

celebrations!

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

Spring 2021



Life on the Line



When Joey's life was on the line, **you** helped save him.

At the start of the global pandemic, Joey faced a serious medical emergency. His mom, Stephanie, shares how you and other donors helped him survive and get better.

I believe angels woke me up the night my son almost died, so that I would have the chance to get him to life-saving care.

Joey had been sick to his stomach for a few days. We had gone to our local hospital for tests and they diagnosed him with a tummy bug.

When I woke up late that night though, I instinctively went to check on Joey. My heart dropped as he came into view. My creative, kind and intelligent boy was lying unconscious on his bedroom floor.

I called the paramedics and they rushed him to Stratford General Hospital, intubated and crashing.

They successfully stabilized him. But Joey needed the specialized paediatric critical care that only Children's Hospital in London can offer our region, and so they transferred him there.

Over the next 41 days, your generosity helped ensure that his medical team had the best equipment, resources and training to save our son.



(Continued inside)

Because of You...

- Kids at TVCC stayed active during lockdown
- Paige is thriving after battling leukemia
- Jennifer is inspired to give back



Joey was admitted to Children's Hospital in the midst of the pandemic. You ensured he received the best care possible.

Life on the Line (Continued)

EMERGENCY CARE DURING COVID-19

When Joey became seriously ill, it was March 2020 – the start of the global pandemic, and everyone was rushing out to buy toilet paper.

COVID-19 was top of mind as my husband, Jim, and I worked with Children's Hospital's Infectious Disease Team to rule out possible causes.

However, after countless tests and questions, medical professionals were confident that the issue was with his bowels or appendix.

We prayed as they took Joey into surgery. It was hard to see him rolled away unconscious, on breathing support and hooked up to many, many machines.

As hard as it was though, we knew those machines were helping keep him alive – and it's because of you that they were available.

YOUR SUPPORT HELPED SAVE HIS LIFE

Caring donors, like you, helped purchase 100 per cent of the medical equipment at Children's Hospital last year.

You also ensured that our medical professionals could stay on top of the ever-changing pandemic protocols through state-of-the-art simulation training, protecting Joey, our family and other young patients.

During Joey's surgery, they discovered that his appendix had burst. The surgeon drained 1.5L of fluid from his abdomen and removed the damaged organ.

Left undiagnosed and untreated for about four days before he was sent to Children's Hospital, the burst appendix had caused significant infection and inflammation in Joey's body – stressing his other organs.

Surgery was just his first step to getting better. He wasn't out of the woods yet.

Jim and I barely left Joey's side in the Paediatric Critical Care Unit (PCCU). At times, we worried we wouldn't get to bring our rambunctious teen home. Our house is so much noisier with Joey in it, and I wouldn't trade that for the world.

Joey is a true middle child – he swears he never gets enough attention. Perhaps it's for this reason that he is one of the most determined and resilient people I know.

His tenacity helped him as he battled pockets of infection and fevers for more than a month on the Inpatient Unit. He endured kidney dialysis, stress testing on his heart and other serious procedures.

Through it all, we couldn't have asked for a better medical team. They showed incredible expertise and compassion. In our eyes, they are heroes and so are you. Your generosity keeps Children's Hospital at its strongest to save lives.

Joey and his new puppy, Penny (short for Appendix), enjoying some time outside thanks to your generous support ensuring the best possible care for sick kids at Children's Hospital!

“We couldn’t have asked for a better medical team. They showed incredible expertise and compassion. In our eyes, they are heroes and so are you.”

Day-by-day Joey improved. After 41 days in hospital, we could finally take him home to Mitchell, Ontario.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING GET JOEY HOME

Today, Joey is thriving. He is keeping busy playing with his siblings and his new puppy, Penny. Joey had been asking for a dog for years and in the PCCU we promised him that we would get him one when he made it home. Penny is short for Appendix.

I feel blessed to have my house noisy once again, filled with the voices of our three children and the barks of our new puppy.

Your support of Children’s Health Foundation means everything to families, like mine. Thank you for standing by our kids.



Why We Give

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

Youth Supporting Youth



Jennifer Lee

Jennifer Lee won the London Community Foundation’s J. Allyn Taylor Community Service Award. As part of the award, she received \$500 to grant to an organization of her choice. She chose Children’s Health Foundation.

“I was inspired to direct my award grant to Children’s Health Foundation because I know the importance of children’s health care.

“My cousin, Eugene, has been undergoing cancer treatment during the global pandemic. His journey has shown me why we need to stand by children and families facing serious health issues during these unprecedented times.

“I have also been a patient and volunteer at Children’s Hospital myself. When I was six years old, I was hospitalized for a fever of unknown origin.

“To this day, I am so grateful for the compassionate medical care I received. I remember telling my mother that I was inspired to be an amazing health care hero one day as well! It is truly an honour to support young kids facing serious health issues in my community with this award.”

- Jennifer Lee



Marlene and Murray Forbes

Giving Tiny Hearts a Chance

“It is 60 years ago that we lost our only infant son to a congenital heart defect. We are thankful to be able to donate a significant gift at this time in our lives.

“We hope these research dollars for paediatric cardiac care will give some tiny hearts a chance for a better life.”

– Marlene and Murray Forbes



Rhonda as a young girl with her mother.

Ensuring a Better Future for Kids

“My mom knew something was wrong when she found me unable to move, at the bottom of our stairs. It was 1954 and I was five years old. I was hospitalized with rheumatic fever. Children’s Hospital has come a long way since then and I’m so glad.

“Although I’m grateful for the care I received, it was a difficult experience. That’s why I’m leaving a legacy gift in my Will to Children’s Health Foundation. I want to ensure sick children have the support they need.”

- Rhonda King



Helen with her daughter, Diane

Helping Babies, Like Diane

“I’ve been a monthly donor for nearly two decades because I believe that if a child can be saved it’s important that they are. It’s unfair that babies are born with health issues.

“My own daughter Diane came into the world with a hereditary disease of the spinal cord, in which some of her nerve cells were missing. Diane never kicked her legs or walked. She was in and out of hospital, needing care for many challenges. Then in 1966, at 15 months old, Diane became sick with bronchial pneumonia and she passed away.

“I give month-after-month to help babies, like my Diane, and the parents who are dealing with so much.”

- Helen Gould

Strong and Healthy

YOU helped kids stay active during COVID-19 lockdowns.

Like most of us, 16-year-old Sara starts out her virtual workouts tired.

By the end though, “she’s laughing and has more energy,” says her mom, Gill. “She has such a wonderful relationship with the Adapted Fitness Centre staff at TVCC. They know how to inspire her to reach her fitness goals. We are thankful she can work out safely at home.”

Sara is a childhood cancer survivor. She was just three years old when she was diagnosed with a brain tumour.

The treatments she underwent left her with many side effects, including impacts on her balance, coordination and stamina.



Because of you, Sara is growing stronger and healthier. TVCC’s Adapted Fitness Centre is fully funded through caring and generous donations.

During the global pandemic, your support has helped the centre go virtual and provide take-home exercise kits to clients.

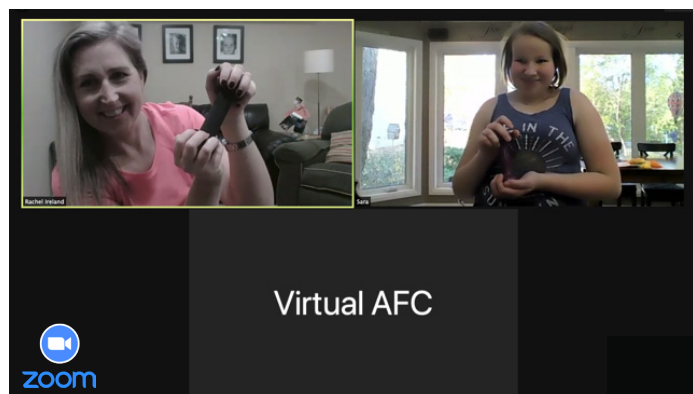
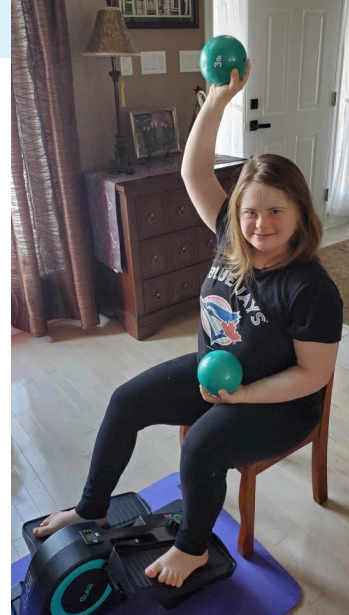
“They do an amazing job with coaching me and encouraging me,” says Sara. “It makes me feel good about myself and I’m seeing results.”

Thirteen-year-old Hailey is also seeing results because of your support.

Hailey was born with Down syndrome and the condition impacts her motor skills and muscle tone. She relies on the centre’s trained professionals to help her improve her balance and stamina.

Since starting with the centre, Hailey has been able to enjoy longer walks with her family.

“It seems small, but it means a lot to us,” says her mom, Sharrie. “I’m truly grateful to the donors who make this program possible. They are helping to keep Hailey healthy and active.”



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 virtual estate planning workshops — they’re free!**

Contact us today for more information:

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



You are Part of Paige's Good News!

Do you remember Paige? She was five years old when she was diagnosed with leukemia – a cancer of the blood.

She underwent more than two years of treatment. It was rough on her.

Her hair fell out in clumps. Sometimes she was too nauseous to eat.

Through it all, the amazing staff at Children's Hospital stood by Paige and so did you, by giving generously to ensure she received the best possible care.

Today, Paige is in remission!

She returns to Children's Hospital regularly for monitoring.

Test-after-test, her oncologist says, "Paige's blood work is perfect as usual."

"We love hearing those words!" says her mom, Shannon. "We are so excited. Paige has knocked this leukemia out of the park."

Thank you for supporting young patients, like Paige, as they face life-threatening and life-limiting diseases.

You give families hope, relief and support. You give kids better childhoods.



Your generous support helped Paige throughout her cancer journey. Access to Child Life, Art Therapy and Ollie the Clown were crucial for her wellbeing.



Community Events

March 29 to May 2 - Lowe's Campaign

April 25 – Forest City Road Races

April 29 to June 8 – Walmart Campaign

May 1 to May 31 – Million Reasons Run

May 18 - Virtual Estate Planning Presentation

May 19 - Child Health Research Day



Children's Hospital Merchandise

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

Purchase a face mask, t-shirt, teddy bear or Yeti tumbler!

All proceeds will support programs and equipment families rely on at Children's Hospital.



Get yours today at childhealth.ca/standbyme