



A B O U T F A C E®

The generous support provided by the Halton-Peel Dental Association came at a critical point in AboutFace's history. This year has been a year like no other.

As we navigated the global COVID-19 pandemic, we have come across new opportunities to advance our work with the facial difference community and to find creative solutions to new problems. This includes moving all our programs and services to online environments.

The donation from the Association supported our work this year and was important in helping AboutFace:

- Provide virtual Camp Trailblazers throughout the year: Kids, volunteers, and families joined us for camp this year – in the summer and beyond. Our main Camp Trailblazers session took place over five weeks, each week had a theme like Space Week and Jungle Week, and included activities that focused on arts and crafts, problem solving, physical activity, story-telling, and more. We also moved our signature AboutFace Time programming online, which focuses on building self-esteem and confidence. We added Camp Trailblazers Family Nights and Summer Teen Nights to our roster of activities through the summer, which allowed for expanded interaction and community building. In total, 55% of kids rated camp as awesome, 36% rated it as very good, and 9% as good. And, 82% of kids said they'd like to have virtual camp all year long – we are pleased to confirm, based on this result, that camp will continue through sessions this fall and winter.
- Develop new psychosocial resources: Based on our most recent facial difference community survey, resources to support school-aged children were identified as an important need. We have developed pamphlets and brochures to help support kids in school, parents, and teachers. The resources have started to roll out and will be available on our website, in English and French.
- Advance our outreach: We were able to undertake outreach to social service agencies, hospitals, and student associations. This outreach is critical in helping build our referral system of professionals, like dentists, nurses, social workers, teachers, and more. This outreach resulted in virtual conference opportunities and panel presentation opportunities with post-secondary schools.
- Provide a virtual Adult Retreat: Each year, the retreat focuses on providing a safe space for adults from the facial difference community to connect and share experiences. This year's special guest was Lizzie Velasquez and sessions focused on holistic health and wellness.
- Promote public awareness and acceptance: Our participation in events like Face Equality Week and Craniofacial Acceptance Month, alongside our Beyond My Face campaign, allowed us to advance public education and address barriers. This work is critical to building an inclusive, diverse society.

We are very grateful to the HPDA for your wonderful support of our work and your commitment to advancing awareness and acceptance.

Thank you for helping make this unique year possible!

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AboutFace

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