

It's About Ability!

Winter 2018



Meet Bernard!

Children's Rehabilitation Foundation
2018 Youth Ambassador

As Bernard steadies himself to take the first few steps on his new prosthetic running leg, he grips the parallel bars as Rehabilitation Centre for Children (RCC) clinicians guide him through the motions.

Within minutes, Bernard progresses into the hallway—needing a little more running space to perfect his layup and jump shot footwork.

“My dream is to be one of the youngest players in the Paralympics,” he beams.

The 12-year-old has proven he has the determination to get there. Bernard was born with a proximal femoral focal deficiency

(PFFD). The condition affects how the hip joint and leg develop, and as a result, he underwent a hip disarticulation. Only a small portion of people who have this rare amputation are able to walk independently.

But Bernard is showing others that disability is not a barrier. He spends most of his time running from basketball and wheelchair basketball, to sledge hockey and hip hop dance classes.

The Children's Rehabilitation Foundation (CRF) helped fund part of a prosthetic leg with a hydraulic control system that allows him to walk and run and multiple speeds.

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Bernard takes his first few steps on his brand new prosthetic running leg at the Rehabilitation Centre for Children.

This past year he also received a high-performance sled, so he can continue to progress as a hockey player.

"The sled has made me faster, shoot higher and my agility is super good," he says. "My favourite part is racing up the ice while puck handling and scoring goals for my team."

As the 2018 Youth Ambassador for CRF, Bernard will spend the

year representing the children and youth who benefit from the equipment, programs and services provided by CRF and RCC.

I want people to know that if you have a disability, or know someone who has a disability, do not doubt them. If they put their minds to it, they can do anything.

"To me, being the ambassador means having responsibility and committing myself to being a role model for younger kids," he says about taking on the role. "I want people to

know that if you have a disability, or know someone who has a disability, do not doubt them. If they put their minds to it, they can do anything."

Volunteer Profile

Rhéal Grenier can't say enough about how much he enjoys volunteering with Children's Rehabilitation Foundation (CRF).

"When you ask anyone or any organization why they do the things they do, you see that CRF has the best reason - to help kids and their families, and they follow it perfectly," Rhéal explains about his reason for volunteering with CRF.

This commitment was reinforced for him when he

volunteered at the 20th annual RBC Cruisin' Down the Crescent in 2016. Despite lightning striking a nearby powerline, which resulted in a fire, the event carried on.

"When I saw the fire department stick around after they were finished, opening up their truck to all the children and families, I saw a group of people who had no obligation to be there, but immediately wanted to stay and participate," he shares. "They saw the value of what we were trying to accomplish that day, and wanted to be a part of it."

Rhéal sees a very real purpose to what CRF does for children and families.



Rhéal Grenier (right) volunteering on CRF's security team at 2016's RBC Cruisin' Down the Crescent.

"Whenever you can put words to action, and volunteer for a hallmark organization like CRF, you can't beat that feeling."

Winnipeg Jets Holiday Visit

The Winnipeg Jets made a visit to Children's Rehabilitation Foundation in December. Players chatted with families, took photos and handed out gifts to kids.



Thank you to the Jets players and staff for bringing joy to children during the holidays.

Upcoming Events

RIDE FOR CHILDREN'S REHABILITATION FOUNDATION
FEB 7-10, 2018

Join us for a two-day snowmobile adventure in support of CRF! This year's ride is at South Beach Casino & Resort. Riders will embark on daily trips along picturesque routes of the Interlake Snow Trackers' trail system.

Contact Adell at adell@crf.mb.ca or (204) 258-6702 to register.

MID-CANADA BOAT SHOW
MAR 1-4, 2018

The Mid-Canada Boat Show has over 135,000 sq ft of everything you need for summer fun! We will be at the show selling Air Canada Raffle tickets for \$5 each. The winner will receive two tickets any Air Canada destination in North America.

RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg

RBC CRUISIN' DOWN THE CRESCENT
JUNE 10, 2018

Mark your calendars! This year's RBC Cruisin' Down the Crescent is set for Sunday, June 10. Join us as friends, families and community members make their way down beautiful Wellington Crescent in support of children living with disabilities.

Andrew Currie Park-1420 Wellington Cres

FOR MORE INFO VISIT CRF.MB.CA

Thoughtful Thank You



Ray's NoFrills' employees collected donations through an in-store fundraiser to purchase a specialized bike for Brandon.

Dear Ray and the wonderful NoFrills team,

I am writing on behalf of Brandon Beel, as he is unable to communicate as a result of a severe brain injury at birth. His life has been as full as we can make it. But, of course, there are numerous things he is unable to do as a healthy child would do. Riding a bike is one of them.

Your generosity in fundraising to get Brandon a bike is something that leaves us speechless and so full of gratitude. Your whole team is very pleasant, polite and respectful when asking if customers would like to make a donation to the foundation, as I've witnessed when shopping here. I would like you all to know and see what your dedication to this cause results in.

For us, this bike means Brandon can be along with his family, friends and peers when out and about in the summer. It also is used by his school all year round as part of his physical therapy because otherwise he is in a wheelchair. To Brandon it's another way of seeing and experiencing the world and for us it's another activity we can include him in.

We would like to thank each and every one of you for your desire to make this happen for children and for Brandon. We will continue to spread the word that when someone asks if you want to help a special cause it really does go to those cause. Again, thank you sounds so small because to us this is huge and life changing.

- Brandon Beel, Michelle Nowakowski-Beel & Trever Beel



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