

YOUR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL HEART CENTRE UPDATE

FALL 2020 PRESENTED BY THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA



You're helping kids like Jaxon!

Looking at happy, lovable Jaxon Miller, you would never know the mountains he has had to climb just to reach the age of three. Only the scars on his chest and body tell the story of the many battles Jaxon has waged, and triumphed over.

Jaxon was born with a serious heart condition called hypoplastic left heart syndrome. Essentially, he was born with half a heart. Jaxon needed intensive care at HSC Winnipeg Children's Hospital from the moment he was born.

His mother, Kristyn, recalls the loving care of the medical care team when they tended to Jaxon. This same care was shown to Kristyn and her husband, too.

"Our world came crashing down with the diagnosis, and knowing our baby needed surgery. The nurses and doctors were honest with us – he was very sick. And nothing we did caused this. It was devastating not to be able to hold our baby. But with the encouragement of the team, we were able to touch Jaxon before he was life-flighted out at just 10 hours old."

During the next three months, Jaxon travelled back and forth between Winnipeg and Edmonton three times. And each time he came home, the team at

Children's Hospital was ready and waiting to care for him.

One night at home, Jaxon went into cardiac arrest. He was just 3½ months old. Cardiac nurse, Amber, coached Kristyn and her husband over the phone how to perform CPR on Jaxon. Kristyn calls her "our angel."

"Arriving at Children's Hospital was an experience I will never forget. Over 40 people were waiting for Jaxon."

Today, Jaxon is thriving like any other toddler, recently celebrating his third birthday. He loves cars, trucks, books, animals and cooking. As Kristyn says, their family's life will always revolve around Children's Hospital.

"Every time we are there, we see the direct impact that donors have. From crucial diagnostic machines, to giving Jaxon new books to read, it truly makes a difference for our family. No child should experience a hospital as frequently as Jaxon does. But because of your support, he has the resources he and his family need, and they feel cared for and loved. Every single dollar makes a difference. Our hope is stronger than ever that Jaxon will live a long healthy life – because of donors like you."



Construction and fundraising are well under way

Advances in treatment means children living with heart conditions are living longer, healthier lives than ever before. With the number of patients in the cardiac clinic growing from 1,500 to 6,000 a year, a new space was necessary, and the campaign to build a new Children's Heart Centre kicked off in 2018.

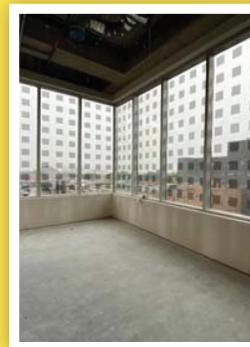
You were incredible to put up your hand and offer to help.

Under construction and anticipated to open in spring 2021 in its new location in HSC Winnipeg's Diagnostic Centre of Excellence, the clinic will be closer to critical infrastructure kids with heart conditions may need, like the Children's Emergency Department, operating rooms, intensive care units, and diagnostic tools including the new pediatric MRI.

The project that began as a need to build a larger clinic has grown to meet even greater needs, thanks to the passion of campaign champions, Gerry and Barb Price. In addition to building and outfitting the new Children's Heart Centre, the campaign now includes a catheterization lab, which opened in January 2020, a fluoroscopy lab, and new specialized equipment.

The campaign will also extend important monitoring capabilities across Children's Hospital wards for kids who need constant surveillance, but not an intensive care unit. This advanced equipment and technology monitors vital signs such as blood pressure, heart rate and rhythm, and oxygen saturation, and immediately alerts staff to serious changes in condition.

Thanks to your generosity, we are only \$1.5 million away from the new \$14.7 million goal. **Thank you for having such a big heart!**



Take a peek at the construction progress of the new Children's Heart Centre.



Dr. Soni at Cath Lab opening

Want to learn more about the impact you make?
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