



My journey with the Tree of Hope began in 1998, when I was a high school student myself. The excitement in the school was unparalleled! One of our teachers, a mother and a friend from our community, had been diagnosed with cancer. Her condition rallied us around a common goal, and we channeled our energy with the people of our community. It was a wonderful experience, and I've always carried that magic with me. We were so proud of what we had accomplished; it was a great community hug!




Today, as a teacher, I want to raise awareness of the cause among my students and leave them with a sense of belonging to the community, while helping to improve the quality of life of people living with cancer here in New Brunswick.

When I ask my students to stand up if they know a friend, family member, grandparent, aunt or uncle with cancer, and all the students end up standing, it's moving. They see first-hand that this disease affects almost everyone, in one way or another. That's when I ask them to look around them... I then tell them that we will probably be directly helping a loved one of someone in our class thanks to fundraising activities for the Tree of Hope.

26 years later, I'm still as committed as ever. I'm blessed to be able to give my students such an experience, in the hope that one day they'll be able to give it to others. The Tree of Hope campaign enables me to pass on values that are dear to me: belonging to the community, generosity, mutual aid, perseverance, concern for a job well done, and so on. The Tree of Hope allows me to let my students experience what it really means to make a real difference.

- Stéphanie McIntyre, grade 7 teacher  
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