



Teddy News

Your Donor Impact Report

{ Winter 2022 Vol. 15

Thank you for Emmy's smiles



Emmy in the hospital

Emmy Skelton was just one week old when she started losing interest in feeding. And started becoming more and more lethargic.

Within the next 24 hours, she began struggling so hard to breathe that she was foaming at the mouth.

Her parents, Ryan and Bethany, rushed Emmy to HSC Winnipeg Children's Hospital Emergency Department.

Not certain what the issue was, the quick-acting medical team decided not to wait – they instantly began treating little Emmy for the worst-case scenario... bacterial meningitis.

That decision saved her life.

"The quick actions of the emergency team are the reason we were able to leave a month later with Emmy in our arms. That is something we will always be eternally grateful for." – Mom, Bethany

For the next month, Emmy's tiny body worked valiantly to fight off the infection.

Her condition deteriorated rapidly before she turned the corner. For ages, she was hooked up to every tube and machine possible, with a group of doctors and nurses keeping vigil over her.

"It was terrifying to watch, as a parent," says Bethany.

"We sat beside her for hours, held her little hand, and just cried."

When Bethany was finally able to hold her daughter again, she didn't want to let her go.

"I thought it would be the last time."

This family's ordeal was made even worse because it happened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Friends and family weren't able to join them in the hospital, and they had to take turns to take care of their four-year-old daughter, too.

The wonderful hospital staff became like a new family to Bethany, Ryan and Emmy, giving them a huge support network to lean on.

"The hospital team was nothing short of incredible. It meant everything to have their support. They are miracle workers, and we have the utmost respect and admiration for everyone who works at the Children's Hospital."

"We are reminded every time Emmy smiles that we have her in our lives because of them."



Emmy in her bouncer



Emmy – happy at home!

For the love of Emma-Lee

HSC Children's Hospital is one of those places where we experience so profoundly that beauty can exist, even in the darkest of times.

The Grant family have turned the tragedy of losing their child, into a beautiful, annual celebration of love and hope – and childhood fun!

Emma-Lee Arnould-Grant was only a few months old when random bruises began to appear and quickly disappear on her body.

After bloodwork was done, doctors discovered that Emma had acute lymphoblastic leukemia – a cancer in the bone marrow that can spread quickly to the blood and other areas of the body.

Baby Emma spent months undergoing treatment, but after a strong, brave fight, sadly, in December 2017 it was time for all who loved her to say goodbye.

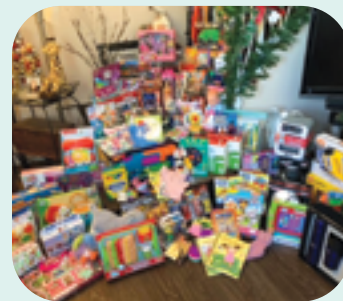
While Emma had been in hospital, she had received the gift of a toy ball from the Easter Bunny. It was such a lovely memory that the family asked guests to bring a toy, rather than flowers, to her Celebration of Life.

Grandmother Beverly describes the beautiful thing that happened next:

"We just wanted toys to give back to the ward she



Emma-Lee



Toy drive

was on. But 450 people came to Emma's service – and they all brought a toy! We ended up not only providing a toy for that ward, but for the whole hospital."

Toys provide comfort for children experiencing a hospital stay, and that is what makes this annual toy drive in Emma's memory so special.

Our hearts remain full of gratitude to the Grant family for thinking of the hospital, and the children we care for here.

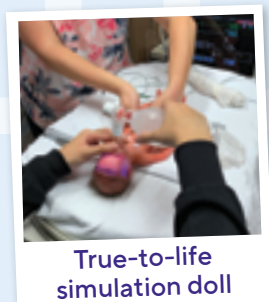
If you would like to give the gift of play, you can make a monetary donation online at goodbear.ca/toys. This will allow staff on the Child Life team to purchase gifts and organize activities for the kids in the hospital throughout the year. Due to COVID-19, only a limited number of toy drives are permitted from special ongoing supporters like the Grant family.

With all our thanks...

Your love and support were felt in every space of this hospital in 2021, as we cared for minds, spirits and bodies alike. Here are just a few of the things your gifts helped fund:

Specialized Equipment

In 2021, you helped purchase specialized equipment for the NICU, laparoscopic surgical tools, breathing machines and the equipment needed for kidney transplants. Your support helped to purchase "Baby Paul," an interactive, true-to-life simulation doll used by doctors, nurses and respiratory therapists as an essential part of training to care for premature babies.



True-to-life simulation doll

Leading-Edge Research

You help scientists at the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba work together to unlock the mysteries of childhood diseases. Thanks to your generosity, scientists and clinicians at CHRIM provided critical research into COVID-19.



Today's research = tomorrow's cures

Thank you for all you've done to support

COVID in kids – your researchers leading the way

The question constantly on the minds of every parent for the last two years is: “how will COVID affect the kids?”

Researchers here in Winnipeg have been leading critical research into answering that question.

For years before the Coronavirus pandemic began, Dr. Meghan Azad had been a principal investigator of the CHILD Cohort Study, a national research study that tracked the ways in which early-life environmental, physical and social factors shape a child’s health.

Nearly 3,500 children and their families have participated in this study, along with over 40 researchers. Its findings have become internationally renowned.

And then came COVID-19.

“As a researcher, as soon as this pandemic hit, I thought ‘what can I do to contribute?’ And we realized there is something we can do, within our study.”



Drawing by Natasha, a CHILD study participant

Dr. Azad and her team adapted the study to better understand the direct and

indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the emotional and physical well-being of Canadian families in this study. This could help control the outbreak and reduce the impact of negative effects.



Dr. Elinor Simons (left)

Now they are looking at why some people infected with the virus become seriously ill, while others do not, and the risk factors for infection. Importantly, they are also looking at how physical distancing and school and business closures have affected mental health and well-being, especially in children.

“The real heroes of this study are the families and the children who participate.”

While the world copes with the pandemic, Dr. Azad and her team are adapting quickly and efficiently to help us understand this virus and its long-term effects. Hopefully, with the help of the CHILD Cohort families, our improved understanding of COVID-19 will contribute to the fight against the pandemic and to the safety of children and families worldwide.



Dr. Bloomsie

Child Life Programming

You help fund caring, innovative programs that keep children’s spirits up and warm their parents’ hearts.

This year saw the arrival of Dr. Bloomsie – the hospital’s new “Humour Therapy” clown who brings laughter, joy and silliness to sick and injured children. Dr. Bloomsie has had patients “in stitches” since they arrived!



Buildings and Spaces

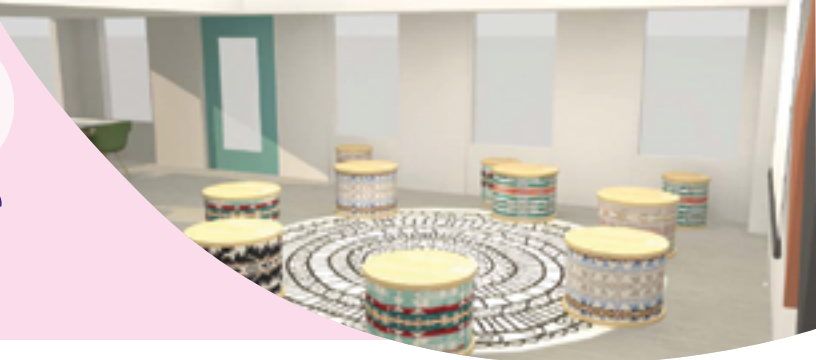
A wonderful new space has opened this year – creating enhanced care for children with complex heart conditions.

On March 8, the doors opened to the new Children’s Heart Centre. Thanks to your generosity, more than 6,000 kids each year will receive care in this beautiful, bright space, filled with the latest equipment and technology.



The new Children's Heart Centre

Indigenous Community Healing Space to provide a welcome environment



Dr. Melanie Morris

The incidence and prevalence of diseases such as diabetes, heart and respiratory diseases and some cancers are increasing in Indigenous children to a greater extent than non-Indigenous children.

These diseases require long-term care with specialist teams, which means some children visit the hospital for years.

Nearly half of the kids treated at HSC Winnipeg Children's Hospital are Indigenous, including many from remote and Northern communities.

Now, led by Dr. Melanie Morris, HSC Children's Hospital will be opening a special Indigenous Community Healing Space. This 2,000 square foot space will be designed to be a place where children and families feel safe, connect with each other and nurture their whole self – physical, mental, emotional

and spiritual – while they are away from their home communities.

Dr. Morris is the first and only Indigenous pediatric surgeon in Canada and has been the first lead of Indigenous Health at HSC Children's since 2019.

Dr. Morris has worked with Elders, community organizations and families to guide culturally sensitive plans for the Indigenous Community Healing Space.

The space will help recognize and embrace the value of Indigenous healing practices, and make them available for Indigenous patients – part of the Hospital's and Foundation's commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. (TRC Action item 22)

"It is so important to have our Elders and women leading and central in the consultation of this project, which will ensure children, healing, health and wellness are the central focus," said Rebecca Chartrand, chair of the Indigenous Advisory Circle to the Foundation.

Noname teaches kids about vaccines

As I write this, the vaccination campaign for children is well underway in Canada. And to help kids and their parents understand and prepare for their vaccine, HSC Children's own Dr. William Li and Noname, the hardest working sock pocket in healthcare, have been helping kids get ready.

You can find their fun and engaging video to share with a little one in your life by visiting goodbear.ca/vaccines.



Dr. Li and Noname talk about vaccines



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