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Brockville woman raises awareness for Huntington disease to help her daughter *May is Huntington Disease Awareness Month*

(KITCHENER, ON) April 27, 2015 – Cindy Moore’s daughter, Erin Wade, has Juvenile Huntington disease. Cindy has chosen to help raise awareness for Huntington disease (HD) this May during Huntington Disease Awareness Month by sharing her family’s story.

Less than 10 years ago, growing up in Brockville, Ontario, Erin Wade was an outgoing teenager. She enjoyed playing rugby, bowling and spending time with friends. At 17, they received devastating news; Erin was diagnosed with the juvenile form of Huntington disease, a fatal genetic neurodegenerative disorder.

Today, at the age of 22, Erin’s speech is slurred. She has seizures and obsessive-compulsive disorder, and Cindy has to watch her closely when she eats to make sure she doesn’t choke. Cindy is doing everything she can to help her daughter. When Erin needed full-time care, Cindy gave up her job to become her caregiver. But she wanted to do more.

Last fall, inspired by the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, Cindy launched a Pie in the Face Challenge for HD. Since then, many cream pies have been tossed by family, friends, friends of friends, the mayor, the chief of police, the staff at the local fish and chip shop, Cindy’s former colleagues at Hydro One Perth and many others. And with each new video of cream-smearred faces posted to Facebook, Erin’s smile gets bigger.

Cindy’s fundraising efforts do not end there. Last November she organized a bowling event that raised almost \$6,000. In February she organized a chili cook-off and in June, she is hosting an Elvis show. “I plan on doing whatever I can for as long as I can,” she promises.

To date, she has raised well over \$10,000 to support highly promising research into HD treatments. She has also created significantly more awareness in Brockville and beyond. “A couple of years ago, nobody knew about this disease,” she says. “Now they know Erin, what she has and how it affects her. And through it all we have made some amazing friends.”

For Cindy — and for Erin — that support means the world.

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May is Huntington Disease Awareness Month. This year it comes on the heels of *Inside the O’Briens*, the newly released novel by award-winning, New York Times bestselling author and neuroscientist, Lisa Genova. Released on April 7, 2015, it is a poignant portrayal of the devastating impact of HD on Joe O’Brien, a 44-year-old police officer from the Irish Catholic neighborhood of Charlestown, Massachusetts. A devoted husband, proud father of four children in their twenties, and respected officer, Joe begins experiencing bouts of disorganized thinking, uncharacteristic temper outbursts, and strange, involuntary movements. He initially attributes these episodes to the stress of his job, but as these symptoms worsen, he agrees to see a neurologist and is handed a diagnosis that will change his and his family’s lives forever: Huntington disease.

The novel is a good way to gain a better understanding of the impact of HD on generations of families. The Huntington Society of Canada is truly grateful to Genova for raising awareness of HD in Canada and across North America. To support the HD community and people like Erin, through the Huntington Society of Canada, visit www.huntingtonsociety.ca.

The Society is registered at Chapters Indigo fundraising initiative, visit ow.ly/LFcJS to purchase a Chapters Indigo gift card that can be used to purchase *Inside the O'Briens* or another book of your choice. Chapters Indigo will donate 10% of the value of your card to the Society.

Huntington disease is a debilitating brain disorder that is fatal and does not have a cure. The symptoms, which may include uncontrollable jerking movements and relentless cognitive and emotional impairment, usually present between the ages of 30 and 50 and gradually worsen over the 10-25 year course of the disease. Eventually they lead to total incapacitation and death. About one in every 7,000 Canadians has HD and approximately one in every 5,500 is at-risk of developing the disease.

The Huntington Society of Canada (HSC) is a respected leader in the worldwide effort to end Huntington disease. HSC is the only Canadian health charity dedicated to providing help and hope for families dealing with Huntington disease across Canada.

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