

# Chronicle Honors

Henry Schein Cares

## B.C. orthodontist's Tin Grin Cup raises funds for various charities

■ Dr. Paul Helpard and family host annual event; are latest nominees to Chronicle Honors/Henry Schein Cares spotlight

**T**HE BIRTH OF A CHILD IS A MAJOR event in one's life that is both a happy and challenging time. It is even more challenging when the child is one who has special needs.

Paul Helpard, DDS, MS, an orthodontist who heads Shoreline Orthodontics, which has offices in Courtenay and Campbell River, B.C., became a father to a special needs child with the birth of his son Benjamin in 1996.

Benjamin was not hitting developmental milestones at the expected time, and Dr. Helpard and his wife Christine, a physical therapist, were concerned. They sought medical advice to find out what was wrong and how they could help their son.

"We started going to developmental pediatricians when Benjamin was about one year of age," explains Dr. Helpard, noting his son, now 14, is learning to speak.

### ORGANIZATIONS STRAPPED FOR CASH

The Helpards, who now in addition to Benjamin have another son, Sam, and a daughter, Amelia, observed that many children's organizations in the province were strapped for cash.

"The time that Benjamin could spend with an occupational therapist was reduced because our local child development agency didn't have the funding," says Dr. Helpard.



The Helpard family (l to r): daughter Amelia, son Sam, Dr. Helpard, wife Christine, and son Benjamin.

"We realized that they were woefully underfunded."

This observation prompted him to find a way to help. He was just new to orthodontic practice at the time.

"I was looking for a way to develop a connection with the dental community," says Dr. Helpard, noting he knew of an orthodontic colleague in another community who ran a golf tournament

for referring dentists that was primarily a social event.

Dr. Helpard decided a golf tournament could be both social and charitable, with the beneficiaries being local children's organizations. The Tin Grin Cup was born.

Since its inception in 1998, the Tin Grin Cup has seen more than \$227,000 donated to B.C. charities such as the

Comox Valley Child Development Association, Comox Valley Therapeutic Riding, Powell River Therapeutic Riding, and Sunrise Resources in Campbell River.

### DAY STARTS OFF WITH LECTURE

The Tin Grin Cup typically features a morning lecture on clinical and practice management topics for which dentists and their staff earn continuing education credits. After the lecture, attendees are then treated to a lunch followed by the opportunity to play nine holes of golf or perhaps even take golf lessons for those new to the game. Dr. Helpard absorbs all the costs of the event and looks to sponsor such as Scotia Bank, 3M, and Henry Schein to provide prizes to attendees and for donations to the charities.

The Tin Grin Cup is awarded to the



Sam Helpard, Christine Helpard, and Benjamin Helpard at the Tin Grin Cup.

**Many dentists in Canada** give freely of their time, talent, and expertise to humanitarian endeavors in this country and around the world. In this new series, DENTAL CHRONICLE provides a brief glimpse into the lives and motivations of some of these Canadian dentists, who will tell their stories of how they made the decision to provide dental care for underserved citizens in Kenya, Nicaragua, or Canada's north, to name just a few examples. Others will tell their stories of how they raise funds for similar projects, or how they provide supplies or used equipment. All would agree, the rewards of being involved in these projects far outweigh any inconveniences or problems encountered. These men and women set the example for community service. They go beyond national borders to carry out their mission, and you'll read their stories in upcoming issues of DENTAL CHRONICLE. Publication of this series is made possible by Henry Schein Canada.



Jugoon

"Henry Schein, with programs like the Back to School program, Think Pink, Give Kids a Smile, Holiday Cheer, and our Global Product Donation, supports the needs of community-based health professionals and NGOs," says Peter Jugoon, Vice President, Marketing and Planning, Henry Schein Canada. "As a responsible corporate citizen, Henry Schein has also initiated programs for humanitarian relief and disaster preparedness and response," providing supplies, expertise, and money for natural disasters such as the earthquake in New Zealand, the Asian tsunami, and Hurricane Katrina.

"In this series called Chronicle Honors/Henry Schein Cares, we are honored to recognize some of the members of our Canadian dental community who are going above and beyond the call of duty to help make this a better world," Jugoon says. "We would like the entire dental community to know that we are very proud and appreciative of their good work."

office making the largest donation. More than 200 members of the dental community typically attend the event, with a core 100 being loyal attendees year after year.

Today, Dr. Helpard says virtually any activities in which he engages have a humanitarian element.

### FUND RAISING WORK WILL CONTINUE

"In everything I do in my life, I tag on some kind of fundraising to it," says Dr. Helpard, citing other programs such as Lose the Training Wheels, an initiative where special needs children are taught how to ride a bicycle and gain overall

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