

celebrations!

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



Care During Chaos



When the global pandemic hit, **you** helped Darcey feel safe and comforted in hospital.

Darcey relies on regular infusions to be healthy. She must visit Children's Hospital, even with the threat of COVID-19. Her mom, Dionne, shares how you have helped her daughter feel safe and have fun.

Darcey loves a good joke.

At just five years old, she's got a quick wit and energy to burn. Unless it's a day or two before her treatment at Children's Hospital.

Darcey lives with an ultra rare genetic blood disorder - atypical hemolytic-uremic syndrome.

She visits the hospital every three weeks for a life-sustaining infusion. Without the infusion, our girl becomes very sick. Her blood clots and her organs can begin shutting down.

The weekend before her treatment she starts to wilt like a flower without water. Her appetite wanes, she feels nauseous and her energy is low.

But as soon as she gets her medication she's bouncing off the walls once again.

When COVID-19 became a major concern in Canada, we didn't want to visit the hospital but we had to if we were going to keep Darcey healthy.

(Continued inside)



Because of You...

- Doris is comforting families at Children's Hospital
- Medical professionals had pandemic support
- Kids and their families feel safe seeking care



You make Darcey's hospital visits comfortable and enjoyable, which is so important for her during the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Care During Chaos (Continued)

VISITING THE HOSPITAL DURING COVID-19

I didn't sleep the night before her appointment.

With Darcey being immunosuppressed, she has an increased risk for complications from the virus. That's why we have been self-isolating from the first recommendation to do so.

This has required us to lean on the support of loved ones for assistance in picking up our groceries and running other errands.

We only go outside in our backyard or for walks and bike rides in our immediate neighbourhood, avoiding contact with everyone.

Children's Hospital is our biggest "outing."

My heart beat faster as we neared the building for our first appointment since self-isolating. As we stepped through the double-sliding doors, I took a sigh of relief.

Everyone was wearing masks. We had to pass through entrance screening. And, there were protective barriers erected.

It was clear that they were taking this threat seriously. As much as the measures were a relief for me though, it was a little unnerving for Darcey, as you can imagine it would be for any five-year-old.

YOU HELPED DARCEY FEEL COMFORTABLE

Fortunately, you helped her feel safe and have fun in hospital despite all the changes that she was experiencing.

Your incredible generosity ensured our family had access to the Expressive Therapy Programs, including the Child Life Program and Ollie the Therapeutic Clown.

I cannot imagine going through this global pandemic without these programs. They provided a level of normalcy when we needed it more than ever.

"I cannot imagine going through this global pandemic without these programs. They provided a level of normalcy when we needed it more than ever."

Like so many others on the frontlines, they have risked a lot to ensure there is a continuity of care.

Child Life Specialist Erika has been Darcey's greatest support. Darcey's appointments are long – taking about four hours each time.

Child Life never says, "no" to her. They are dedicated to making our child feel special no matter what is happening at the hospital.

During one of her recent appointments, Darcey really wanted to play with the big toy kitchen in the nearby hospital playground.

Darcey's mom, Dionne, sends her sincere thanks to you for helping her daughter. Darcey has a rare genetic illness and continues to count on Children's Hospital during these difficult times.

Even though the room was closed to ensure physical distancing, Erika made arrangements so Darcey could have it at her bedside. Her eyes lit up and a huge smile spread across her face when she saw it.

Erika will also complete arts and crafts with her, bring her sensory toys, distract her with the iPad during difficult procedures, and much more.

Ollie, too, is a bright light on hard days. Lately, he's been drawing Darcey special pictures. He is so creative and she adores him!

To find such blessings in the midst of uncertainty – we can never repay that or put that into words.

It means so much and we are truly grateful to the Expressive Therapy Programs for their support and to you for making their work possible.

These programs would not be here to help our kids, if not for you! Thank you!



Why We Give

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

"I was inspired to help improve care for sick children because of my membership with the Rotary Club of London South.



In 2000, our Rotary District 6330 launched an effort to raise \$500,000 toward building a new children's hospital for our community. We succeeded in reaching our goal!

Allan Hardy is donating his Rotary club dues to support Children's Hospital during the pandemic.

During our fundraising, I heard many stories of incredible health care journeys and they've stayed with me.

I remember hearing about a family whose child was born with his bowels outside of his body. He had to be rushed to Children's Hospital by the Transport Team. With their expertise, they saved him. While on a tour of the hospital I saw infants only days old who were recovering from heart surgery.

Our Rotary club members were asked to donate our dues to a local group during the pandemic. I chose to give to Children's Health Foundation because of my past connection and experience.

Knowing that children are still facing serious health issues, I'm very proud to have chosen to donate my dues to Children's Health Foundation."

- Allan Hardy, PDG.
Rotary Club of London South Member

Share Your Giving Story! If you are interested in being featured in "Why We Give," please email info@childhealth.ca.

Thank You For Standing By Our Kids

You deserve to be celebrated!

Children in our community continue to face life-threatening and life-limiting health conditions. The global COVID-19 pandemic has complicated their care at Children's Hospital.

Thankfully, you and many other supporters have rallied to stand by our kids, our families and our hospital staff. Your care and compassion has come in many different forms and today, we want to celebrate them!

Thank you for donating:

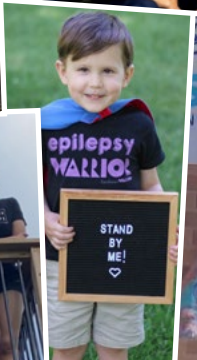
- 6,560 pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- 18,929 cloth masks
- 4,512 ear savers
- 249 scrubs
- 450 meals for medical professionals
- 2,071 meals for parents at the bedside
- 230 messages of encouragement for staff



Stand By Me Champions

Thank you to those who have made a special commitment of \$10,000+ to stand by our kids.

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Barb Del Net | Chris Jones | London Knights |
| Cadillac Fairview | Harris and Ron Harris | London Shrine Club |
| Children's Hospital Department of Paediatrics | CIBC Wood Gundy - The O'Neill Team | Prusty4Kids |
| Children's Health Foundation Board of Directors | The Covey Family | The Takla Foundation |
| | Fantham Family Foundation | TD |
| | Rodney and Caroline Hancock | The Wettlaufer Family |



Coronavirus: The Impact on Child Health Care

A look inside supporting children's health during the global COVID-19 pandemic.



Children's Hospital underwent a rapid transformation in the face of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

"We required innovation at a speed with which we've never seen before," says Deborah Wiseman, Director of Children's Hospital.

Leadership and staff quickly implemented new safety measures and protocols to protect the health of staff, physicians and families. Medical professionals also moved to providing virtual care, whenever possible.

While paediatrics has not experienced the same surge in COVID-19 cases that the adult side has, Children's Hospital continues to care for many kids diagnosed with life-threatening and life-limiting diagnoses. The facility remains vigilant and prepared to support child health in the days ahead.

"Nobody has done longitudinal studies on the impact of this kind of isolation," says Emily Williams, Director of Children's Hospital. "I'm worried we are going to see an explosion of children being identified as at-risk

or having medical or mental health complexities in the days ahead."

TVCC, a regional rehabilitation centre dedicated to improving the quality of life of children with disabilities in Southwestern Ontario, also had to innovate to offer much-needed support.

Though the centre temporarily closed its doors in March, they moved rapidly to begin providing virtual appointments and services. In fact, during the first few weeks following the start of the pandemic, TVCC staff were already reaching out to parents through video sessions.

"Our ability to provide virtual interventions was a huge benefit to parents who suddenly found themselves at home with their children in need of support. In fact, we have increased the number of virtual sessions provided by 63 per cent between April and June," says Jill Craven, CEO, TVCC.

As of June 15, the centre reopened to selected clients for in-person visits, with every precaution taken to protect families and staff. Virtual visits and supports continue to be offered as a safe, effective and often convenient intervention choice.

During the same time period, Children's Health Research Institute (CHRI) suspended nearly all clinical and basic science research. However, excelling in rapid response research, scientists were able to launch COVID-19 studies.

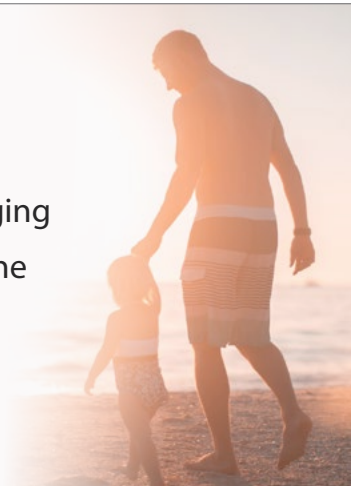
CHRI laboratories and research programs reopened in mid-July. The institute is following a staged approach to ensure the safety of all staff and students.

Leaving a gift in your Will can create a better future for sick children.

Anyone can make a gift to Children's Health Foundation in their Will, and arranging your gift is a simple process. Start planning your legacy today and join us for one of our fall virtual estate planning workshops — they're free!

Contact Vicki Hayter, Director, Legacy Giving for more information:

519-432-8062 x 9252 | vhayter@childhealth.ca | childhealth.ca/legacy



Doris the Daybed is Comforting Families Because of You!

Families have a comfortable place to rest their heads while caring for a child in hospital – because of you!

In March, I reached out to tell you about the day beds at Children's Hospital. They were old, worn out and in dire need of replacement.

You, your friends and your neighbours responded with incredible generosity!

Together, you have made it possible for the hospital to purchase eight new beds, including Doris the Daybed who was eager to start her important work.

As a father of two children, I know first-hand how desperately these beds needed to be replaced.

My son and daughter have both required emergency medical care at Children's Hospital.

When my son was 14 months old, he developed a terrifying condition where any touch on his body would cause immediate and awful bruising.

Later, when our daughter was just under one, she developed a viral infection and needed three nights in hospital.

As you can imagine, my wife and I were scared, worried and eventually tired. We needed a soft, comfortable



"I, Doris the Daybed, have made it to Children's Hospital! Your generosity means I was able to replace my fellow day beds who were old and worn out. I love comforting families!"

spot to rest so we could be alert to make good decisions and support our children. With our son, we had one chair for two people and with our daughter, we had a day bed with duct tape covering the rips and worn fabric.

It made those already difficult nights even more difficult.

That's why I'm so thankful to you for helping to buy new day beds and giving families comfort when they need it most. It is especially important right now when the global COVID-19 pandemic is causing caregivers added stress. Thank you!



Dr. Steven Harrison
Dad, Donor and Children's Health Foundation Board Member

Community Events

August 31 - October 4 - CMN Costco Campaign

September 1 - 30 - KMs 4 Kids' Cancer

September 14 - 20 - Smile Cookie Week

October 17 - 18 - RBC Race for the Kids

December 1 - 31 - LCBO Season of Giving Campaign

February 5 - Corus Radiothon for Children's

www.childhealth.ca/events



@CHFHope

Stand By Me Campaign Merchandise

Show your community you stand by sick kids at Children's Hospital.

Purchase a Stand By Me t-shirt, fleece or Yeti tumbler!

All proceeds will support programs and equipment families rely on during and after COVID-19.



Get yours today at childhealth.ca/standbyme