



# The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program

## Quick Facts

- The Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program, which offers comprehensive services to Canadian child amputees and their families, is unique in the world. It is built on the **Winner's Circle philosophy**, which encourages child amputees (Champs) to accept their amputations and develop a positive approach to challenges.
- Thanks to public support of The War Amps Key Tag and Address Label Service, the CHAMP Program provides **financial assistance** towards the cost of everyday artificial limbs and recreational devices for fitness, sports, music and more. The cost of an artificial limb is a heavy financial burden for most families, especially since child amputees outgrow their limbs as regularly as clothing.
- The War Amps holds **CHAMP seminars** every year across the country, bringing together child amputees and their parents. Seminars focus on the latest developments in artificial limbs, issues such as teasing and bullying, and other topics such as parenting a child amputee. Seminars have a life-changing effect on Champs and their parents as they meet others just like them and develop a positive attitude.
- Peer support is provided through the **Matching Mothers Program** (and fathers, too!) which offers support from parents who have “been there.” New parents receive tremendous benefit from speaking with an experienced family.
- **JUMPSTART** provides financial assistance towards a computer and assistive computer devices for children with multiple or high-level amputations.
- The **PLAYSAFE Program** is a unique “kids-to-kids” approach to child safety. The purpose? To make children more aware of the dangers in their play environment.
- Through **Operation Legacy**, members of CHAMP pass the message of remembrance to the younger generation.

## At a Glance

**1975** – With war amputees’ needs well-served, veteran War Amps members turn the Association’s attention to child amputees by beginning the CHAMP Program.

**1978** – Champs begin passing on the PLAYSAFE message to other children, warning them to spot the danger before they play.

**1981** – The first CHAMP Seminar is held in Burlington, Ontario.

**1984** – The Matching Mothers Program begins, offering support from parents who have “been there” to new CHAMP families.

**1991** – JUMPSTART provides multiple amputee children with computers and assistive computer devices.

**1991** – Champs start passing on the message of remembrance through Operation Legacy.

**2015** – CHAMP celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary!