

RESPITE SUPPORT OPPORTUNITY

As of August 2021

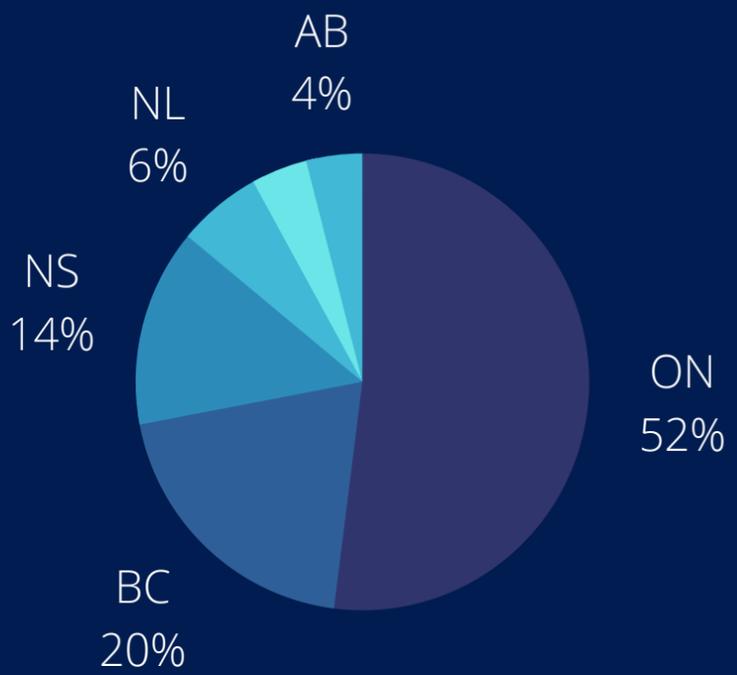
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

In 2021 Jays Care Foundation launched a Respite Support Opportunity to address the growing need for respite among Challenger Baseball families throughout the pandemic. COVID-19 resulted in many families with immunocompromised children being locked inside for safety with a dramatic decrease in services available to support them. The Respite Support Opportunity was designed to:

- Provide families with 60 hours of respite care for their athlete with a disability either in-home, in-community or virtually over the course of three months;
- Connect families with safe, reputable, and certified Recreational Therapists in their area who are knowledgeable and skilled in Challenger Baseball programming;
- Help athletes continue to progress through the development of life skills and motor skills programming and activities led their Respite worker; and
- Reduce the financial burdens and the emotional exhaustion brought on by the pandemic.

50

Challenger Baseball athletes supported across 6 provinces



3,088

Total hours of respite support provided

Funding allocated to the Respite Support Opportunity

\$91,900

83%

of families reported their athletes mental health has improved or significantly improved since starting respite

% of families reported a reduced feeling of isolation since starting respite

80%



RESPITE SUPPORT TESTIMONIALS

"Our family has been in a distressed situation since my husband passed away in August 2020. This program has saved my days. Our daughter is happy to spend time with her respite worker, I would say friend. While she is with her respite worker, I have time to do my job - or even have a rest. Also, during the quarantine it was great to have someone at our place from the outside world."

"It has been one of the best things done for our kiddos with special needs - especially having someone come over and help us out. It takes away so much of the stress of driving to and from activities."

"Having the Jays sponsor this type of program has been tremendously helpful on our financial situation. We have been able to get more hours towards respite than before and, best of all, it's been so helpful that we could focus on his social issues, work on his physical strengths and add some academics to the mix as well. We are so grateful for receiving this respite support!!"

"When Jack was with his respite worker, there was more time for me to interact in a meaningful way with our older son. We had dinner together, just us. Jack wasn't fighting with him, or us. Generally having Jack on breaks with his respite worker gave Jack the boost socially and us the quiet downtime. I am incredibly grateful for the one day he was out with his respite worker for the majority of the day... it was the first day I didn't have somebody bugging me while I was at work in 18 months!"

"We just started with our respite worker this week. Jakob's worker has an amazing plan set out to exercise him and work on baseball skills with our Jays Care package from last summer. Batting practice (we bought a cage/net he can bat into) and work on throwing. Biking in our neighbourhood. Swimming at our neighbour's pool. Walks around the neighbourhood or mall if it is raining/ do laps. We hope the focus on exercise will motivate him to continue and maybe trim down weight and help with his balance issues."