



Teddy News

Your Donor Impact Report

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YEARS

“I knew I could sleep because he was being cared for so well.”

It's hard enough for any parent to watch their child being wheeled away into an operating room.

But harder still when you can't hug him as you say goodbye.

Last year, Sarah Brooker had to do just that.

But the ordeal was made easier for both of them because of the enormous amount of confidence they had in HSC Winnipeg Children's Hospital medical teams. And because of the sophisticated equipment that Hospital supporters like you provide.

In early 2020, Sarah's son, Travis, underwent a procedure to have a polyp inside his nostril removed. That's when doctors discovered a large tumour that was growing rapidly into several areas of his face and sinuses.

Travis was scheduled to go into his first of many surgeries to remove the tumour in March. But then COVID-19 hit, and the family spent an anxious three months waiting.

The pandemic made trips to the hospital even more challenging. When Travis's surgery date arrived in June, Sarah couldn't hug him as she said goodbye. And neither of them could see the faces of

the doctors and nurses, because of their PPE.

But Sarah recalls with appreciation how the medical team did everything they could to show their compassion through their voice and mannerisms, even if Travis couldn't see their smiles.



Travis is tumour free after eight surgeries.

In all, Travis underwent eight difficult surgeries in one year to tackle the tumour. Finally, in December, he was wheeled away to his eighth and final surgery. It was very intricate and very long, but at the end Sarah received the great news that they had successfully removed all of the tumours.

During his many stays in hospital, Travis relied on remote monitoring equipment to keep track of his vitals like heart rate, breathing and medications. This equipment and technology was purchased thanks to generous donors like you.

Travis's case was so unique and so complicated that he's now made medical history – and his medical journey will be used for future research to help kids around the world.

“They went above any lengths you can imagine,” says Sarah. “We feel very loved and cared for here.”



Travis after his most recent surgery

Celebrating an incredible doctor and researcher



Dr. Rockman-Greenberg

The Children's Hospital Foundation celebrates its 50th birthday this year, and Dr. Cheryl Rockman-Greenberg has been working here with us for 41 of those years.

Dr. Rockman-Greenberg is both a clinician and a researcher – meaning that she treats patients and also leads crucial research into rare metabolic genetic illnesses.

The lives of children with a particular metabolic illness hypophosphatasia – one that can cause severe abnormalities of their bones – have been improved dramatically thanks to Dr. Rockman-Greenberg and her team at the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba (CHIRM).

Dr. Rockman-Greenberg stays passionate about her work, citing *"the patients, their families, and their needs"* as her motivation to keep forging ahead.

Dr. Rockman-Greenberg's dedication to helping others was shaped back when she was a young girl of 14 years in 1964. Cheryl's mother Frances had been battling cancer for eight years. Her father had made the decision not to tell their children about Frances's health.

"My father never told us she had cancer and as far as I know my mother did not know the diagnosis either," remembers Dr. Rockman-Greenberg. *"In those days you didn't talk about cancer."*

And so, it was only a week before her mother's passing that Cheryl and her two brothers learned the truth from their dad.

"When my dad told me she was going to die, that's precisely when my life changed. I was going to try to honour her memory, and make up for all those years that I didn't help her because I didn't know she was so sick."

Thousands of children have been helped because of Dr. Rockman-Greenberg's dedication to that purpose.

In university, a professor suggested Cheryl apply for medical school. *"I had no idea that such an opportunity existed, that women could be doctors."*

She graduated from McGill medical school, one of only a handful of women in her class. Along with managing her own growing family, Dr. Rockman-Greenberg established herself as a pediatrician, a geneticist, a researcher and an academic.

The highlight of her career was in 2015, when she led a clinical trial of what proved to be a successful treatment for hypophosphatasia. It was the culmination of 33 years of devoted research.

Research that Children's Hospital Foundation donors have supported. Which means a lot to Dr. Rockman-Greenberg.

"I am overwhelmed at how generous people are. People give, selflessly, to raise money for children. It's the total of all the donations large and small that allows us to do what we do."

Did you know?

The United Way of Winnipeg offers donors the option of directing gifts to the charity of their choice. If your workplace participates in the United Way payroll deduction program, you can choose this method to give to the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba. Simply complete the donor-directed giving portion of your United Way pledge form and include the Foundation's name along with our registered charitable number: 11885 2490 RR0001.



This gift is such a powerful way of saying thank you



Laura and Ella Biesheuvel

“Children’s Hospital is very important to our family. And now we’re going to help them care for the children and families of the future.”

They say that life is made up of moments.

I vividly remember the moment when doctors told me that my beloved newborn baby needed surgery to

relieve the buildup of bleeding in her brain.

And to prepare ourselves that she may not survive.

That will always be the most terrifying moment of my life.

But she did survive. And our family has lived 11 years of amazing, precious moments since then.

We have been blessed with those moments because of the wonderful medical teams at HSC Children’s Hospital. Not only did they save my baby all those years ago, but they worked with Laura tirelessly through five years of recovery and rehabilitation.

You see – this place is more than “just” a hospital. The doctors and nurses and staff truly have become part of our family.

And since Laura was one year old, we have dedicated ourselves to supporting other children and their families through monthly donations.

Now we’ve made the decision to leave a gift for Children’s Hospital Foundation of Manitoba in our Wills.

It was simple to do – and of course we’ve made sure that we’ve taken care of our family first. My parents have also decided to leave a gift to the hospital in their own Wills.

It feels great to know that we can have an impact long after we’re gone. And that other families can receive the great care that we have.

I encourage everybody whose lives this hospital has touched to consider this wonderful way of giving, too. You’ll be helping fund life-saving equipment



Laura Biesheuvel, 2016 Champion Child

and programs, as well as the world-class research conducted here.

My daughter’s life was saved here at HSC Children’s Hospital. And they have cared for both our daughters over the years. We are glad that this gift in our Will is such a powerful way of saying Thank You.

Sandra Biesheuvel

If you are interested in learning how you can care for kids by **leaving a gift in your Will**, please contact Lindsay Rayter at lrayer@hsc.mb.ca or **204-797-4387**.

Shop to support sick and injured kids!



Anna Sikora, one of our dedicated volunteers

What's more fun than shopping?

Answer: shopping while knowing you're helping the kids at HSC Children's Hospital!

Have you visited the Nearly New Shop lately?

This wonderful thrift shop – located at 961

Portage Avenue – is run by the Children's Hospital Guild of Manitoba. Funds raised through sales at the shop go to support programs and needs at the hospital.

Over the last 50 years, members of the Children's Hospital Guild have devoted themselves to improving health care for children.

During that time, these amazing volunteers have raised over \$3 million for the children in our care!

In addition to the Nearly New thrift shop, the Guild runs the Book Market, the hospital Gift Shop, the Bear Essentials Fashion Show, Wear Your Bear Day, and more!

As you can imagine, this team – like all of us – is keenly looking forward to a post-pandemic Canada when the world can reopen!

Anna Sikora has been a member of the Guild since 1992, including a two-year stint as President. When she joined, part of the draw was the joy of helping the kids alongside other women. Like her, there were many mothers with young children involved. *"It was adult time!"* she recalls.

Anna calls herself the 'jack of all trades but master of none.' She is an architect by trade and loves design and renovations. She also loves making stained glass, woodworking, art, sewing, biking, gardening and ensuring she does all her hobbies with sustainability in mind. So we would say she has mastered many things!

That includes taking care of our community and our children. Which lies at the heart of all the work the Guild does with such devotion.

To Anna and all the wonderful Guild volunteers – thank you!

Upcoming virtual webinar with Dr. Rockman-Greenberg

Learn more about Dr. Rockman-Greenberg and the impact she has had on kids and families around the world at an online event this fall.

Visit goodbear.ca this summer for more details and to register.



Saturday, November 6, 2021

GALAVANT

WANDER THE WORLD WITH US

Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba invites you to a **virtual family vacation.**



The Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba

50 YEARS

Get your event itinerary updates at: goodbear.ca/GALAvant



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