



Teddy News

Your Donor Impact Report

{ Spring 2022 Vol. 16

Keira lights up the room — thanks to you!



Keira in hospital

At two weeks, Keira was taken for an MRI and an x-ray at HSC Winnipeg Children's Hospital.

Unfortunately, the MRI showed that Keira had a condition called craniosynostosis. Sutures in Keira's skull — which are supposed to be flexible in infants to allow the brain to grow — were instead fused together.

As dad, Derek, explains, *"with this condition, her brain wouldn't be able to develop properly."*

He remembers finding out what surgery would entail: *"They told us they would have to cut her head open from ear to ear and cut the sutures in her skull. That was overwhelming."*

Melanie and Derek remember the struggle of those days, as they learned more about baby Keira's condition and the prognosis.

"It's heartbreaking, because you have this little baby, and then you find out she has to have surgery. You want your little girl to have the perfect life. It was hard

to make that decision about surgery," says Melanie.

"Afterwards, she was so swollen, and you think of how painful that must have been for her. But the nurses were so great, and so helpful. They just made us feel that things were going to be okay."

The nurses were right — because Keira has grown into an active and joyful little girl, with a dream of becoming a veterinarian. *"She is happy. And she makes everyone happy around her. Her smile lights up the room."*

Keira will continue to need craniofacial surgeries and see specialists at HSC Children's Hospital.

"We're very grateful for all the donations that people give. We don't know what we would do if we didn't have Children's Hospital. And the Foundation. They've been a big part of our lives," adds Derek.

"By the time she was two, she'd had 12 different specialists. So she's had a really amazing team. The staff are always exceptional. Without them, Keira wouldn't be the vibrant young girl she is."



Keira today

Keira is proud to be the 2022 Champion Child, where she will be the ambassador for the 130,000 children helped by HSC Children's Hospital each year.



Meet the Doctor!

Would it surprise you to learn that dental surgery for childhood tooth decay is the most common pediatric day surgical procedure in Canada?

Dr. Robert Schroth

Tooth decay in children is a serious issue. Over 3,000 pre-school children undergo dental surgery — in an operating room — each year. In Manitoba alone, hospital costs for these surgeries are over \$2.7 million.

Of more concern is the fact that early childhood tooth decay can have serious impacts on childhood health and well-being.



Niko in hospital

Dr. Robert Schroth — known as Dr. Bob — is studying the issue of childhood tooth decay, particularly the impact that nutrition and prenatal factors have on infant and preschool oral health.

He's also investigating whether a product called

Silver Diamine Fluoride can be used to manage early childhood tooth decay in young children. This could help reduce the rates of tooth decay and be an alternative to surgery.



Donor support is vital to the medical research programs carried out here at the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba. For Nina Yoon, an employee of Children's Hospital Foundation, Dr. Bob's research became very personal one day.

In 2018, Nina's son Niko had a seizure.

Rushed to HSC Children's Emergency, Niko was taken to the resuscitation room, where doctors intubated him because he couldn't breathe.

Doctors and nurses took good care of Niko, giving him medication to calm his body, and treating him for the pneumonia and croup that had caused a fever which spiked too high, too quickly.

But during this urgent care, Niko's upper front teeth had been chipped — a common issue during an emergency intubation. This meant his teeth were susceptible to decay. Dr. Bob's research into silver diamine fluoride, and other alternative ways to manage decay, could really help.

Nina has an even stronger gratitude for donors to the Foundation now.

"I definitely feel even more connected to my job, to the hospital and the donors," says Nina. "I see the full circle and I see the impact."



Nina with son, Niko

“Grateful Quotes”

"I am eternally grateful to anyone who has supported Children's Hospital, because without your help I may have lost both my sons."

—Samantha, Jack's grateful mother

"We're just so grateful for everything we've had. There are so many different areas that need funding. With support and donations, the hospital is able to strive to make a child's experience better."

- Brenda, grateful mom to Ethan, Julian, and Aidan (all 3 kids needed hospital)

"I'm so grateful to have HSC Children's Hospital here in Winnipeg. Such committed, professional and caring staff. You are real-life heroes."

— Chantel, Hugh's grateful mother

"There is no place I would rather have had my children cared for."



Paula Woloshyn

groundbreaking research, and compassionate patient and family support programs.

Paula's dedication to HSC Children's came as a result of the many months her own children have spent in the hospital.

Her eldest son, Darren, was born premature at 28 weeks, weighing only 2.5 pounds. After two months of care in hospital he was able to go home. Two years later, a second son, Evan, was also born premature and sadly, did not survive. When Paula became pregnant again

Paula Woloshyn was pregnant with her twin daughters when she first became a monthly donor to HSC Children's Hospital.

Now her daughters, Emily and Brooke, have graduated from high school. And for 18 years, the Woloshyns' monthly gifts have helped fund vital medical equipment,

with twins, she was placed on medical leave.

"I was on bedrest with my twins, listening on the radio to the annual Children's Hospital fundraising drive. I knew that I would most likely be returning to the Children's Hospital because I was carrying twins. It was then that I became a monthly donor. Having spent time there with my son, I felt it was a very worthy cause."

Paula's twin daughters were born early but healthy. And Paula remembers that as well as the outstanding medical care, she was grateful for the staff's composure and support when helping nervous parents and patients.

"I never saw the staff stressed. They were always calm, and always explained things to me in terms that I understood. I was always confident in their care."

The staff were an amazing support when my children were in the NICU. They supported not only the children, but me, with their constant compassion and updates.

There is no place I would rather have had my children cared for."



**Paula Woloshyn
with Darren**



**Woloshyn kids,
now adults**



You can double your impact for sick and injured kids in Manitoba!

If you would like to join the Miracle Makers monthly giving program, please fill out the reply form attached or email Courtney Nodrick at cnodrick@goodbear.ca.

Maxim Truck & Trailer has generously pledged to match every new monthly donation up to **\$50,000 until December 31st, 2022.**

Catching up with Quinn

At HSC Children's Hospital, we know that the mental health of children and youth is just as important as their physical health.

Donor support has been instrumental in providing some of the services that have supported 18-year-old Quinn Quatember.

You may remember Quinn as our Champion Child a number of years ago.

We thought you'd like an update about Quinn, and how HSC Children's has stayed in this family's life.

At age 15, Quinn began to confide in mom Kathryn that *"I felt like I was never meant to be male, and that made me feel that I didn't belong."* Quinn explained that *"my outside didn't match who I was inside."*

Quinn experiences gender dysphoria, which means that the sex assigned at birth doesn't match their gender identity. As I'm sure you can imagine, the tension between who you are considered to be and who you really know you are, can be very distressing.

So, Quinn was always considered by others as "male" but discovered over the years that something just wasn't right.

As Kathryn says, *"It was a progression for her to figure out what she was feeling inside. She didn't feel right in her body and she didn't know exactly why."*

When Quinn began to explain what needed to change in order for her to find her place, she and her mother contacted GDAAY — the Gender Dysphoria Assessment and Action for Youth team at HSC Children's Hospital.

These experts in gender dysphoria and gender affirming specialized health care have provided supportive services including assessment and gender affirming care and resources throughout Quinn's journey.

"I was so comforted to hear that I'm not alone. There are other people experiencing the exact same thing as me," says Quinn. In fact, according to 2021 Census data, one in 300 Canadians are transgender or non-binary.

For Kathryn, knowing GDAAY was there for Quinn during her transition was a huge relief. And she's enormously grateful to the donors who support this specialized health care team.

"We don't always know what the health care needs of our children are going to be. I'm just so thankful that we have the help in place. We wouldn't have programs like GDAAY if donors weren't continuing to support the hospital."



Quinn Quatember



Our vision for the future is bold.

Join us for Manitoba's largest-ever campaign in support of child health.

June 22, 2022



Ice Crystal Gala 2022

Saturday, November 5th

Get your tickets today: goodbear.ca/IceCrystalGala



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