

## **Article from the**

### **International Shrine Clown Association Canada**

#### **Sneaker Fund Chairman**

It was brought to my attention this past week that more than a few Shrine Nobles do not really know or understand the aspects of our ISCA Sneaker Fund. What it does, where do donations to the Sneaker go, or how did it come about.

Initially let's reflect back on how the start of the ISCA Sneaker Fund began. A group of Shrine Clowns in speaking with doctors at our Shrine Burn Hospitals had a need for a comfortable, well-fitting shoe with a non slip sole and static free. The suggestion was brought forward by the clowns to utilize a Converse red sneaker of which a number of clowns wore. So started a quest throughout ISCA clowns to raise funds to purchase sneakers for all hospital patients requiring a stable footwear. This clown fund raiser was of course was called The Sneaker Fund. Throughout the years greater demands and requirements were requested of ISCA clowns for added funding for burns research for children at our 4 Shrine Burn Hospitals for Children. As of 2014 it was mandated by Imperial Shrine that the Montreal Shrine Hospital for Children research centre be designated as the official research centre for Osteogenesis Imperfecta (Brittle Bone Disease) in children. What that means all funds raised under the Canada Sneaker Fund go directly to the Montreal Shrine Hospital Research Centre.

I was surprised to learn that a common belief amongst a few Nobles is that the funds collected went to support Shrine Clown Units. Further it was a belief that the ISCA Sneaker Fund Chairmen have all their expenses including travel expenses provided through the Sneaker Fund.

Nothing could be further from the truth that any ISCA Shrine Clown or Clown Unit benefits financially from donations received under the Sneaker Fund. All donations to the ISCA Sneaker Fund are directed through a Shrine Centre to the Montreal Shrine Hospital for Children from there to the Montreal research centre. As ISCA clowns our rewards are far greater than a monetary value, it's a pride in knowing funds raised through our hard work clowning that benefits our children. No greater a reward can a clown receive than a child's smile, a hug and a "Thank You". All expenses and travel expenses incurred by an ISCA Executive and Sneaker Chairman are at his own expense.

It is to be noted that on the Imperial Website our Imperial First Lady Lisa Gnatt's fundraiser is in support of Osteogenesis Imperfecta and it's research. The next time you meet one of our hard working clowns at an event, remember he's probably working the Sneaker for our Shrine Kids.

**Dennis Fischer,  
ISCA Canada Sneaker Fund Chairman**

