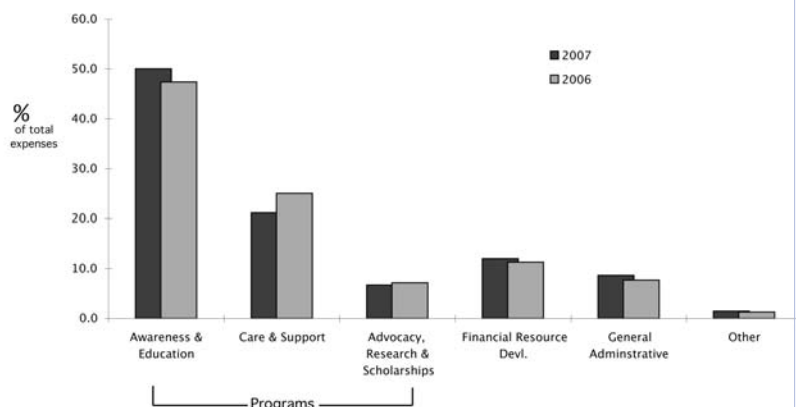
Revenues have reduced by 9% or \$45,403 in fiscal 2007 but this has been offset by a reduction in expenses by 7% or \$36,308 in 2007 over those in 2006.

The Trillium funded grant originally totaled \$200,000 and was made for the purpose of improving organizational capacity to support the work of the volunteers and increase awareness of the Association's programs and services and covered the years 2004 to 2006; it has come to the end in 2007 and has proven its effectiveness.

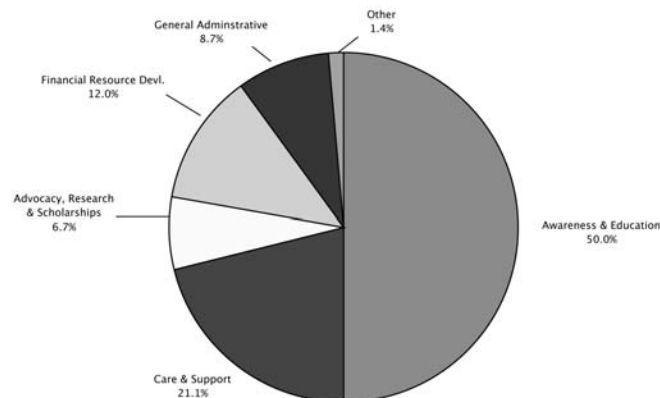
Fundraising revenues continue to represent a significant amount of the Association's revenue (60%) in 2007 and include proceeds from break open tickets, lottery calendar sales, bingo and special events. As noted in other years, gaming revenues continue to be under competitive and regulatory pressure and the Board's long-term strategy is to reduce dependence on this source of income. Such a strategic move was realized this year in a successful spring 100-hole golf challenge, which contributed \$30,000 to fundraising revenue. The intention is to repeat this event and continue to explore other activities that will assist in building a stable and sustainable revenue base for future years.

Contributions, net of mailing costs, have continued to trend down in fiscal 2007 amounting to approximately \$142,000, that is a reduction of about \$16,015 or 10% over the prior year. Other sundry revenues increased by \$2,488 or 17% reaching \$16,769 in 2007.

## EXPENSES ALLOCATION COMPARISON



## ALLOCATION OF TOTAL EXPENSES 2007



Most program and related expense categories have registered a reduction in 2007, due in large part, to decreased revenue available from the Trillium grant project funding. The most important change is in the allocation of more resources to awareness and education, in keeping with the Board's new strategic direction to maximize public awareness of spina bifida and hydrocephalus. General administrative expenses and financial resource development costs have experienced only modest fluctuations in 2007. Currently, Association's staffing is at the minimal possible point to provide an acceptable level of service and reflects the limitations caused by available revenue sources. Also, there are no longer any savings to be realized in occupancy and general administrative expenses.

Although, fiscal 2007 ended almost at a break-even point, the Statement of Financial Position reported an increase in total assets from \$509,124 in 2006 to \$529,740 in 2007, due primarily to a sizable donor contribution to the scholarship endowment fund. The working capital, which is the difference between current assets and current liabilities and is a measure of the Association's liquidity, has slightly increased by \$6,568 to \$279,241 at February 28, 2007.

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 28, 2007 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 office upon request.

Zalina Roth

# SUMMARIZED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<b>STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION</b>		
As at February 28	2007	2006
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and short-term deposits	\$256,385	\$268,848
Other current assets	56,506	68,583
Total current assets	312,891	337,431
Endowment investments and security deposit	204,427	154,663
Equipment	12,422	17,030
Total assets	\$529,740	\$509,124
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$29,364	\$28,617
Deferred contributions	4,286	36,141
	33,650	64,758
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Net assets invested in equipment	8,136	10,647
Net assets restricted for scholarships and research	201,895	149,234
Unrestricted net assets	286,059	284,485
	496,090	444,366
Total liabilities and net assets	\$529,740	\$509,124

<b>STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS</b>				
Year ended February 28			2007	2006
	Unrestricted	Restricted/other	Total	Total
Beginning of year	\$284,485	\$159,881	\$444,366	\$407,312
Revenues over expenses (expenses over revenues) for the year	4,883	(4,420)	463	9,558
Endowment contributions and reinvested interest income	-	51,261	51,261	27,496
Investment in equipment	(1,909)	1,909	-	-
Internally imposed restrictions	(1,400)	1,400	-	-
End of year	\$286,059	\$210,031	\$496,090	\$444,366

<b>STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS</b>		
Year ended February 28	2007	2006
<b>Cash provided by (used for):</b>		
General operating activities	\$(12,051)	\$7,831
Investment activities	(412)	(3,530)
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash for the year</b>	<b>(12,463)</b>	<b>4,301</b>
Cash and short-term deposits, beginning of year	268,848	264,547
Cash and short-term deposits, end of year	\$256,385	\$268,848

# SUMMARIZED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year ended February 28			2007	2006
	General	Trillium Funded	Total	Total
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Fundraising activities, net	\$272,008	\$ -	<b>\$272,008</b>	\$278,458
Contributions	141,978	-	<b>141,978</b>	157,993
Amortization of deferred contributions	-	19,665	<b>19,665</b>	45,091
Membership dues, investment income and other	16,769	-	<b>16,769</b>	14,281
	430,755	19,665	<b>450,420</b>	495,823
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Awareness and education	208,993	16,198	<b>225,191</b>	230,586
Care and support	93,678	1,338	<b>95,016</b>	121,641
Advocacy, research and scholarships	30,245	-	<b>30,245</b>	35,211
Financial resource development	54,024	-	<b>54,024</b>	54,956
General administrative	38,965	-	<b>38,965</b>	37,324
Amortization of equipment	4,387	2,129	<b>6,516</b>	6,547
	430,292	19,665	<b>449,957</b>	486,265
<b>Excess of revenues over expenses</b>	<b>\$463</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$463</b>	<b>\$9,558</b>

## 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 28, 2007 and for the year then ended on which we expressed an opinion without reservation in our report dated May 14, 2007. 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.



Toronto, Ontario  
May 14, 2007

Cholkon + Stepczuk LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Licensed Public Accountants

# DEVELOPMENT Report

SB&H engages in a wide range of revenue generating activities to deliver important programs and services throughout Ontario. The Association relies on the support it receives from community partners in addition to a variety of fundraising events and activities.

**2006-2007** brought a number of surprises. We received two major gifts totalling \$50,000 that were dedicated to our scholarship program. Donations from other corporations and foundations represented major gifts at the \$5,000 level, including a number of new donors.

Appeals to non-profit organizations across the province were extremely successful. This effort resulted in an increase of 152% since 2005. We are continuing to develop this area with appeals twice a year.

Response to our direct mail program experienced a slight decline in the number of donors over last year, due to attrition, however we were pleased to see that our efforts to regain lapsed donors had positive results. We have maintained the in-house production of our direct mail appeals in order to reduce overhead expenses. This resulted in a significant decrease of expenses over the previous year (from \$6,500 to \$1,650) that enabled us to have a good year-end result.

Gaming continues to provide a reliable source of revenue for the Association although we, as well as other charities, have seen a steady decline in recent years. Through bingo events in several communities and the sale of Nevada Break-open Tickets province-wide, a large portion of our revenue is realized from gaming.

Sales from the 2007 "Thank Goodness It's Friday" Lottery Calendar helped bring members, friends, family, volunteers and community partners together to raise funds and awareness for SB&H. A thriving fundraiser for 13 years, it is the single most popular activity that gets our members involved. More than 140 individuals sold 3,037 calendars resulting in a net profit of just over \$28,000.



## Great News from a New Fundraiser!

Golfers raised \$30,000 for SB&H through our 100-hole charity golf challenge. Golfers who played 100 holes of golf in one day, were asked to raise pledges for SB&H. One golfer raised more than \$8,400! Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who raised pledges, gave of their time and made the event the success that it was. We would like to also thank the students and teachers at Courtland Avenue Senior Public School in Kitchener who raised more than \$3,500 by conducting a GST (Goods, Service and Talent) auction at the school.

**A special thanks is extended to our corporate friends who donated prizes and giveaways for golfers. To our sponsors, whose generous contributions made this event possible, we say, *THANK YOU.***

*Sylvia, Andrew and I would like to thank all the staff and volunteers for making the association and its programs what they are...what you have all done together has meant a great deal to many people. Thank you all very, very much.*

### Event Partners

#### Codman Neuro

Codman is a unit of Johnson & Johnson Medical Products, A division of Johnson & Johnson, Inc.

#### Franklin Templeton Investments

Accumulus Management Ltd.

#### ScotiaMcLeod



The Codman Foursome

## Small change can make a **BIG** difference

SB&H was selected once again, to participate in the LCBO's Coin Box Program during the month of March. The LCBO's province-wide store network of 600 stores is a very effective way for us to raise awareness and funds for our organization. A special thanks to everyone who supported us.

Derryn Gill and  
LCBO Representative



## Third-party events

We would like to thank the many groups across the province that conducted events and donated the proceeds to SB&H. For the second year, the Toronto Business Development Centre (TBDC) selected SB&H as their charity of choice. Several other groups donated funds through auctions, dress-down days and other activities held throughout the year.



Derryn Gill, SB&H Board Chair, Brock Greenhalgh, Courtland Avenue Sr. PS, and Claudio Cinapri, SB&H Golf Chair

**To everyone who participated in an event, bought a calendar or donated your change, we offer our heartfelt gratitude. To our corporate and foundation partners, thank you for making this journey with us – your support makes a difference. To the many individuals, service clubs and employee groups who supported SB&H, please know that every gift is important to us.**

## Car Clubs Made it Happen for SB&H

We are very grateful for the on-going support from the Ontario Camaro Club and Corvette Club of Ontario. Both groups have been strong supporters of the Association for many years. Not only do we receive donations from club members, but also by naming us as their charity of choice, we are able to get our message across to a diverse segment of the population.

**Thank you** all for making a difference in the lives of children, youth, parents and adults affected by or living with the challenges of spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus.

# THANK YOU For Your Gift

SB&H wishes to thank the following donors for their generosity. The success of our Care, Support, Awareness and Education Programs is founded on the contributions from individuals, foundations, corporations, service clubs and employee groups.

## PLATINUM \$10,000+

Aur Resources Inc.  
James W. Gill

## GOLD \$5,000+

CIBC World Markets Children's Miracle Foundation  
IODE Provincial Chapter of Ontario  
Medtronic Foundation (The)  
Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation (The)

## SILVER \$1,000+

Alice & Murray Maitland Foundation (The)  
Gordon Baker  
CIBC  
Corvette Club of Ontario  
Grand Bend Optimist Club  
George Lunan Foundation (The)  
Inco Limited  
J. P. Bickell Foundation  
Julie-Jiggs Foundation (The)  
Loblaw Companies Limited  
John MacLachlan  
Marion Ethel & Frederick Kamm Foundation  
Charitable Trust  
Peter and Pauline Dawson Foundation at The  
Toronto Community Foundation  
Royal Canadian Legion Branch #234  
Shoppers Drug Mart  
John H. Skogstad  
United Parcel Service  
Wyeth Consumer Healthcare Inc.  
Yamaha Motor Canada Limited

## BRONZE \$500+

A & A King Family Foundation  
BMO Financial Group  
Carlo Faraone  
Innisfill Lions Club  
International Order of The Alhambra  
Guzera Caravan #72  
International Order of The Alhambra  
Guzera Caravan #230  
Johnson & Johnson Medical Products  
Patrick Jordan  
Kinsmen Club Preston  
L.V. Lomas Chemical Limited  
Sylvia Langlois  
Leon's Furniture Limited  
MacDonald, Dettwiler & Associates Ltd.  
Optimist Club Cambridge North  
Paul Paterson  
Royal Canadian Legion Branch #23  
Royal Canadian Legion Branch #230  
S.C. Johnson and Son, Limited  
Tyco Electronics Canada Ltd.  
Mark Tyler  
WD-40 Products (Canada) Ltd.

## EMPLOYEE GROUPS

Bell Canada – Helping Hands Open Hearts  
BMO Fountain of Hope  
Employees' Foundation  
Hydro One Inc.  
IBM Employees' Charitable Fund  
Kodak Employee Chest & Trust (KEC)  
London Life Insurance Company  
Ontario Power Generation  
Toronto Hydro Employees Charity Trust

## GIFTS IN KIND \$500+

Mary Lynn Kane  
Mizuno Canada Ltd.  
Perfect Smile Teeth Whitening Centre  
VIA Rail Canada Inc.

We would like to extend a **special thank you** to the many donors, not identified here, whose contribution enabled us to achieve our goals. Your generosity gives strength and hope to those in need.

# SB&H PROGRAMS and Services

The core programs and services provided by SB&H are driven by our mission statement and focus on the following: Awareness and Education – Care and Support – Research and Advocacy

**T**he Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario remains the only organization in Ontario providing relevant services and programs that positively impact individuals and families dealing with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus (sb/h). SB&H is the primary source of up-to-date information and a valuable connection for thousands of individuals with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus and their families across Ontario.

Babies are still being born with spina bifida and hydrocephalus. With more than 5,000 individuals and their families in Ontario, SB&H must continue to support and educate parents, individuals and professionals.

The demand for services by people with hydrocephalus only is on the rise. Adults with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus are asking for our support to live fuller, happier and healthier lives.

It is essential for SB&H to develop new and enhanced delivery systems to eliminate isolation and strengthen our ability to reach and support individuals in their homes and communities. We have been working to grow our partnerships and strategic alliances province-wide to further enrich program and service delivery.

This year, our efforts have been driven by the Association's newly developed strategic plan.



# ACTIVITIES and Accomplishments

## Awareness and Education

Each year, thousands of Ontarians learn about spina bifida and hydrocephalus. Our education and awareness activities increase knowledge of these conditions and the importance of folic acid in the prevention of neural tube defects (NTD's). It is our hope that we can help reduce the incidence rate and ultimately eradicate these conditions.

### "Folic Acid, It's Never too Early" Awareness Campaign

SB&H is committed to reducing the incidence of neural tube defects (NTD's) through effective and consistent education targeted at women and professionals. Our folic acid website had over 550,000 visits this year.



- We produced and distributed 40,000 Folic Acid Awareness brochures and more than 400 posters.
- The majority of Ontario dietitians, nutritionists and midwives were contacted and supplied with our educational materials for use in their community.
- Students from the Ryerson University School of Nursing, on placement with SB&H, continued to play an important role in this health promotion campaign.

**Information Packages** are individually researched and customized. Pertinent information about every aspect of sb/h is prepared and distributed regularly to parents of newborns, individuals, family members, professionals, hospitals, children's treatment centres and other community partners.

- Over 800 of these information packages were supplied as a result of direct requests for this service.

June is **Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month** in communities across Ontario. At this time, we make a concentrated effort to educate the public about sb/h.

- We distributed over 20,000 educational bookmarks through more than 700 public libraries across the province.
- 24 communities in Ontario proclaimed June as Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month.

**Kids on the Block** is an award winning educational and outreach program performed in schools by puppeteer troupes featuring puppets with and without disabilities. In this venue children and educators alike learn about disabilities and stereotypes. SB&H supports this program through sponsorship and training with our partners including the National Council of Jewish Women, The Arthritis Society, The Canadian Mental Health Association, Epilepsy Association, The Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy and The Canadian Hearing Society.

- More than 30,000 school children learned about sb/h through this program.
- Troupes performed the spina bifida & hydrocephalus script throughout Ontario.



*You have an amazing charity. It has made a huge difference in the lives of those with spina bifida and hydrocephalus. Thanks for being there!*

*They are excellent...I gave them to my daughter to read... the style of the books make them easy to read and understand. Now it is not just mum saying this – someone has written it down. We appreciate all the work you do. Thanks.*

SB&H **Publications** include our magazine *Current* and a regional newsletter, *Current Bulletin*. They continue to be an important resource for our members, professionals and those seeking more information about spina bifida and hydrocephalus.

- Three issues each of *Current* and *Current Bulletin* were produced this year.
- We published inspiring personal stories, the latest research and informative articles on disability related topics.
- Over 1,200 copies were sent to individuals and professionals while the Bulletin is distributed to more than 700 members in communities across the province.

**Complimentary Education Materials (books, cd's and guides)** are given to our members to assist them in coping with the medical, social and educational challenges of living with of sb/h every day.

This year, we implemented a new program that provided resources for children and youth to help them effectively manage their condition.

- More than 480 books were distributed to our youth.

Our **Resource Centre** is one of the best places to locate current information about all aspects of spina bifida and hydrocephalus. We offer comprehensive, reliable and accessible resources on spina bifida, hydrocephalus and other disability related topics.



## Care and Support

Adults, children, youth, parents and guardians receive information, resources, emotional support, counselling and networking opportunities from SB&H. 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 facilitate peer linkages to connect people with similar experiences. These support networks also provide access to information about medical procedures and community support and enable us to reach out to more individuals in smaller communities across the province.

- Support services were accessed through our toll free line, email, website and personal meetings. We had nearly 750,000 hits on the SB&H website in 2006/07.
- Our Online Community Forum connected people from all corners of the province and enabled them to share information. We have over 400 registered users on the forum. This important service reached individuals in smaller communities who may not have easy access to information and support.
- We met with hundreds of families at Ontario children's treatment centres.
- Our Linking Program for parents, adults and youth connected volunteers with individuals who requested support.
- Taster's Club is one of our most popular programs. SB&H facilitated the opportunity for adults with sb/h to meet in a relaxed supportive setting. Attendance continued to rise at these networking events.
- The Adult Hydrocephalus Support Group brought adults with hydrocephalus together to offer mutual support and share coping strategies. In the past year, attendance at this group has grown significantly.
- Once again we partnered with the Niagara Centre YMCA to provide therapeutic benefits for youth and their families. Exercise is crucial to maintaining the health and well being of individuals with sb/h. We purchased group memberships to offer this program to over 80 individuals in the region.
- Children and youth had access to organized programs aimed at increasing self-esteem, providing emotional and resource support to assist them in becoming self-reliant. Youth Drop-In events were held throughout the year in cooperation with our partners.
- Scholarship awards and bursaries were 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. Seven awards were granted this year totalling \$6,800.

## Advocacy

SB&H works continuously on behalf of people with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus to identify and address the key issues and trends that affect them. We give voice to our members' concerns and needs through participation in coalitions and alliances at local and provincial levels.

- SB&H recruited, trained and supported members of the Association to be representatives on a variety of committees and stakeholder groups.
- We partnered with the following organizations to achieve our shared goals: Bloorview Kid's Rehab, Erinoak, Hospital for Sick Children, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO), Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee on Special Education Advisory Committees (PAAC), Ministry Advisory Council on Special Education, Individualized Funding Coalition, SexAbility, and the Folic Acid Alliance Ontario.

## Research

We support research that will contribute to finding a cure and improving the quality of life for all individuals with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus and their families. We work in partnership with many leading research facilities, including the Hospital for Sick Children, Bloorview Kids Rehab, Easter Seal Society and McMaster Health Sciences Centre.

- A regular column in CURRENT, "From the Medical Journals" keeps people abreast of the latest research from around the world.
- We began collaborating with the Motherisk program at HSC on a new folic acid study.
- Our support of the Spina Bifida Assessment of Neurobehavioural Development, International (SANDI) project continued.
- We partnered with U of T Faculty of Dentistry on research related to access to dental care for people with disabilities by supplying surveys to our members.
- Provided letter of support to Dr. Nancy Young, Canada Research Chair & Associate Professor for ECHO (Evaluating Children's Health Outcomes) at Laurentian University to continue their study – "Living Longer with Physical Disabilities from Childhood".

*Thank you very much for the vital work your agency does for those of us who have hydrocephalus.*

# THANK-YOU Volunteers!

Volunteering may not make you rich, but it can make you happy. In 2006/07, 260 volunteers gave 4,075 hours to the Association. SB&H was lucky to have had such dedicated people willing to share their expertise, and more importantly their time.

Volunteers contributed at every level of the organization, from leadership on our Board of Directors, to program and service delivery, fundraising and office assistance. Their hard work, in concert with staff, has helped us make life a little brighter for people living with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Adult/Parent/Youth Link  
Ambassador  
Awareness Display Attendant  
Baby Blanket/Outfit Maker  
Bingo Event Organizer/Assistant  
Board Member  
Coalition Representative  
Cooperative Program Representative  
Coin Box Program Representative  
Committee Member  
Community Awareness Distributor  
Community Contact  
Fundraising Event Participant  
Gift In Kind Source Locator  
Library Assistant  
Lottery Calendar Seller  
Media Advisor  
Media Spokesperson  
Medical Advisor  
Office Support  
Photographer  
Public Educator  
Researcher  
Scholarship Selection Committee Member  
Social Event Organizer  
Special Education Advisory Committee  
Special Event Organizer  
Special Event Assistant  
Support Group Organizer  
Translator/Interpreter  
Volunteer Recruiter  
Writer

*If you want to be happy for an hour, take a nap;  
if you want to be happy for a day, go fishing;  
if you want to be happy for a week, take a vacation;  
if you want to be happy for a month, get married;  
if you want to be happy for a year, inherit a fortune;  
if you want to be happy for the rest of your life, help other people.*

*Chinese Proverb*



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## 2006-2007 AWARD RECIPIENTS

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of SB&H, we extend our sincere appreciation to the following volunteers for their extraordinary efforts.

### Citation of Merit

Sandi Beaudoin  
Robin Reitz

### Special Recogniton

Larry Beaudoin  
Carolina Gillio-Meina  
Jay Polczer  
Vince Polczer  
Eduardo Retamal  
Arlene Szorvas  
Jack Szorvas  
Shirley Wuerch

### Top Sellers

#### TGIF Lottery Calendar

Tom Dawdy  
Kathryn Grossman  
Barbara Protomanni  
Marnie Przybylski

## 2006-2007 SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the recipients of our Dr. E. Bruce Hendrick Scholarship and The Luciana Spring Mascarin Bursary Awards.

### Dr. E. Bruce Hendrick Recipients

Tanya Beacham  
Marie-Josée Blier  
Caitlynn Hannah  
Stacy Jacobson  
Karl Ludwig  
Susan Peloski  
Heather Willis  
Tanya Beacham

### Luciana Spring Mascarin Recipients

Jennica Lemieux Agatha Plizga