



Dear

My name is Varun Coelho and this is my story of how the Cancer Assistance Program (CAP) helped me in my fight to defeat cancer.

In September of 2016, a week after my 15th birthday, I had trouble breathing and was immensely exhausted to the point where I had to go the emergency room. It was not until the following week, after a series of tests and scans, that I was diagnosed with T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and was put on a treatment protocol that would last for 3 years.

The news was tough and would be one of the biggest challenges my family and I would have to overcome. I was determined to not let this dreadful disease take control of me. I didn't feel sorry for myself and continued school through all of the pain and suffering. It was difficult, but life has a way of bringing the human spirit of determination out of anyone who is willing to fight. I would be lying if I said I did not need help, and that's where the Cancer Assistance Program came into our lives.

My family needed resources to get through this challenging chapter of our lives and CAP was there for us to fulfill these needs. For instance, I was taking a steroid medication that had the side-effect of bone pain. When the doctors had to increase the dosage of this particular drug, I experienced a pain in my legs so bad that I could not walk without falling over in agony. We needed a pediatric wheelchair until that phase of treatment was over. CAP was able to provide us with this much needed piece of equipment at no charge.

When I arrived at the CAP office, I was greeted by a friendly and understanding volunteer who allowed me to test out various wheelchairs. When I had chosen one, they said I could take it home – just like that! They also recommended that I try a shower chair so I didn't have to stand when taking a shower. This was valuable advice and proved to be quite useful.

The Cancer Assistance Program was there when I needed them the most. They were never hesitant to provide me with the help I needed. When I was asked to share my story for this holiday letter, I did not hesitate. I wanted to write my story in my own words to let everyone know how life was a little bit easier for me and my family with CAP's help. When you first hear you have cancer, your world really does change and to have an organization like CAP provide the services and resources you need, for FREE, really is amazing.

“My family needed resources to get through this challenging chapter of our lives and CAP was there for us to fulfill these needs.”

(PLEASE TURN OVER)

Yes, I want to make a gift to CAP this holiday season.
I would like to make a one-time gift of:

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$200 ☐ Other \$_____

THIS AREA BLANK FOR ADDRESS IMPRINTING

Please make cheque payable to Cancer Assistance Program.
To make your gift online please go to www.cancerassist.ca.
Charitable Registration Number 14026 2759 RR0001

☐ I have enclosed my cheque made payable to **Cancer Assistance Program**

☐ I authorize CAP to charge my credit card in the amount indicated at left.

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card # _____

Expiry _____ CVV _____

Name on Card _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Phone _____

Email _____



This holiday season, I would ask you to join me and my family and consider making a gift to help other men, women and kids like me who have cancer. The Cancer Assistance Program receives no sustainable government funding and relies on the financial support of our community to provide practical and essential services to help cancer patients remain in their homes while undergoing treatment.

“...life was a little bit easier for me and my family with CAP’s help.”

Please make your holiday gift TODAY. You will be helping families like mine when they really need it!

Thank you,

Varun Coelho

PS. The day after I wrote this letter I found out I had the highest grade average in my grade 11 class and that made me feel really good.

A Message from the Cancer Assistance Program

Cancer knows no boundaries. It affects young and old, wealthy and poor. It is projected that 1 in 2 Canadians will be diagnosed with cancer and 1 in 4 will die from the disease.

In the Greater Hamilton community, the incidence of a cancer diagnosis has risen 3% in the past year and the number of newly diagnosed is forecasted to continue to rise as a result of two key factors: the life expectancy of Canadians is increasing and the incidence of a cancer diagnosis increases with age. In addition to a growth in the number of newly diagnosed, the number of people living with cancer has grown 6% in the past year as a result of advances in cancer treatments allowing patients to live longer with the disease.

The Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) reports statistics that indicate that the area supported by the LHIN (Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant) is expected to see a 13% increase in cancer diagnosis, which is higher than the national average and higher than the expectation for the province of Ontario. Support for cancer patients in our community is required and this need will continue to increase.

Research has shown that when the ability to attend appointments is supported through services, clients can manage treatment plans while staying in their homes through the support of home care aids. When supports are offered to enhance a positive state-of-mind, patients attend appointments as scheduled and complications from the disease and lack of attention to treatment plans are reduced. This in turn can decrease the health care costs associated with cancer treatment. CAP provides these supports free of charge to cancer patients and their families for as long as they are needed.

This holiday season, we ask you to support families like Varun’s and ensure those in need get the help they require.

Yes, I want to make a gift to CAP this holiday season.

Monthly Giving:

I authorize CAP to charge my credit card in the amount of \$_____ on or after the 15th of each month, commencing in the month after I date my request.

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card # _____

Expiry _____ CVV _____

Name on Card _____

Date _____ Signature _____

Phone _____ Email _____



Cancer Assistance
PROGRAM

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Thank You!

An official tax receipt will be issued for all gifts of \$20 and above. Monthly donors receive one tax receipt at the end of the year for the full amount.