Canadian Congenital Heart Alliance (CCHA)

The Canadian Congenital Heart Alliance is a registered charitable organization made up of children and adults with a congenital heart defect, their family and friends, and the medical community. With your support, we will improve the quality of care and life for these patients, most of whom require ongoing expert care.

Facts about Congenital Heart Defects

- Congenital heart defects (CHD) are structural defects of the heart that are present at birth
- CHD is the most common type of birth defect, affecting 1 in 100 newborns
- There are 180,000 Canadians with CHD – significantly more than those with Parkinson’s disease (100,000), multiple sclerosis (75,000), and cerebral palsy (50,000)
- In the past, few CHD patients made it past their teens. Most patients with CHD today are over the age of 18, and most require life-long specialist care
- CHD patients have a wide variety of heart defects, each type requiring different levels of intervention and monitoring
- Many CHD patients suffer from psycho-social issues, such as difficulty at school, employment challenges, and anxiety
- Only about one-quarter of adult CHD patients who should be monitored by a specialist are being seen, due to lack of awareness about the ongoing needs of CHD patients

Please Help Us Help You!

To join the CCHA, find out more about CHD, or donate, please visit us at www.cchaforlife.org, or email us at communications@cchaforlife.org.

Free CCHA Membership Includes:

- Canada Protection Plan’s “no medical examination needed” life insurance (through our exclusive broker)
- A regular e-newsletter
- Local educational and social events
- Membership in the “exclusive” CHD community

The Role of the CCHA

Awareness – Raising awareness of CHD among members of the medical community, other agencies, government, and general public

Education – Organizing workshops and patient education days for people of all ages living with CHD, their families, and the general public

Advocacy – Working with government, the medical community, and funding agencies to ensure the needs of CHD patients are better met

Outreach – Providing peer support and mentoring programs for patients and their families

Research – Promoting research initiatives aimed at enhancing outcomes and quality of life for CHD patients

Our Mission

To improve the quality of life and health outcomes for individuals with congenital heart defects by raising awareness, providing peer support and mentoring, and promoting research.

www.cchaforlife.org

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