



Andie fights for a cure for Diamond-Blackfan Anemia

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LONDON, ONT – At six weeks old, Andie Morrison was diagnosed with Diamond-Blackfan Anemia (DBA), a rare bone marrow defect that does not allow her body to create red blood cells. Now eight years old, Andie visits Children’s Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre every three weeks for blood transfusions and treatments. Without the care and support she receives, Andie would not be able to enjoy any of her favourite activities – from performing on stage, to digging for worms and insects, to watching sports with her dad.

Five years ago, Andie and her family kicked off Andie’s Fight for a Cure Golf Tournament to raise money for DBA Canada which goes towards research for a cure. This year, they decided to give half of the funds to Children’s Hospital to support Andie’s “second home” – raising a total of \$24,200 for the Hematology Department. Andie presented the cheque to Children’s Hospital on Tuesday, September 22, which also happens to be her 112th blood transfusion as well as her eighth birthday.

Laurie Gould, Chief Clinical Officer at London Health Sciences Centre, was honoured to speak at Andie’s cheque presentation and acknowledge her contribution to the DBA community.

“It is such a privilege to be here today on this very special occasion. On behalf of our board, physicians and staff, as well as the patients and families we serve, I would like to thank you for your continued support of Children’s Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre,” says Laurie. “With your generous gift, you are truly making a positive difference in the lives of our patients and I sincerely thank you.”

Andie has been such a positive influence on other children in the community, particularly as the 2014-2015 Children’s Miracle Network Champion Child presented by Walmart. Andie’s parents describe her as warm, caring and wise beyond her years. Even after all that she has been through, Andie cannot wait to become a nurse when she grows up, so that she can help kids like her to be brave during scary procedures.

Andie’s mom, Jennifer, shares, “Our life would be so much more difficult if we didn’t have this hospital in London. Not just the fact that we live in this city, but the fact of who the staff are and what they do for my daughter and family. They just show our whole family so much love.”

About Children’s Health Foundation

Children’s Health Foundation is dedicated to raising and granting funds to support Children’s Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre, Thames Valley Children’s Centre and Children’s Health Research Institute. Since 1922, funds raised have helped deliver exceptional care and support for children and their families by providing specialized paediatric care, equipment, education programs, therapy, rehabilitation services and research.

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For more information about Andie’s Fight for a Cure Golf Tournament, please contact:

Agnes Chick
Communications Associate
Children’s Health Foundation
519-432-8062 x130
achick@childhealth.ca