

Jacob's fight against cancer spurs fundraisers for Sick Kids

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chemotherapy.
The grace with which Jacob accepted the relentless rounds of treatment was amazing, said Robertson.

"I said (to his parents) I hope he's going out for Halloween as a superhero," she said.

On October 5, Jacob was pronounced cancer free and the family is "cautiously optimistic," she said.

Throughout Jacob's ordeal, family and friends felt helpless, said Robertson. "We didn't know what to do."

They began with a Facebook page entitled Journey for Jacob, which jumped from

50 to 250 followers in one day and evolved into an overwhelming community outpouring of compassion that still overwhelms Robertson.

Within mere weeks, fundraising events were organized, as was a 20-member team of aunts, uncles, co-workers, friends and neighbours to participate in September's Sears Great Canadian Run to End Kids Cancer.

The Journey for Jacob team completed the 131-km run from Toronto to Blue Mountain four days after Jacob's last chemo treatment. "We couldn't think of a better way to celebrate than with the run."

Interspersed with the major fundraising events were smaller spontaneous fundraisers and unsolicited donations, plus wristband and Journey for Jacob T-shirt sales.

In total, a staggering \$69,492.77 was raised for the Sick Kids oncology unit.

"It's really important for us that this money go to the oncology department, go to the people we saw weekly with Jacob," said Robertson.

Throughout the family's heartbreaking journey, they have felt the warm embrace of the Milton community, said Robertson.

Even Simon Williams, series director for the Sears Run noted in his closing remarks to the runners how inspirational the town was, she added.

"He said he has never experienced such a community as that of Milton. The town of Milton needs to celebrate this," she said.

There have been too many contributing retailers, businesses and individuals to mention for fear of forgetting someone, said

Robertson, but she did want to give a special shout out to Sargent Farms and South 202 for their generosity, and flourgirls who donated cookies and cupcakes to sell at both the Sears Run and Sick Kids. "All ages got involved. It was overwhelming."

Jacob has also been granted a wish by the Children's Wish Foundation and he and his family were recently treated to a Disney cruise.

"This has been a tremendous, tremendous eye opener," said Robertson.

The experience makes you realize how financial support is so critical to the work of the Sick Kids oncology department, she added.

"They need support. All of the people affected but also the people in the oncology department, the staff, researchers, doctors, nurses, the volunteers — this whole group of people under the umbrella of Sick Kids."

Kathy Yanchus can be reached at kyanchus@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

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