

celebrations!

You made amazing things happen to improve children's care.



Laughter Brings Light

You gave kids laughter, when cancer robbed them of their smile.



Jon was just a toddler when his symptoms started.

He was getting headaches – lots of them. And unlike most three year olds, he wasn't bouncing off the walls with energy and excitement.

He slept a lot. Yet he was constantly tired.

His parents knew something wasn't right, so they took Jon to his family doctor who ordered blood work.

Jon's whole world changed when those lab results came back.

His white blood cell count was off the charts.

It was December, and the world around Jon was buzzing with anticipation for the holidays. But Jon and his family were at Children's Hospital, getting the news no parent ever wants to hear: **"Your son has cancer."**

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), to be exact. ALL is a cancer of the blood and bone marrow, and the most common type of cancer diagnosed in children.

Jon faced a long road of treatment – something that would be hard for someone of any age, much less a three-year-old.

Children's became a second home for Jon. His cancer treatment began with six months of intensive chemotherapy. Jon was young, overwhelmed, and angry.

"It's tough to be happy when you have no control," he explains. "You are forced to grow up too quickly. The situation robs you of a typical childhood."

Thankfully, you made space in the hospital for laughter and fun. As a donor, you gifted Jon with a new friend: Ollie Pale, the Therapeutic Clown.

(continued inside)

Photo: Current oncology patient, Brooklyn, pictured with Ollie

Because of You...

- Jasper had a safe environment to move beyond disability
 - Kids fighting cancer know their community is cheering them on
 - Rylee is home with her loving family
- ...and so much more!



Thank you for helping Jon (left) and his family as they faced years of cancer treatment. Your generosity matched Jon with Ollie, Children's Hospital's Therapeutic Clown. Ollie made Jon's hospital stay brighter by bringing laughter, joy and understanding on even his most difficult days.

Laughter Brings Light (continued)

AN UNEXPECTED FRIEND

Caring donors, like you, help fund the Therapeutic Clown Program. As the saying goes, "laughter is the best medicine."

Not only does humour help buoy the spirit but a good laugh relaxes tense muscles, sends more oxygen into the lungs and even lowers blood pressure!

Ollie visits the Paediatric Medical Day Unit, paediatric in-patient wings, and Children's Emergency. He also visits the Paediatric Day Surgery and the Paediatric Critical Care Unit.

The patient decides whether Ollie can enter their room to play, and how they would like to interact with him.

LETTING HIS GUARD DOWN

Jon wasn't one for crafts, preferring instead to reach for a deck of cards and simply talk to the Therapeutic Clown.

"I knew that when Ollie was around I could let my guard down," Jon says. "Having a grown-up that you're not scared to be around is invaluable in this sort of environment. I don't just speak for myself when I confidently say that Ollie is responsible for thousands of smiles, laughs, and a whole lot of needed relief in a very heavy time."

The safe space Ollie offered Jon meant he could truly open up. He told the clown about his worries and fears, what he found annoying about treatment, and anything else on his mind that day.

In return, he received the validation he needed that what was happening to him was hard and unfair – even though it was necessary.

"Ollie is responsible for thousands of smiles, laughs, and a whole lot of needed relief in a very heavy time."

A CARING EAR

"No matter what sort of mood I was in – steroid induced or otherwise – I had a non-judgemental friend in Ollie."

When they weren't sharing chats over a game of cards, Ollie brought some silliness and joy into Jon's life.

They'd have "snowball fights" in the hallways, chucking crumpled paper towels at one another. Or Ollie would share his magic tricks, leaving Jon wondering what the clown couldn't do!

After two and a half years of maintenance treatments, Jon suffered a devastating setback when he relapsed just one week before the long-awaited end of his chemotherapy.

He ultimately received a bone marrow transplant to get him back on the path to healing.

Jon continued to be monitored closely by LHSC years after he was officially in remission – and that vigilance was lifesaving. In 2009, doctors found and successfully removed a brain tumour following a standard monitoring MRI.

A BRIGHT FUTURE

Today, Jon is in his twenties and living cancer-free.

He works in real estate assessment, and enjoys volunteering to support causes related to childhood cancer. Jon stays active playing ultimate frisbee, golf, and tennis, and credits Ollie for “making sure he had his head on straight and kept moving forward.”

Your support of Children’s Hospital makes life-changing programming, like the Therapeutic Clown, possible.

“Thank you for your generosity,” says Jon. “You made sure I had a friend who looked forward to hearing my unique thoughts and ideas about my world. He was always excited to help me through - or distract me from - it all. And I really needed that, because fighting cancer is tough, especially when you are so young.

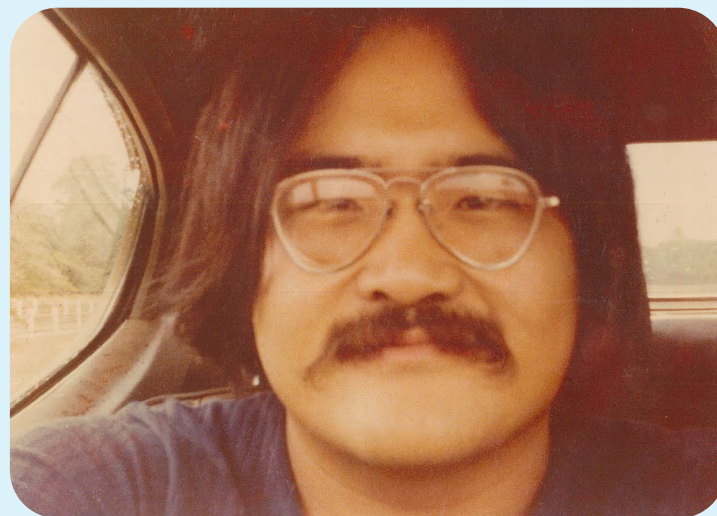
“Thank you sincerely!”



Today, Jon is cancer-free and enjoying a happy life. He credits, in no small part, his ability to cope with and compartmentalize his health journey to the time spent with Ollie. You make this program possible!

Why We Give

Donors like you share what inspires them to help strengthen children’s health care in our community.



Philip’s generous gift will help the Music Therapy Program and launch an award at Children’s Health Research Institute.

“My brother, Philip, had the greatest empathy for sick children – whether they were facing kidney failure, cancer and other difficult conditions.

“He wondered why these little ones had to endure so much. He wanted to help them.

“Philip passed away in June of last year and wanted to make a gift to Children’s Health Foundation. It will be his legacy to help expand the Music Therapy Program at Children’s Hospital to support more kids as they’re going through treatment.



“His gift will also help launch the Scientist Innovation Fund Award at Children’s Health Research Institute, inspiring ground-breaking research that will lead to improved care for generations to come.

“He would be pleased to know that these important programs will have a tremendous impact, not only for current patients, but also for those in the future.

“Philip always felt strongly about wanting to make sure children never had to suffer – he is doing just that through his life-changing donation.”

– Deborah Cheung, Philip’s sister, London, ON

Saving a Sick Baby

You can give life-saving breaths to a sick baby by helping our hospital buy a much-needed ventilator.

Not every child's birth goes smoothly.

Some babies come into the world, fighting to stay in it.

It is heartbreaking for parents. They just want the best for their new baby.

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Children's Hospital is there to help. However, right now, it is struggling to keep up with a growing need for care. The NICU is seeing more babies and for longer periods of time.

Our hospital needs your support. One of this year's urgent needs is a new ventilator. Your gift will help purchase this piece of equipment, giving our smallest patients the best chance to go home with their loved ones.

The machine costs \$53,000 and is expected to last 15+ years. That means, by making a gift of:

\$30 - You can provide life-saving ventilation to a sick baby during **three full days of care**

\$140 - You can provide life-saving ventilation to a sick baby during **two weeks of care**

\$300 - You can provide life-saving ventilation to a sick baby during **a month of critical care**

Your gift of any amount matters so much for families. You protect many young lives by helping to fund 90 percent of Children's Hospital's equipment. Thank you!



"Our daughter, Pylee, was born with almost no diaphragm.

Her digestive system pushed into her chest, squashing her heart and lungs.

She faced many complications. Her lungs struggled to work. Without a ventilator, she wouldn't have survived.

Thank you to Children's Hospital for saving her life and to the donors. You make sure our kids receive the best possible care, giving us the most possible hope."

-Caroline, a grateful mother

Community Events

October 5 - 23rd Annual Fall Colour Ride with Hully Gully

November 2 - A Night at the Races Charity Gala

November 2 - London LAN for Extra Life: Powered by The Factory

November 17 - World Prematurity Day Event at Lambton Mall

December 1 to 31 - LCBO Season of Giving Campaign

February 7 - Corus Radiothon for Children's

Mark your calendars!

Your last chance to give in 2019
is **Tuesday, December 31!**

More details at childhealth.ca/events

    @CHFHope

You Brightened Their Day!

We asked our community to send letters to cheer on kids fighting cancer in hospital. **Wow, did you ever answer the call!**

In June, Children's Health Foundation put out a call for letters and artwork to cheer on kids fighting cancer at Children's Hospital, like Brooklyn and Paige.

Many caring supporters responded through the mail and online! We compiled everything we received from you into a special book called *Brighter Days* to share with kids at Children's Hospital. A copy is available for patients and families to read on the in-patient floor and in the Paediatric Medical Day Unit.

You made many children and parents smile with your thoughtfulness!

Battling cancer is hard. The journey is long. You let families know that their community is behind them and it meant a lot. Thank you!

"You've GOT THIS! I can see in your bright smile and determined eyes that this challenge has nothing on you. While you are fighting like the trooper you are, know that many, many people (even those you haven't met) are cheering you on and keeping you in our prayers. Keep fighting and we'll keep praying!"
—Jen

"You are strong, you will beat this, never give up! I believe in you!"
—Gabriella



Paige and her mom, Shannon, with the collection of messages you submitted to help cheer on kids and families!

"If no one has told you that they love you today, let me be the first. My name is Quinn, I am 7-years-old, and I am fighting T-cell ALL. You are beautiful, strong, and loved."
—Quinn

"Thank you Paige for your beautiful art work. I pray you will soon be well. You are a brave little girl."
—Margaret & Ross



YOU Changed His Life

Best Care for Rare

Jasper was five weeks old when he turned blue in his mother Tammy's arms.

Terrified, she immediately phoned 9-1-1.

ER doctors couldn't get his breathing stabilized, and Jasper had to be intubated. The team ran a CT scan as standard procedure – everything came back normal. Next came MRIs, EEGs, and blood work. Normal, normal, normal.

Jasper's condition was a mystery.

After a few weeks in hospital, the family was sent home. But Jasper was still turning blue, and struggled to eat. They returned once again.

It was then doctors decided to order more advanced genetic testing known as Whole Exome Sequencing.

When the test came back, the results were shocking: Jasper was one of just eight people in Canada at the time to be diagnosed with PURA Syndrome.

The genetic disorder causes low muscle tone, feeding difficulties, breathing problems, developmental delay and learning disabilities.

While Tammy and her husband, Mike, were surprised, they were also relieved to finally have the answers they'd been seeking. With this diagnosis, Tammy and Mike could focus on a healthy baby. Now, they could move ahead with providing the best possible care for their son.



You ensured Jasper had access to the best possible care when a rare disease threatened his quality of life.

Thames Valley Children's Centre (TVCC) has been a critical part of that care. Jasper is able to participate in music and swimming lessons with other children who have disabilities, getting specialized attention to help him thrive.

TVCC also connected the family with an in-home physical therapist and occupational therapist to help Jasper develop his muscle tone and coordination.

"We are so fortunate to have TVCC in our community," says Tammy. "I had no idea the extent of the incredible services they offer. It makes a huge difference."

Your support of Children's Health Foundation allows Thames Valley Children's Centre to provide quality of life for children with special needs.



You can make the season extra special for kids who spend the holidays at Children's Hospital.

We are now accepting new and unwrapped toys, games, craft items and more!

View our wish list at www.childhealth.ca/gift-in-kind

Items can be dropped off at 345 Westminster Ave or at the Foundation's hospital office in Zone B at Children's Hospital.