

Teddy News

Your Donor Impact Report

Winter 2024 Vol. 19

It takes a lot of dedication and a big heart



Nabila was treated like a princess by the Child Life team

Parents know their young children so well that our instincts tell us when something isn't right.

Instinct drove Issa and Hassina to check on their daughter, Nabila, in the middle of the night in January 2020.

Little Nabila was just two years old. Doctors discovered she was born with Sickle Cell Disease — a condition of the red blood cells that can cause blood vessels to clog and block.

That night, when her parents checked on Nabila, they could tell something was wrong.

Her breathing became shallower and she became weaker. So, Issa and Hassina brought her into HSC Children's Hospital.

An MRI revealed she'd had a stroke.

"That's when everything changed. She had wires and monitors everywhere, and they rushed her to the PICU."

—Issa

For two and a half weeks, Nabila was in a coma in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). Unable to breathe on her own, she was intubated and on a mechanical ventilator.

Doctors, nurses and her parents watched anxiously for any sign of body movement. But the stroke had damaged the part of Nabila's brain that controls movement and breathing.

Finally, Nabila was released from hospital in April 2020 — the height of the pandemic.

Unable to receive physiotherapy at a clinic, it became Issa and Hassina's job to take care of Nabila's recovery at home.

When Nabila came back in 2021, the doctors who treated her couldn't believe she was walking.

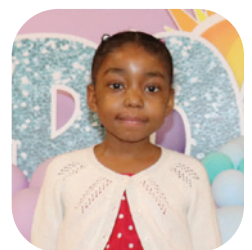
Since then, she's received a bone marrow transplant from her mother. She can breathe on her own and has stopped needing frequent blood transfusions. Now she rides a bike and swims.

Children's Hospital is like a second home to this family. Nabila calls it the "doctors' home."

Issa and Hassina speak about how the staff and comforts like the playroom, Children's Hospital TV, and the prayer room made such a difference during their many months at the hospital.

And their greatest thanks go to the healthcare teams that worked so hard to save their daughter's life: *"It takes a lot of dedication and a big heart!"*

Our family of supporters have those "big hearts," too, and we thank you for generously funding the medical equipment that saved Nabila's life, and the patient support programs this family — and so many others — rely on.



Nabila at the Ice Crystal Gala last November

WATCH >> Nabila's family thank donors like you at goodbear.ca/NabilaThanks

"We want to make sure that kids like James can get the help they need."



James is enjoying being a kid again

You may remember James O'Neil, a little boy we wrote about last year.

James was just two years old when he was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia.

Shortly after chemotherapy had begun, James developed a serious inflammation of the intestines called typhilitis. He was in bed for six weeks, in constant pain and unable to eat or drink anything.

But today James has not only finished treatment, he's thriving. He's developed a passion for hockey after attending his first Jets game. Now he's started skating lessons so he can one day be a hockey goalie like his favourite player, Connor Hellebuyck.

Mom, Gillian, recalls what an important part the Child Life program played in supporting them all during that intense and difficult time.

"They seemed to know what James needed and when he needed it. When he was feeling sick, they brought in soothing lights. When he was having his port accessed for chemotherapy, they brought toys to

distract him. When he was feeling good, they played with him."

And — knowing what a significant role our donors play in funding all the equipment in the hospital — James's parents have become monthly supporters.

Monthly giving is a great way to help the hospital — providing funding year-round for urgent equipment needs and patient programs. A modest amount each month comes directly out of a donor's bank account or credit card, and it's easy to set up or to cancel at any time.

"James was given incredible care at Children's Hospital, and donations played a huge role in that. It's important to us to provide ongoing support so that kids like James can get the help they need."



James and his family in hospital

If you'd like to join the Miracle Makers monthly giving program, please fill out the back of the reply form attached or email Courtney Nodrick at cnodrick@goodbear.ca or call 204-894-9043.

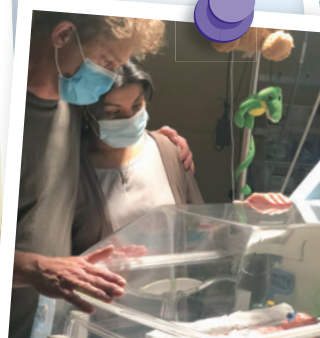


You made the difference in 2023!

Thank you for your support in 2023! You are **helping #GiveBetterFutures** by funding Child Life programming that comforts sick kids and families while in hospital, fueling cutting-edge research at the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba, and purchasing specialized medical equipment crucial for the care of our youngest patients.



Special Visits in the Child Life Playroom



Babylo®, incubators for premature babies



Children's Hospital TV Program

Helping families manage their child's food allergy

Food allergies can have a serious impact on families, and right here in Manitoba one research team led by Dr. Jennifer Protudjer is delving into how to help kids and caregivers cope.

An estimated 7% of children in Canada have a food allergy.

Once it's diagnosed, it seems straightforward to simply recommend "avoid these foods." But in reality, it's much harder.

Coping with food allergies can have a serious financial impact on families. Dr. Protudjer's research shows that families of children with food allergies pay significantly more for their groceries.

And in this era of sky-high food costs, that can be overwhelming.

For families managing food allergies, the foods available through food banks or food charity may not be safe for their child.

Dr. Protudjer and her research team are studying these burdens — including financial, psychological and social pressures of food allergies. And they are working with groups here in Winnipeg, throughout Canada, and internationally on the best ways to help.

Donations to research are vital.

"In a recent study [...] we were able to show that an intervention we developed helped keep grocery costs below the pace of inflation, and reduced the caregivers' stress."

I am thankful that I get to work with extraordinary people, on projects that are meaningful and have direct impact on those managing food allergy."

And we are thankful to our supporters for believing so strongly in our researchers.



Dr. Jennifer Protudjer



Vital machines and stretcher beds



Patient Engagement at CHRIM



Child Health Transport Team
Ultrasound machine



Literacy programs for new parents



Ceiling lift for PSCU patients

You helped make kids smile!



Smiles at Camp!

chronic ear infections and hearing loss.

Children with cleft lip or cleft palate tell us they often feel like outsiders — sometimes subject to bullying from other kids. This impacts their self-esteem, overall health and well-being.

The Manitoba Centre for Craniofacial Differences (MCCD) at HSC Children's Hospital was founded to help these children through surgery, speech and language therapy, and psychosocial support.

This summer, thanks to donor support, the MCCD team introduced a Speech & Language Therapy Day Camp for young kids requiring additional speech therapy support as a result of a cleft lip/palate difference. It was the first medically therapeutic camp of its kind in Canada.

In Manitoba, 65 children are born each year with a cleft lip or palate.

These openings or splits in the upper lip or roof of the mouth can cause significant problems with feeding, speech,

The camp made a world of difference for kids in your community, like Kaiver.

Jessica is Kaiver's mom. He attended MCCD's Speech & Language Therapy Day Camp — a safe space where kids can learn skills, make friends and build up their confidence. It was transformative for him.

"Through speech therapy camp, my child discovered joy and strength of his voice. Each day brought excitement, and as the camp concluded on Friday, Kaiver's confidence had grown, a testament to the success of the camp."

The Speech & Language Therapy camp will forever change the lives of the kids who attend. We are grateful for all the supporters who join us in our bold vision to give children with cleft lip or palate — and all kids — a better future.



Kaiver enjoying the hammock

Upcoming Events



Book Market

Friday, April 26 | 10am-9pm
Saturday, April 27 | 10am-5pm
Location: St. Vital Centre

New or gently used book donations can be dropped off at Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service Stations or any Dufresne store in Manitoba.



Golf Tournament

Date: June 11, 2024
Location: Glendale Golf Course



Save the date!

35th ANNUAL

Teddy Bears' Picnic

by Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba

Returns **Sunday, September 8** at
Assiniboine Park

Learn more: goodbear.ca/TeddyBearsPicnic

\$75M
GIVE BETTER
FUTURES



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