

JULY 2025

A Special Update for the **J.P. Bickell** **Foundation**

Presented by
Children's Health Foundation



Hope Lives Here

Our Sincere Gratitude

Hope isn't a wish; it's created every day.

Hope lives in the caring hands of our health care professionals, in the brilliant minds of our researchers and in the generous hearts of our donors.

Children's Health Foundation is sincerely grateful to the J.P. Bickell Foundation for your support in strengthening children's care in Southwestern and Northern Ontario and beyond. Together, we are ensuring that every child has the opportunity for a vibrant future.

Since your first gift in 2011, you have granted \$213,000 to Children's Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre. In doing so, you have brought hope to our tiniest and most fragile patients, those in our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), and helped to establish the Paediatric Palliative Care Program. Most recently in 2023, your donation of \$66,000 helped to purchase in full a Giraffe OmniBed.

We're excited to share how deeply your generosity has transformed lives.





Updates on Neonatal Intensive Care

Children's Hospital is the third largest children's hospital in Canada and has one of the nation's busiest NICUs. We serve families across Southwestern and Northern Ontario, meeting the needs of a broad and diverse region that continues to grow. Last year, our dedicated health care team supported 1,048 premature and critically ill infants in the NICU alone.

For more than 20 years Dr. Victor Han has led the department as Chair of Neonatal Perinatal Medicine. He stepped down this year and was succeeded by Dr. Kevin Coughlin in April.

Dr. Coughlin brings a multidisciplinary vision shaped by his appointments in both Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Health & Rehabilitation Sciences. His co-leadership of the Perinatal & Reproductive Ethics Team and co-direction of the Southwestern Ontario Perinatal Outreach Program's neonatal division and the Paediatric Simulation Program highlight his strengths in ethical guidance, community engagement, and hands-on training. Backed by a robust research portfolio, he's poised to drive innovation and further elevate care.



Dr. Kevin Coughlin

Newly appointed
Chair of the Division
of Neonatal Perinatal
Medicine

The Impact of Your Generosity

State-of-the-art medical equipment is a lifeline of hope for fragile NICU babies – with one of the most impactful pieces being the Giraffe OmniBed.

In 2023, thanks to your generosity, Children's Hospital ordered a brand-new OmniBed, strengthening our NICU's fleet so that every fragile baby has the care they deserve.

The infants in the NICU are extremely sensitive to external disruptions, and the slightest change in their environment can create detrimental stress. The Giraffe OmniBed delivers an advanced, developmentally-supportive "microenvironment" that is designed to promote the growth and stability of fragile newborns. Controls for temperature, humidity, oxygen, light and even noise level help mimic a mother's womb.

Commissioned on May 9, 2025, this latest model features advanced computerized controls for even better temperature and humidity management. Nestled in its safe and innovative embrace, our tiniest patients are nurtured to grow stronger and thrive.

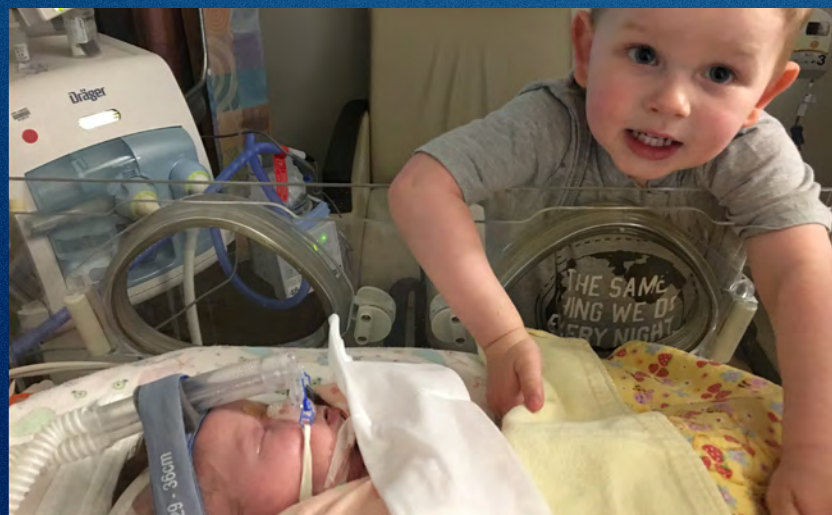
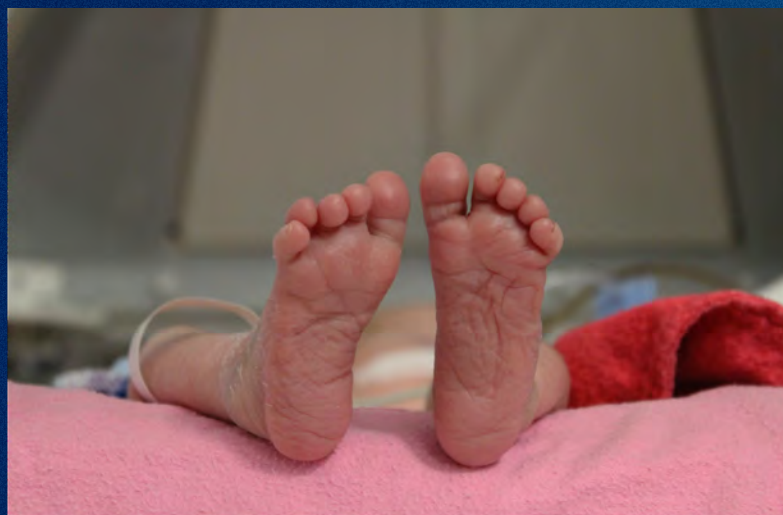


Saving Calvin and Katharina

Half of Charlotte and Corey's hearts stayed at Children's Hospital when their daughter Katharina left the NICU. Born nearly three months early, Katharina needed months of care to breathe, fight infections and feed. Her parents were overjoyed to finally bring her home, yet that happiness was tempered by her twin brother Calvin's continued need for specialized care. Both weighed under two pounds at birth. Calvin appeared stronger initially but developed sepsis after emergency hernia surgery. His organs faltered, blood pressure plummeted and more surgery followed. But he persevered and after 10 months, including time spent in an OmniBed, he finally joined his sister at home. Today, Calvin and Katharina are seven! Calvin lives with cerebral palsy, which means he uses technology like wheelchairs, feeding tubes and respiratory devices to make sure he can do everything he wants to. And his twin Katharina keeps him incredibly active!

The Giraffe OmniBed is a special type of incubator that helps us care for the tiniest and most fragile babies, especially those born very early or with low birth weight. It's designed to keep baby safe, warm, and comfortable while still allowing families and staff to stay close and involved in their care. This bed creates a quiet, temperature-controlled space that protects a baby from too much noise and light – both of which can be overwhelming for premature infants. It even lets us weigh the baby right in bed, so we don't have to move them more than necessary. Your donation has helped our team provide excellent care and has already impacted many families' journeys in the NICU.

— Jeanette Mills
NICU Nursing Manager



This past month we have had an influx of very small premature babies arrive. The OmniBed has been essential in the team being able to provide life-saving measures in our resuscitation space. The babies once stable are then able to move to the unit in the same bed so as to not disrupt them any further. We truly value having this equipment that allows us to provide care in the most efficient way.

— Kala-Lee
NICU Charge RN

With your Help, Hope Lives

At Children's Hospital and Children's Health Foundation, we believe in transformation – turning obstacles into opportunities, discoveries into cures, and despair into hope. Every child holds immense potential, and that potential is unlocked with the right care and innovation.

Recognizing the profound power of philanthropy to advance neonatal care, we're filled with gratitude for your leadership and partnership in transforming young lives. Through your unwavering support, you stand on the front lines of care – shoulder to shoulder with families in their most critical moments.

To each of the members of The J. P. Bickell Foundation, our heartfelt thanks.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:



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Thank you!



Join our community @**CHFhope**

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