

Strengthening Children's Health Care, **Together**



Annual Report 2016-2017

Keanna, age 10
London, Ontario
Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis (FSGS)

Keanna smiles while she holds her Bravery Beads, provided by a donor-funded program that allows children to tell a visual story of their health care journey by creating a unique necklace.

Celebrating Our Success

Ten-year-old Keanna has a big personality. In a moment, she can engage a new friend or spin a wonderful tale. Sadly, this vibrant young lady has faced many health care challenges since being diagnosed with a rare kidney disease at age six. Specialized care and equipment at **Children's Hospital**, London Health Sciences Centre ensure that Keanna stays healthy and is able to enjoy life to the fullest in spite of her condition.

Stories like Keanna's are what drive Children's Health Foundation to raise funds for the entire continuum of care – from research to health care to rehabilitation. Together, we save and improve lives. Together, we empower kids to reach their full potential. Together, we build a healthier future for our kids.

In 2016-2017, through your generosity, we came together to support this shared vision, to grant more than \$7.5 million to make a difference in the lives of children and youth and their families across our region. Amid the great triumphs of the year, we recognize that together, there's still more to be done.

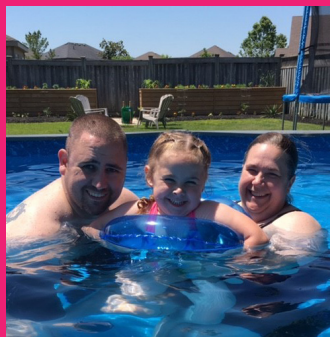


"Tyson was in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Children's Hospital for 129 days. He weighed 1lb 10oz (737g) when he was born. We couldn't have asked for better care than the love we received from the staff. Having the Giraffe OmniBed allowed for easy care and access to holding our son, something that we longed so badly for."

-Jason and Kirsten Thibodeau

"Like all parents, we wanted the best for our daughter when she started school. However, we faced a unique challenge. Reese has an undiagnosed sensory processing disorder that can lead her to become overstimulated and upset. With guidance from Thames Valley Children's Centre's (TVCC) Parent Mentors, our family was able to ensure Reese has the support she needs to flourish in the classroom."

-Crystal and Jamie Fairles



"I first encountered Karina and the Music Therapy Program when Breanna was diagnosed with leukemia at age seven. My husband and I were in many meetings with the doctors and nurses, and returned to find Karina, Breanna and my sister-in-law Cathy all playing instruments and singing Katy Perry's *Fireworks*. As Cathy held back tears, Breanna played on, allowing the power in the music to calm her during this frightening time."

-Cyndi Barnim

Proud Moments of 2016-2017: Made Possible With Your Support

New Test Promises Better Concussion Care

Scientists from **Children's Health Research Institute** developed a blood test in 2016, able to determine if an injured young athlete is suffering from a concussion. Currently, health professionals rely on clinical judgment and self-reported symptoms to diagnose a patient. With greater than 90 per cent accuracy, the blood test takes the guesswork out of this process. Ultimately, it will help caregivers identify which concussions in children and youth should be treated with greater diligence to prevent long-term negative effects on their young brains. The next step for this team of renowned scientists, led by Dr. Douglas Fraser, is to make the test portable so it can be used when and where it's needed most, such as at the hockey arena.



Alex, age 10
Concussion

Helping Kids With Complex Conditions Move Easier

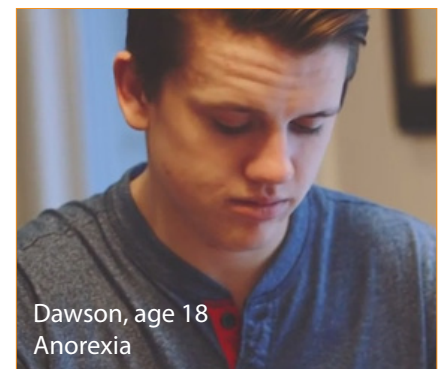
Thames Valley Children's Centre has one of only three high-tech paediatric Gait Labs in Canada, equipped with technology similar to that used in the animated movie *Polar Express*. Physiotherapists and kinesiologists use three-dimensional motion capture cameras and special sensors to collect important data on how a child with a complex condition, such as cerebral palsy, moves. This information provides valuable insight into what treatment will help them play more easily, experience less pain and just enjoy being kids. In 2016-2017, donor dollars funded the Gait Lab's need for four replacement cameras to continue offering this life-enhancing service.



Arta, age 12
Cerebral Palsy

Battling Bias to Fully Support Youth in Crisis

Getting support for a mental health concern can take a lot of courage. For this reason, it's crucial that when children, youth and their families turn to **Children's Hospital** for help, they are met with compassion and understanding. Over the past two years, Dr. Javeed Sukhera and his colleagues have implemented a ground-breaking project to transform mental health care across the hospital. They offered frontline physicians and nurses stigma reduction training, ultimately empowering individuals to become aware of their own biases and overcome them. This has led to improved support and a more responsive patient-centred care environment thanks to your donations.



Dawson, age 18
Anorexia

29 Pieces of Patient Equipment to Save and Improve 29,000+ Lives

Having access to the best and brightest health care professionals is only one part of the care equation. Children who are critically ill or injured also rely on state-of-the-art patient equipment to regain their health and return home with their families. Due to extensive use, deterioration over time and advances in technology, **Children's Hospital** continually requires new equipment to offer exemplary care. In 2016-2017, your generosity helped purchase 29 equipment pieces to support fragile babies, and children and teens dealing with cancer, heart defects and other difficult diagnoses or life-changing injuries.



Lilah, age 1
Spinal Muscular Atrophy

Thank You for Supporting Children's Health Foundation

2016-2017 Revenue \$9,763,000

How You Gave:

Philanthropic Gifts 30%

Dream Lottery 6%

Events 21%



Corporate Partnerships & Programs 22%

Investment Income 21%

How Your Dollars Supported Excellence In Children's Health Care This Year:



\$4,531,000

invested in specialized paediatric health care and programs



\$1,017,000

granted to support rehabilitation



\$1,959,000

supported innovative research

Liam

Olivia

Addison & Aubrey

Cole

31,679 children and youth supported by our health care partners

50,000 Bravery Beads awarded to patients and siblings

3706 families assisted at the Paediatric Family Resource Centre

818 children with special needs participated in community programs