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TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM A 'GODSEND' FOR YOUNG FAMILY FIGHTING CANCER

The McCarty Family

In 2008, Carisa McCarty's son Chase was just 22 months old when he was diagnosed with hepatoblastoma, a rare form of liver cancer. Less than a year later, Carisa's then seven-month-old son Xander was diagnosed with the same type of cancer.

Genetic testing later determined that both Xander and Chase had an inherited condition called familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP). People who have this condition are at higher risk for hepatoblastoma and colon cancer.

The family didn't have health insurance, so they turned to the Canadian Cancer Society for help. Each year through its Family Provided Transportation Assistance Program, the Society assists hundreds of Ontario families who travel in their own vehicles, ensuring that they can get their child to cancer care that will save their life.

"The financial pressures were staggering but the Family Provided Transportation Assistance Program was a godsend," says Carisa, from her home in London. "It made the cost of gas one less thing we had to worry about."

Today, Chase and Xander are healthy, happy and active boys. But both are hearing impaired as a result of the high doses of chemotherapy drugs they took. Both boys go to almost 200 appointments each per year as they work through other chemotherapy-related side effects.

“The Canadian Cancer Society is there when you’re starting out on the cancer journey but the important thing is that they’re still there during the rehabilitation stage. The Society understands that cancer doesn’t end for children once it’s gone.”

