

It's been some time since we wrote to our friends about the important work we are doing - work you and others have made possible through your generous support.

We want to keep you updated on the many new developments that are strengthening our ability to put Canadian children - all children - on the best possible footing for success now and throughout their lives.



A new name - the same strong commitment to the health of our children



The Canadian Centre for Studies of Children at Risk is now the Offord Centre for Child Studies, a tribute to our founder, Dr. Dan Offord, who recently passed away. Dan believed in a level playing field for all children, regardless of their economic or social backgrounds, and his passion and conviction continues to inspire our work.

"Dr. Dan", dies at age 70

Dr. Dan Offord, director of the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University and director of Christie Lake Camp, has died at age 70.

Dr. Offord, who became a member of the Order of Canada in 2001 for his work to help better the lives of children around the world, died last month on Saturday, April 10, 2004.

For the last twenty years, Dr. Offord led a team of scientists, clinicians, and staff at the Offord Centre dedicated to finding solutions to the emotional, social, and cognitive problems faced by disadvantaged children.

"Dan devoted his life to understanding the factors that make children vulnerable and that put them at risk of a poorer quality of life", said Dr. Peter Szatmari, acting director of the centre. "He thought deeply about the interventions that communities need to put in place to reduce the burden of suffering associated with psychosocial disadvantage and with emotional and behavioural problems in children and youth."

Jean Pigott, founding chair of the Offord Centre, said: "Dr. Dan was a giant of a man who understood that our future lies in the hands of our children- the leaders of tomorrow."

For 47 years, Dr. Dan was also the director of Christie Lake Camp near Perth, Ontario, where close to 400 disadvantaged boys and girls enjoyed a camp experience each summer.

Dr. Szatmari said Dr. Offord was widely recognized for his world-class research achievements, his leadership in the field of child psychiatric epidemiology, his

educational contribution to generations of medical students, physicians, and other health care professionals. His devotion to the cause of disadvantaged children was unsurpassed.

Peter George, president and vice-chancellor of McMaster University, said Dr. Offord was an outstanding child psychiatrist.

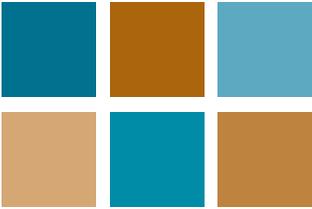
"Dan Offord's contributions to childhood mental health touched many lives, from the children with emotional and behavioural problems affected by his clinical work to his colleagues and students who revered him as mentor and friend, he said. His legacy at McMaster will live on in the Offord Centre for Child Studies."

Dr. John Kelton, dean and vice-president, health sciences, said: "Dr. Offord was an unassuming man, but he had international stature.

His love of children, especially troubled children, translated into a career that has benefited thousands of children not just here, but around the world. He was dearly loved by his patients and his co-workers. He was a man of great gentleness and kindness.

I'm glad we have the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University as his legacy."

Dr. Dan Offord was a professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster University since 1978 and was Canada's most distinguished child psychiatrist. World-renowned for his work with disadvantaged children, Dr. Dan Offord was a highly sought



Offord CENTRE FOR CHILD STUDIES

after speaker and consultant on children's issues. He was the recipient of many prestigious awards, chaired several national and international committees and his work has been widely published. Dr. Dan passionately spent his life searching for ways to help kids who need help the most.

Dan Offord leaves behind his wife Margaret, his children Karen (Dave), Michael, Jennifer (Kennedy) and Stephen (Jessica), his stepchildren Caroline and Janeen Parkin and his cousin Kathleen Rockburn. He was truly a great Canadian and will be

sorely missed by his family, his colleagues and by children throughout the world.

A memorial service will be held for Dr. Offord at 2:00 pm on June 10, 2004 at the Royal Botanical Gardens, RBG Centre, 683 Plains Road West, Burlington, Ontario.

To honour Dr. Offord's memory, donations can be made to:

**Offord Centre for Child Studies
1200 Main Street West
Chedoke Site, Patterson Building
Hamilton, ON L8N 3Z5**

Important new findings from our Ontario Child Health Study

This groundbreaking study, begun in 1983, is continuing to unearth new findings about child health and functioning and the factors that produce emotionally healthy adults. What's the relationship between physical or sexual abuse in childhood and depression in young adulthood? Why do adults who smoke have fewer years of education? Find the answers to these questions and more at www.offordcentre.com.

Chedoke Site
Patterson Building
1200 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
Canada L8N 3Z5

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www.offordcentre.com



Our Golf-a-thon lets you Chip in FORE Children, and have fun, too!

Our most successful annual event takes place Monday, September 13, at Tyandaga Golf Course in Burlington. As always, it's sure to be well attended, so reserve now for a day of great golf and great prizes. If you're interested in playing, please call Pati Greenwood at 905-521-2100 ext. 75977 for more information. If you can't make it out onto the course, you can still participate by sponsoring a fellow golfer at www.offordcentre.com.

A public education series so you, too, can learn the keys to healthy child development

Our researchers have made great strides, with the result that we have many more answers than we ever did before. We're eager to share that knowledge, so that parents and families, educators and other professionals will have access to the latest information about what works and what doesn't – knowledge we can all use to make a difference in the lives of the children around us. Complete our enclosed return card to find out more.

An endowed chair in child psychiatry - the first in Canada

Dr. Peter Szatmari, Acting Director of the Offord Centre, researcher and leading expert in the study of autism and pervasive developmental disorders, has been named the first holder of the Chedoke Health Chair in Child Psychiatry, further cementing the Centre's reputation as a leader in children's mental health.



Stay informed, get involved

As a member of our Offord Centre "family", you deserve special treatment. Join our subscriber list and we'll send you advance email notice of all Offord Centre events and activities, along with the latest research news on important issues affecting children's emotional and behavioral development. Be sure to include your email address on the enclosed return card.

All children deserve to receive the same developmental opportunities during their growing up years. Society benefits. We all benefit.

We can't thank you enough for your past support. With your help, our research is unlocking the key to what helps children grow into healthy, productive adults, so that every child, whatever their early difficulties, can look forward to a brighter and more promising future.

