# BEST BULLETIN



# **VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER**

Welcome to the first edition of the Best Bulletin. This quarterly newsletter will keep you up to date with volunteerism and events at The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre. This first issue is an update from all of 2024.



# CENTRE SPOTLIGHTS

# FOUNDER MARLENE GRASS, RN

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, presented the Meriterious Service Medal to Marlene Grass, Founder of The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre.

Marlene was nominated for the Canadian Honour due to her many years of extraordinary service to the community of type 1 diabetes.



Marlene founded The Best Centre in 1989 and today it supports more than 2,000 children and adults living with type 1 diabetes.

Marlene continues to actively contribute her time and knowledge as a member of the Board and community volunteer.

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

### BUILDING ON THE BEST

This year we announced an increased goal of \$8 million for the Building on the Best campaign. Expansion and renovations will triple the current footprint and upon completion will include full accessibility to the second floor by elevator, 25 patient counselling spaces, a large event and education space, 7 multipurpose rooms, 2 pediatric and 1 adult clinic areas and a rental office.

### **VOLUNTEER MARY TODD**



Meet Mary Todd, a long time volunteer with a special connection to the centre dating back to our beginnings! Mary was one of the first nurses hired at The Best Centre.

Mary, and her husband, Bill (not pictured), go above and beyond in their volunteer efforts for our Centre. In full gratitude, thank-you for your dedication and hard work. We appreciate you and Bill!

#### PATIENT ALEX CROSS



Alex is a Best Centre patient that was diagnosed in 2019. Alex and her family have been great advocates and volunteers of the centre, participating in events, campaign and speaking engagements.

Your volunteerism and fundraising efforts support patients and families just like Alex.

Thank You!

# 35 YEARS OF THE BEST



Founded in 1989, this year marked 35 years of The Best Centre supporting patients and families managing type 1 diabetes.

We held celebrations throughout the year at peer connection events, The WALK for the BEST and during Diabetes Awareness Month. Thank you to all who supported!

In celebration of The Best Centre's 35th anniversary, purchase your ticket for a chance to win a 7-night villa stay located in playa del coco, Guanacaste, Costa Rica (\$6,225)

value). Sleeps 7-10 people. Blackout dates apply and airfare is not included.

**Tickets:** \$35 each or 12 for \$350. Draw on December 20th at 4pm.



**SCAN TO PURCHASE** 

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# 2024 FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

## WALK for the BEST



The annual WALK for the BEST, held on September 22nd, was a great success! Thank-you to all volunteers for donating your time!

# of volunteers: 32 Hours Given: 212 **Funds Raised:** \$73,000

**IMPACT**: \$2,281 raised per volunteer



## BEST of the BEST YARD SALE



Volunteers fundraised for the Building on the Best campaign with a yard sale on June 8th. It was a beautiful day with great success!

# of volunteers: ~50 Hours Given: ~200 **Funds Raised:** \$5,000 \$100 raised **IMPACT**:

per volunteer

### SPRING & FALL CLEAN UP

Big thank-you to the TELUS volunteer team and Best Centre volunteers for their efforts with the spring and fall clean-ups of our beloved Best Centre.

**Saturday**, **May 25**, 2024 Saturday, October 26, 2024 Saturday, November 23, 2024



### THE BEST BINGO



Pictured left to right: Tracey Brown, Susan Young, Dorothy Boehm, Jackie Hill, and Tracey Cooke

The Best Centre has been partnered with Red Barn Bingo for decades. Volunteers give their time monthly to raise funds towards our T1D programs and services.

The dedicated group of volunteers (pictured) continue to support this fundraising effort year after year and the impact they have made is substantial! THANK YOU!

2024

**IMPACT**:

# of volunteers: 5 ~555 Hours Given: \$26,125 **Funds Raised:** 

> \$5,225 per volunteer on average

Not Pictured: special thanks to our back up volunteers - Catherine Barrack and Elizabeth Wrigley

### DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH



Diabetes and well-being is the theme for World Diabetes Day 2024-26. This November many supporters raised awareness by sharing a photo of their best blue outfits and joining the #DiabetesBlueCrue.

#### BETTER IMPACT

As a valued volunteer, we ask that you register yourself on the Better Impact web page. Better Impact is an online hub for the Best Centre and our to communicate, volunteers share opportunities and track progress. Register Today!



SCAN TO REGISTER

Your opinions matter and we want to hear from **YOU!** Please send feedback regarding your volunteer experience to fundraising@charleshbest.com.

WWW.CHARLESHBEST.COM