



Together we can
make a difference

Our Mission

COMFORTING KIDS WITH CANCER, BELIEVE IN A BETTER TOMORROW

The Erica's Wish Blanket Program is a heartfelt initiative dedicated to bringing warmth, comfort, and hope to children facing the biggest battle of their lives, cancer. Inspired by the resilience and courage of Erica, a young girl who bravely battled her own health challenges, this program aims to spread comfort to those who need it most.

Through this program, we strive to make a positive impact in the lives of children and their families, reminding them that they are not alone in their journey. Whether it's during a hospital stay, a challenging treatment, or a moment of rest at home, these blankets serve as a comforting reminder of the compassion and community that surrounds them.

Join us in continuing Erica's legacy by contributing to the Blanket Program. Together, we can help bring a little more warmth and hope to those who need it most.



Erica

Erica's Wish began in 2009 to give a birthday celebration to a young girl who was battling Osteosarcoma (bone cancer). The same cancer that Terry Fox had. Erica, like Terry had a leg amputation and a grueling set of 67 rounds of chemo to fight this horrible disease. All this at the tender age of 12.

Race Director and Founder, Sue Strong asked Erica what she wanted to do for her 13th birthday. Erica stated "I want to bring awareness of childhood cancer by way of a race with cupcakes at the finish line" and so Erica's Wish began.

The event was meant to run for 5 years (but ended up going 6) with a specific word each year being the theme.

BELIEVE. COURAGE. STRENGTH.
DETERMINATION. WISDOM.

On the 6th year we celebrated all the themes on one shirt!



Erica

In 2015, we made the difficult decision to cancel the event when we realized Erica wouldn't be at the start line to greet everyone as she always had. Instead, she was pursuing her dream—training for the Rio Paralympics. Despite the cancellation, the Blanket Program continued to thrive, with countless supporters contributing because of their love for the initiative.

Erica's Paralympic journey didn't end in Rio. She proudly competed in Paris 2024 in the sport of Paracanoe. This achievement felt almost destined, given Erica's athletic roots as a provincial gymnast before her diagnosis.

Her journey began during a gymnastics practice when she heard a pop and discovered something was seriously wrong with her leg. That moment led to a diagnosis of Osteosarcoma and set her on a path of resilience and determination.

Since the very beginning in 2009, Erica has been the heart and soul of this program, inspiring the Erica's Wish community as we've cheered her on through every milestone and triumph.





Mom & Dad

When we heard those few words, "your child has cancer", words no parents should ever hear, it shook the ground beneath us. Then the ground shook a little more and a little deeper with Erica's treatment protocol. We were lucky enough to find a stable spot to stand with the outpouring support of family, friends, community and the Erica's Wish family.

Ron and Carmela Scarff



Childhood Cancer Stats

One in Five

About 1 in 5 children will not survive cancer and outcomes worsen for hard-to-cure cancers.

Number One Cause of Death

It is the #1 cause of death of Canadian children with six children being diagnosed each day.

More than 10,000

More than 10,000 children/adolescents in Canada are in treatment or 5-year follow-up for cancer right now.

Our Race



5K. 10K. 1K



Our Race



Virtual too!



Over The Years

4,000+ Blankets Donated

Blankets donated to The Hospital for Sick Children's Oncology Department

4,500+ Runners

Erindale Park was the home of the Erica's Wish from 2009-2014. Erica began Paralympic training and was unavailable to be at the event. We paused the event until 2019 when we brought it back virtually.

3,000+ Cupcakes

Our finish line cupcakes were a huge hit every year. We became known as the "Cupcake Run"

Together we can
comfort kids
nationally while
they fight the
biggest battle of
their lives.

Sue Strong, Founder

Fundraising and Costs

Blankets

Our blankets have been carefully selected and approved by SickKids as well as POGO (Paediatric Oncology Group of Ontario) to be distributed throughout the Oncology floors at the various hospitals.

POGO

In 2024 we branched out of SickKids and distributed blankets across Ontario through the POGO satellite units.

Childhood Cancer Canada

Childhood Cancer Canada is looking to expand our program to reach children across Canada.

Blanket Costs

\$25.75/blanket

Storage Costs

Spacesaver Solutions Canada - \$0

Distribution

SickKids Hospital - 400/year

POGO 2024 - 200

POGO 2025 - TBD

CCC 2025 - 300



Thank You!

We deeply appreciate your **commitment to our cause** and look forward to making a meaningful difference together in the lives of kids with cancer.

Get in touch

Sue Strong

Founder and Race Director

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