MEMORIES AND EDUCATION FOR LIFE

Wake up, glucose test, breakfast, insulin, clean cabin, swim, snack, kayak, glucose test, lunch, insulin, hike, snack, archery, glucose test, dinner, insulin, games, campfire, lights out. It’s a very full day for the 7-16-year-olds at Camp Dragonfly!

“Every child deserves an unforgettable summer camp experience, and every parent deserves to know their child is safe,” said Past Council Chair Susan Sangster, who managed a project in New Brunswick that brought together 62 children with type 1 diabetes, local medical professionals, and camp programming specialists for a fun-filled week that let kids bearing the burden of chronic disease simply be kids.

Instrumental in bringing Camp Dragonfly to fruition was a solid year of planning and coordination by Lions, local financial support, and a US$10,000 grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). “Children with chronic illness need not feel isolated,” said Sangster. “Camp offered education about diet, exercise, and medication management in a fun-filled, uplifting environment where kids built confidence, friendships, peer support networks, and memories for a lifetime. That feels good for everyone.”
A Disease of Epic Proportion

2.3 million.
That’s the number of people in this part of the world with diabetes, equating to more than seven percent of Canada’s population aged 12 and older. But that’s just the beginning. Consider these sobering insights into the disease the World Health Organization says is the eighth leading cause of death worldwide:

- 1 in 3 Canadians has diabetes or prediabetes
- $15.3B will be spent on diabetes-related healthcare by 2022

That’s here. Globally, diabetes looked like this in 2019:

- ~463 million 20-79-year-olds had diabetes
- Cases expected by 2045: 700 million
- 50% of diabetes cases were undiagnosed
- 10% of all health expenditure on adults was due to diabetes
- 374 million people were at increased risk of type 2 diabetes
- 4.2 million deaths were caused by diabetes
- Type 1 diabetes has no known cause nor cure; combating type 2 diabetes — often caused by poor diet and lack of exercise — requires education and behaviour modification programs. Left untreated, diabetes can lead to blindness, nerve damage, kidney failure, stroke, heart attack, and more

LCIF AND LIONS
Funding Service, Delivering Solutions
Since 2000, diabetes’ prevalence has risen more than 300%. LCIF and Lions are there, and part of the solution to this global epidemic.

lcif.org/diabetes

Sources/Note: 1 International Diabetes Federation; 2 Statistics Canada; 3, 6, 7 World Health Organization; 4 Diabetes Canada; 5 National Center for Biotechnology Information; grant limits subject to change