

# Teddy News

Your Donor Impact Report

{ Winter 2023 Vol. 17

It's not just a toy you gave. You gave a memory.  
You gave hope.



Aly in the hospital

For a year and four days, tiny baby Aly lived here with us at Children's Hospital including months in the Pediatric Special Care Unit.

Born at just 24 weeks by emergency C-section, she needed

to be resuscitated the very minute she was born. She had a ventilator to breathe, and surgeries to open her airways and to get nutrition directly to her stomach.

In those first months while Aly was in the NICU, her mother and father didn't know what the outcome was going to be.

*"We spent so long thinking we were going to lose her."*

But this brave little one battled through — with a team of the very best pediatric doctors and nurses right alongside her. And with the generosity of supporters like you making a difference to her and her family every single day.

Kind-hearted nurses made a card for mom Cristina on that first Mother's Day, when she couldn't yet hold her baby. They decorated it with Aly's first teeny handprints and footprints.

Right through that long first year, the Child Life

Team supported Aly and her parents, with music therapy, art, celebrations and laughter. And all of these programs are possible because of donors like you.

It was Christmas when Cristina saw Aly really smile for the first time.

*"She was just looking in awe at the Christmas tree," remembers Cristina. "It's the smallest things that you might not think are a big deal. But they get you through."*

Cristina and her husband will always be grateful to the donors who keep the kids here at the hospital in their thoughts.

*"It's not just a toy that they're giving, they're giving a memory. They're giving hope. They're letting families know that there's someone who cares for them at a time when they need it the most."*

Aly's at home now, and is a lover of music —perhaps from her time

with music therapists at Children's. She'll continue to need support from the team at Children's Hospital. We'll be with her every step of the way. And we are deeply grateful that supporters like you will be right there with us.



Aly's growing up fast!

# Grateful mom leaves a legacy of gratitude



**Kathryn (right), Quinn and husband Nik**

Seven years ago, my daughter, Quinn, was involved in a horrific vehicle collision. For ten days she lay in a coma as I sent messages to our family and friends from her bedside:

*"I'm sitting here in her room whispering that I am right beside her, and we can get*

*through anything together. But I'm so scared. It's hard to fight through this fear and stay strong."*

*"Respirologists today decided to turn down Quinn's respirator. I held my breath, hoping she would take hers."*

*"Last night I curled up in the hospital bed to cuddle with Quinn. She held my hand and gradually fell asleep in my arms. There are no words to adequately express my deep gratitude for this gift."*

As you can see, our beloved daughter did wake up from her coma. Because of the fast emergency and PICU medical teams, and the tireless dedication of every member of staff we met at Children's Hospital.

What they can't tell you, though, is what role

donors like you played.

The MRI and X-Ray machines, the cooling blankets to help reduce brain swelling, the intubation and respirology machine, the feeding tubes, the physio equipment, the Child Life program — all of these things helped save our daughter. And we came to learn that all of them are funded by donors.

Nothing I can do will ever be enough to give full thanks. But what I can do is help ensure that every child in the future has the same outstanding life-saving care that my child had.

That's why I choose to support Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba now with a monthly gift. And why I'm choosing to leave a legacy gift in my Will for the future.

I want every child to have a better future like mine does.

I thank all the donors who gave before my child needed Children's Hospital and all the donors who continue to give. Please consider having a chat with the Children's Hospital Foundation about how you can add them to your Will and ensure positive outcomes and futures for many more kids for many years to come.

**Kathryn, mother of Quinn**

## You made the difference in 2022!

Thank you for your support in 2022. You made it possible to purchase life-saving equipment, support Child Life programs to help kids be kids while in hospital, increase research to improve the lives of children and complete important projects like an outdoor play space for our child and youth mental health program.



**Reading to NICU babies**



**Music therapy**



**Sleeper chairs**



# ENRRICH Research aims to enrich young lives

The Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba (CHRIM) has a wonderful history of bringing together expert scientists, clinicians, children and families to address gaps in certain fields of pediatric health. Each multidisciplinary team is known as a "Theme."

Now, the ENRRICH (Excellence in Neurodevelopmental Rehabilitation Research in Child Health) Theme is working on research that will improve the health of children and youth with neurodevelopment and rehabilitation service needs. ENRRICH research is working toward improving diagnosis, access to services, and outcomes for families affected by a range of conditions including cerebral palsy, concussion and Rett syndrome (a rare disorder that affects the way the brain develops).

Here in Manitoba, the proportion of youth aged 0-14 who live with a disability is higher than the national average. Research and quality health services can support these children and their families to participate fully in daily activities and in their communities.

New and innovative research partnerships are foundational to helping achieve the breakthroughs needed to improve these children's lives.

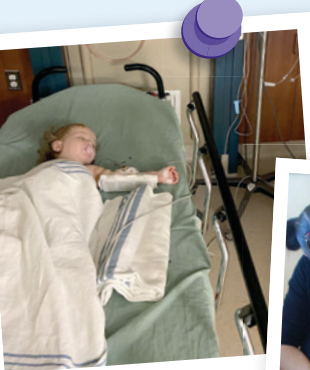
*"Our family advisory committee has been looking at ways to support caregivers and families as part of a mentorship program. We appreciate ENRRICH's support to help us find best practices that we can*

*adapt to the Manitoba context."* Family Advisory Committee member.

Dr. Kelly Russell and Dr. Kristy Wittmeier are both Associate Professors in the Department of Pediatrics and Child Health at the University of Manitoba and the co-leads and Investigators at ENRRICH. With colleagues from pediatrics and child health, nursing, occupational and physical therapy, biochemistry, medical genetics and clinical psychology, they are working to advance the quality of care that children receive.

Dr. Robert Beattie is a Research Scientist at CHRIM and Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics, at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Beattie is an ENRRICH member and studying Rett Syndrome.

*"There is an urgent need to find new strategies to improve Rett Syndrome patient outcomes. Support from ENRRICH has allowed our lab to study genetic modifiers of Rett Syndrome. This research will help develop therapeutic approaches and will also give insight into other neurodevelopmental disorders."*  
—Dr. Robert Beattie



Stretchers



PSCU Child Life Programming



Ultrasound machine



Outdoor playspace



Research in action

# Better Futures update — we're over 77% there!



Champion Families at Launch

*"Manitobans are incredibly generous when they know there is a need. We have seen this firsthand. Now, we are inviting the whole community to make a difference for the thousands of kids who urgently need hospital care each year."* —Stefano Grande, President & CEO, Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba launching the Better Futures campaign.

And what a difference the community is making! We are delighted to have your support rallying behind this campaign so far, and to announce that donors have helped us raise over 77% towards the goal!

The Better Futures campaign — Manitoba's largest-ever donor-driven fundraising campaign in support of child health — is pushing forward with its historic goal to raise \$75 million to support HSC

Children's Hospital — Manitoba's only children's hospital — which serves sick and injured kids from Manitoba, Northwestern Ontario and Nunavut, and the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba.

Nearly every family in the province is touched by the excellence in care, education and research provided right here in Manitoba. Families like Pacey's ...

*"Pacey is only nine years old but has already needed more than 30 surgeries for intestinal failure. In 2020, he was in hospital for both Christmas and his birthday. Until you have a child in hospital for as long as Pacey has been, you just can't truly understand what it's like. We are so thankful that Children's Hospital has been there for us, every time we needed."*

Pacey is just one of many superhero kids and their families, who have helped raise money for Better Futures after (and sometimes during!) their stays in hospital. From donating their allowance, or selling a craft, or coordinating a small fundraising event, their hard work and dedication has been inspiring!

Please donate now to [#GiveBetterFutures](https://www.goodbear.ca/betterfutures) at [Goodbear.ca/betterfutures](https://www.goodbear.ca/betterfutures)

## Meet Pacey, our 2023 Champion Child

Pacey is proud to be the 2023 Champion Child. He will be an ambassador for the 130,000 other kids who need the Children's Hospital each year. Read more [Goodbear.ca/Pacey](https://www.goodbear.ca/Pacey)



## Upcoming Events



### Book Market

Date: Apr 21, 2023 - Apr 22, 2023

Location: St. Vital Centre

Time: 10:00 am

New or gently used book donations can be dropped off at Winnipeg Fire Halls or any Dufresne store in Manitoba



### Golf Tournament

Date: Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Location: Glendale Golf Course

**\$75M**  
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