



2021-2022 Community Report

Better Days Ahead. **Because You Stand By Our Kids.**

Darcey, Age 7

Rare Blood Disorder
(Atypical Hemolytic Uremic
Syndrome - AHUS) and
Chronic Kidney Disease

See how
you made a
difference!



We continue
to be **wowed**
by your
generosity.

– Scott Fortnum and Bob Morrill

Jenna, Age 3

Born Premature (114 days
in the NICU)

A Letter from **Our President & CEO and Board Chair**

There is no doubt that our world has transformed.

Yet, you've shown us exactly what a community can accomplish when they unite in support of our kids.

Your support throughout the global COVID-19 pandemic has turned unexpected challenges into new possibilities. You helped our health care partners advance in ways we never could have imagined before!

Your commitment to stand by our kids has been a **silver lining** in these uncertain times.

Throughout the rise and fall of each wave, you rallied around children and youth in our region to ensure that families facing life-threatening illnesses and life-limiting diagnoses always had access to the best possible care.

We continue to be wowed by your generosity.

Your support for our health care partners — Children's Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC), TVCC and Children's Health Research Institute (CHRI) — has helped ensure that they could adapt and create innovative models of treatment, putting our kids and their families first while providing the safest possible care throughout COVID-19.

You ensured Children's Hospital stayed prepared with specially trained therapists and support staff that helped our kids experience moments of joy, learn coping strategies for their fears, and laugh together during tough times.

You helped TVCC ensure that children and youth with disabilities had the guidance they needed to choose which supports were right for them by enabling hybrid services. Including peer-to-peer connection, sharing their stories with the broader community, or accessing mobility aids and school support.

You made it possible for us to support specific COVID-19 and paediatric research and explore new possibilities for providing better care for all kids today, and in the future.

Despite the challenges we faced, it was a spectacular year. Thanks to your incredible support, CHF was able to commit additional funds, well beyond our initial plans, to support children's mental health and COVID-19 related programs and research.

Thank you for continuing to stand by our kids, creating that shining silver lining for our families and paving the way for better days ahead.

With sincere gratitude,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. St Fortnum".

Scott Fortnum

President & CEO,
Children's Health Foundation



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Morrill".

Bob Morrill

Chair, Board of Directors
Children's Health Foundation

You are part of an **amazing community.**



Calves for **a Cause**



MacDonald Turkey Point Marina
Bass Tournament



Children's **Golf Classic**



Lowe's **Golden Hammer Award**



Cadillac Fairview
Donation



Miya Bax Campbell
Donation



Tim Horton's
Smile Cookie Week



Harding Family
Legacy Gift



Corteva Agriscience
Donation



Get Your **Kick On**



Jingle Bell **Rappel**



Holiday **Toy Drive**

Stand By Me **Campaign Highlights.**

Lochlan, Age 4

Scoliosis, Meningitis
and Epilepsy



For more than two years, the global pandemic has complicated care for our children and their families. Children's Health Foundation made a call to our community to ensure Children's Hospital's patients, families and staff continued to have their needs met every step of the way – and you answered!

Thanks to your support, Children's Health Foundation was able to commit nearly \$10.5 million to the best possible care! You made it possible for our health care partners to persevere throughout the pandemic and discover a silver lining – new solutions that strengthen our kids' care.

Your community-minded generosity allowed us to fund leading-edge treatment, adaptations, and innovation throughout an unprecedented time. Thank you!

You gave the **gift** of...



You supported investments in life-changing technology.

You stood by our medical professionals to help purchase the ROSA One Brain Robotic arm, which performs curative epilepsy surgery! Before Children's Hospital had the ROSA, our paediatric neurosurgical team and vulnerable patients were transferred to another hospital campus for their surgery. With the ROSA, our neurosurgeons can perform procedures that pinpoint the location of epileptic seizures and prepare patients for brain surgery onsite.

Children's Hospital is the first to have this robotic equipment in Ontario! This robotic equipment is specially fitted for children and makes it possible for Children's to perform life-changing surgery for patients who don't respond to treatments like medication. Children's robot-assisted surgery is an incredible option that can ultimately treat the cause of children's seizures, curing their epilepsy!

Thanks to you, our health care professionals had state-of-the-art equipment like ROSA, phototherapy lights and resectoscopes to provide innovative medical therapies, resect tumours and save lives!



Expert Medical Guidance



You helped equip health care professionals with specialized training to provide life-saving care.

Our health care teams were prepared amidst the changing restrictions and rolling waves of COVID-19 thanks to your support of medical education. Through your investments in the *Michael Gunning Simulation Centre*, health professionals continued to participate and rely on countless virtual and in-person simulations to prepare them for challenging real-life scenarios. Smaller community hospitals and other regional partners also benefited from this service. Your generosity provided access to specialized training for nurses and midwives and memberships to databases that support collaboration with care centres around the world so we can constantly improve! Thanks to you, our medical professionals were prepared for emerging needs and broadened their skill set to save and protect young lives.



Emotional Safety



You helped create moments of comfort and safety as our families experienced complex emotions and mental health needs.

Expressive therapies like the *Child Life Program* and Ollie the Therapeutic Clown gave our kids the chance to play, laugh, sing and explore their treatment needs with curiosity instead of fear. You also strengthened our *Child and Adolescent Mental Health Care Program*. Children and youth accessed restorative practices like yoga, creative and essential materials that enhanced their therapies, and virtual and in-person assessment, while Indigenous children and youth received care that weaved in holistic Indigenous wellness and celebrated their culture. You helped ensure families had the joy and support they needed to make it through and helped us emerge as the primary mental health care centre for kids in Southwestern Ontario.



A Healthier Future



You made it possible to invest in the best treatments for today and the research that leads to healthier futures for our kids.

Your generosity allowed for the launch of innovative programs like *Help Me Thrive*. Based in child development research, this program ensures that vulnerable infants and toddlers who face chronic hospitalization have the support they need to get the best possible start to life. Today, our kids have the benefit of improved developmental support from their dedicated health care teams as well as their well-prepared parents. Thanks to your support of leading-edge research, our patients with epilepsy also had access to new educational videos that eliminated an eight-month long waitlist for diet therapy. Today, our kids and their parents have unparalleled treatment options because of your generosity!



Comfort for Families



You provided families with the connections to crucial resources so they could meet their basic needs even in uncertain times.

As COVID-19 caused fluctuating hours for hospital amenities and financial challenges for many families, your generosity meant help was right at their bedsides. The *Paediatric Family Resource Centre (PFRC)* began bedside orientations during the pandemic, which are now a standard part of care. From emotional support and help filling medical forms to connections with financial aid, legal services or other basic needs, our Facilitators had 9,068 interactions with families this year! Our Youth CoRE facilitators helped over 800 adolescents face hospitalization with fun and games and peers who have lived experience with hospital life. Your generosity provided the right services at the right time for vulnerable kids and families.



Darcey, Age 7

Rare Blood Disorder (Atypical Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome - AHUS) and Chronic Kidney Disease

You helped keep Darcey **full of energy.**

For two weeks Darcey is busy being a typical seven-year-old. Whether it's dance class, swimming lessons or school choir, Darcey is living life and loving every minute of it!

But when that third week hits, the fatigue, the nausea, and the anxiety, start to show. Darcey has a chronic condition.

Diagnosed at just seven-months-old with a rare blood disorder and chronic kidney condition, Darcey needs life-saving infusions at Children's Hospital to ensure she can be her energetic self.

As her Mom Dionne describes, "Darcey pushes through and uses her coping skills to manage some anxiety, but the questions about her visits creep in and she changes physically too. The week before treatment we see the tiredness, the lack of appetite – there's a big reason as to why she needs treatment every three weeks."

Thanks to your kindness, Darcey's day-long treatments come with a bright side – **life-long friends at Children's Hospital who provide Darcey with wraparound care.**

Ollie the Therapeutic Clown and his partner in crime, Hospital Aide Mark, can recognize her

laugh when it floats down the halls, and create tons of mischief with Darcey – from practical jokes to easter egg hunts!

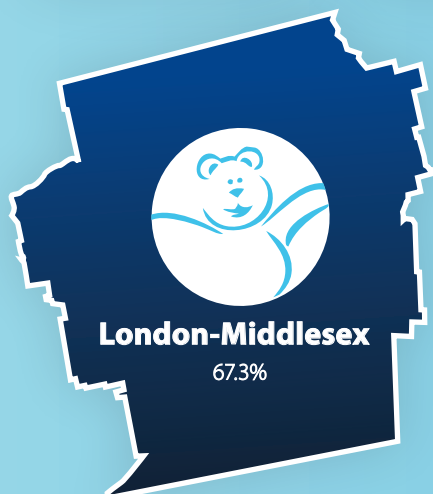
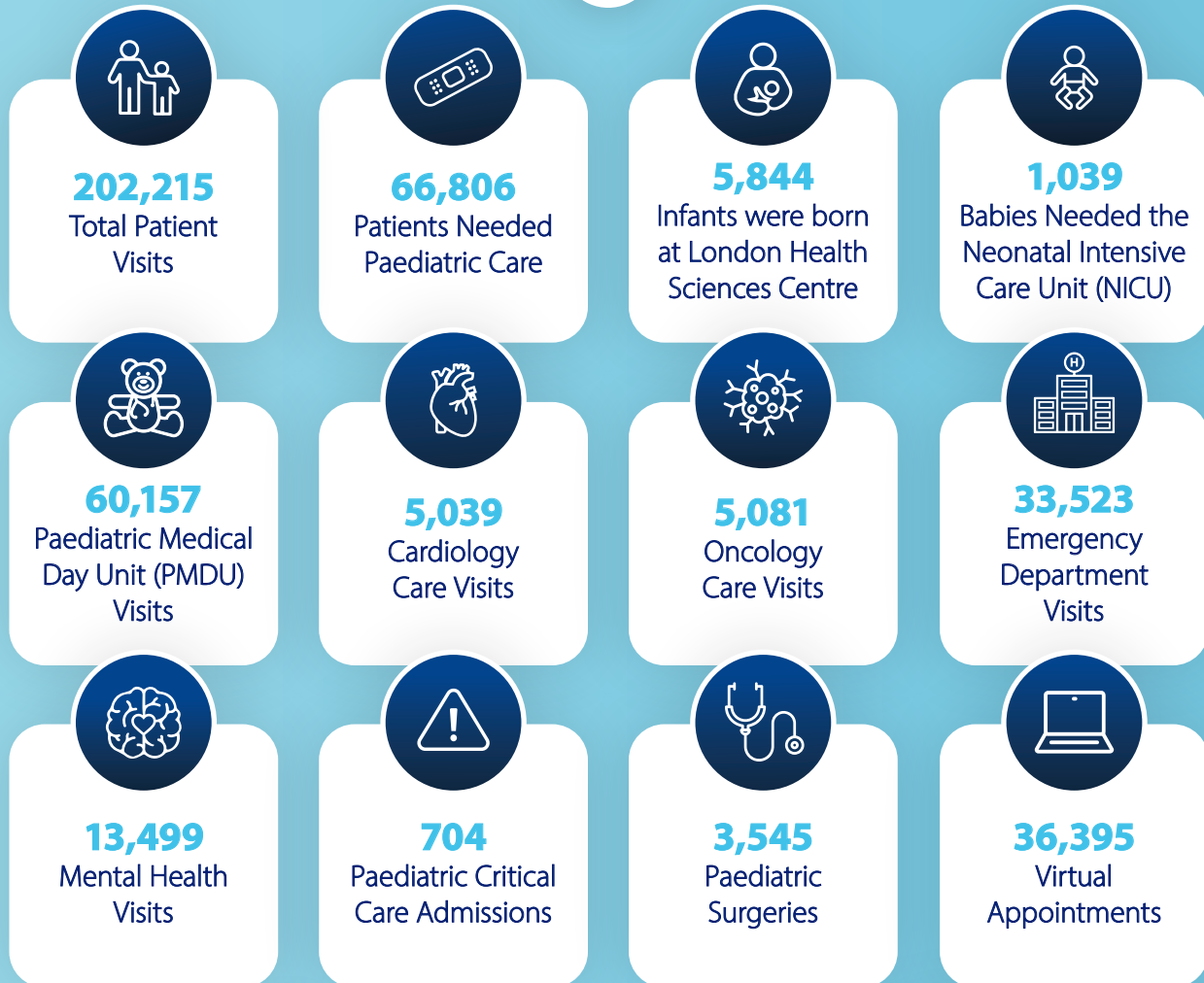
Child Life Specialist Erika helps Darcey face her fear of needles that has crept in as she grows up. Erika also enthusiastically brings pre-COVID magic back into the hospital, planning special moments just for Darcey like her very own teddy bear picnic!

Your generosity makes it possible for therapists, clinicians, Child Life Specialists and more, to rally around Darcey, ensuring she feels safe and has moments of joy in every single one of her treatments. **They make sure Darcey's visits aren't just life-saving, but life-enriching.**

Even though her condition is complex and needs monthly support, Darcey lives a happy childhood. Right now, she is looking forward to her next dance recital – her first in two years!

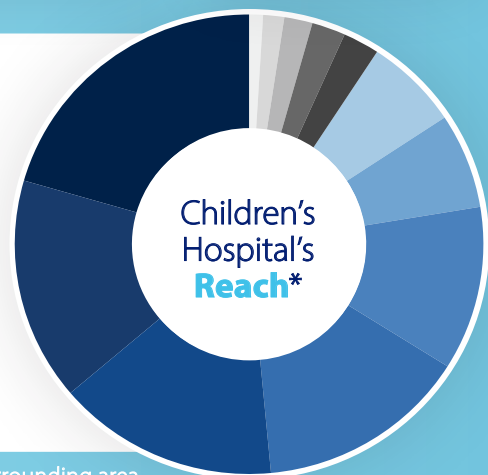
With the help of Children's Hospital and caring community supporters like you, **Darcey and her family know that Children's will always be here to provide the wraparound care she needs to chase her dreams.**

An Update on Children's Hospital.



- Sarnia
- Woodstock
- Windsor
- St. Thomas
- Kitchener/Waterloo
- Owen Sound
- Chatham
- Toronto Area
- Other
- Thunder Bay
- Sudbury
- Ottawa

*cities listed include surrounding area





Broadening Access to a **World of Possibility.**

TVCC meets families where they are to provide programs, resources and research that support a range of needs, including physical disabilities, communication disorders, developmental delays and autism spectrum disorders.

Your generosity allowed CHF to commit more than \$1.2 million for TVCC programs. The expansion of virtual services helped children and youth from across Southwestern Ontario participate in their communities and discover what their “best life” looks like for them.

Through *TVCC Storytellers*, children and youth with disabilities shared their stories at schools, community centres and virtually!

Virtual presentations helped them reach more groups than ever before and build a more empathetic and knowledgeable community. Parents and clients also gained new online training modules, while the *Kids on The Block* program shared their inclusivity and anti-bullying education through interactive video presentations.

Your support set up TVCC for success as they continue balancing in-person and virtual services. This balance will give TVCC a broader reach for families across Southwestern Ontario and help them provide increased flexibility for families in accessing supports and services. Thanks to you, more clients and their families can create their best life with TVCC.



4,151

Client Referrals



14,374

Clients Served



163,628

Hours of Care



56%

Of services were provided by phone, email or video conference



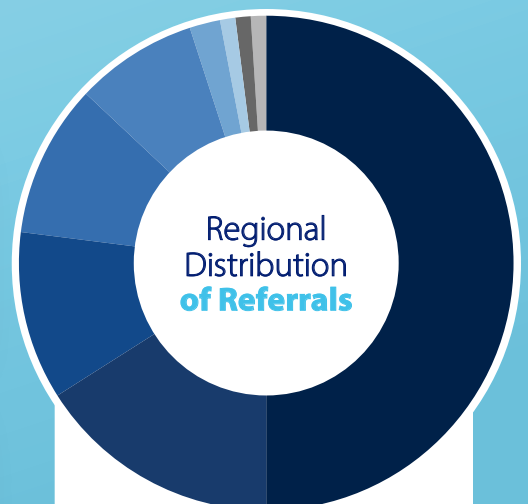
40%

Of clients accessed more than one service at TVCC



83%

Of clients received assessment within 90 days of referral



- Middlesex
- Grey/Bruce
- Oxford
- Huron/Perth
- Essex
- Chatham-Kent
- Lambton
- Other



Kshitij, Age 16

Duchenne Muscular
Dystrophy (DMD)

You helped Kshitij find a **life-changing community**.

"When our little six-year-old Kshitij was suddenly diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), we didn't know what to do," explains his dad, Anup.

DMD is a rare disorder that causes muscle weakness, which progresses throughout the body, and **Kshitij's family was devastated to learn that currently, there is no cure.**

No matter how hard they looked, the support their talkative and bubbly son would need just didn't seem to be available in India.

Just when things seemed impossible, Anup heard about experimental treatments.

Anup remembers, "I was reaching out to clinical trials in Germany, the United States – anywhere! Dr. Craig Campbell in London, Ontario responded first. He spoke to us with such kindness and encouragement that we finally knew what to do."

Ten years ago, Anup and his family moved halfway around the world in search of the best care for Kshitij.

Here, their family found more support than they thought possible. Their journey may have started with the ground-breaking work at Children's

Hospital, but thanks to your support, **it also connected them to a community.**

The caring staff and clients at TVCC changed Kshitij's life.

Today, at 16-years-old, Kshitij is always happy to joke around with his friends at TVCC. Whether it's the chats he has with his physiotherapist about sourcing computer pieces while working on his arm strengthening exercises or talking to social worker Rhonda about accommodations to get to his favourite history class, he knows there's a whole community supporting him.

"TVCC's supports have touched every aspect of our life and Kshitij's health care. They provide us with all the information we need to make the best decisions for our family," shares Anup. "Whether it's connecting us with new opportunities like summer camps, funding, or therapies, TVCC takes all the complicated parts of figuring out life with a disability and makes it simpler."

Thanks to you, the last ten years has built a community of support and connection for Kshitij's family. **You help TVCC be a safe place for clients and families to choose what services they need to propel them into their best life.**

Children's Health Research Institute

Puts Our Kids' Futures First.

Children's Health Research Institute (CHRI) is the third largest hospital-based child health research institute in Canada. Thanks to donors like you who contributed \$2.0 million this year, you helped dedicated scientists ensure that our kids will have the best opportunities to enjoy healthy lives in childhood and as adults.

As vaccinations became an important area of public safety and education, Dr. Naveen Poonai and his dedicated team conducted two years of research to successfully implement the *Comfort Promise* and manage kids' pain during needle pokes at Children's Hospital. This team helped reduce pain and anxiety for kids during vaccinations and paved the way for more improvements in kids' pain management, like Dr. Poonai's future *PRECIPICE: Predictors of*

chronic pain and related conditions in children – a longitudinal cohort study. Children's Health Foundation is raising support for *PRECIPICE* research to help prevent poorly managed acute pain for our kids.

CHRI scientists also launched projects exploring cultural competency in the treatment of Indigenous children with chronic pain, mental health related emergency department use among children in Ontario, as well as environmental and neighborhood risk factors that can cause health inequalities for our kids.

Thanks to your kindness, CHRI was able to strive for better treatments today and give hope for better futures for vulnerable children and their families.



161

Scientists and
Associate Scientists
Conducted Research



594

Peer Reviewed
Publications
Produced



3rd Largest

Hospital-based Child
Health Research
Institute in Canada



\$62,628,700

Amount of
Research Income
in Grants



Luka, Age 17

Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)

You helped Luka's **uniqueness shine.**

Water gun fights, video games and sarcasm. **These are words that most people don't associate with cancer, but they probably haven't met Luka.**

Despite being diagnosed with cancer — Acute Myeloid Leukemia - at just nine-years-old, Luka always kept his mischievous energy.

"I remember asking the nurses if his treatment was working. You wouldn't know he was sick because he was always joking, laughing, playing card games with Ollie (the Therapeutic Clown) and having water gun fights with the nurses," recalls his mom, Michelle.

When kids receive a cancer diagnosis at Children's Hospital, they remain the unique child they were before. Their bodies' reactions to chemo and the results of their blood tests, full body scans and lumbar punctures, all tell a story that helps their health care team learn new information about how to provide the best care for not just them, but other children with similar diagnoses.

Our Children's *Childhood Cancer Program* — the hub of childhood cancer care in Western Ontario — collaborates with researchers from CHRI to help make sense of all this data and help patients through treatment.

For complex diseases like cancer, a combination of genetics, lifestyle, environment and many other factors are at play.

Bioinformatics is an emerging computational technology and field of study that help clinicians and researchers to **analyze complex data from patients like Luka as a piece of a big jigsaw puzzle.** Your support helped launch Bioinformatics expertise at CHRI.

If other kids with Acute Myeloid Leukemia have some factors in common, Bioinformaticians and their software tools can help provide clues to clinicians and researchers about what might cause their illness – the next piece of the puzzle!

Finding the next piece means that Bioinformatics can help CHRI researchers decide new directions for research and hopefully find new treatments, so that kids like Luka can get better faster.

With supporters like you, **each child's uniqueness is an amazing part of creating the best possible care!** CHRI hopes that in the near future, cancer treatments will become as personalized and unique as the child who needs them.



Kayleigh, Age 2

Infantile Myofibromatosis
(106 days in the NICU)

2021-2022 Fundraising Revenue.

How you stood by our kids and supported best care in our region:

Grand Total: **\$16.8 million**



7 programs
to comfort families



5 mental health
care initiatives supported



6 research projects
for a healthier future



7 programs
for emotional safety and
child development



6 specialized
education and training
opportunities



\$7.3 million
invested in Children's
Hospital, LHSC



\$1.2 million
invested in rehabilitative
service programs at TVCC



\$2.0 million
invested in innovative
research at CHRI



- Philanthropic Gifts 48%
- CMN and Corporate Partnerships 35%
- Dream Lottery 12%
- Events 5%



50
STAND BY ME
Champion Donors



\$2.3 million +
donated by our
Champions this year



Children's Hospital, LHSC



TVCC Locations



Children's Hospital's
area of service



Service area that Children's
Hospital shares with other
Ontario children's hospitals



Ema and Luna, 3

Windsor, Ontario



Seth, 16

Fort William First Nation,
Ontario



Darcey, 7

Hanover, Ontario



2021
Champion
Child!

Teaghan, 15

London, Ontario



Kshitij, 16

London, Ontario



Luka, 17

Kitchener, Ontario



Petra, 1

Aylmer, Ontario

Children's Hospital's
Area of Impact.

2021-2022

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**London Health
Sciences
Centre Board
Representative**

Mr. Scott Fortnum,
President & CEO,
**Secretary to the
Board**



Our Vision

Saving lives and
improving children's
health and quality of life.



Our Mission

Inspiring caring people to donate
to support excellence in children's
health care and research at
Children's Hospital, TVCC, and
Children's Health Research Institute.

“

Every cloud has
a silver lining.

**For our kids,
it was you.**

– Scott Fortnum and Bob Morrill

Kshitij, Age 16

Duchenne Muscular
Dystrophy (DMD)



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