



Teddy News

Your Donor Impact Report

Winter 2025 Vol. 21

“The team at Manitoba’s only children’s hospital is our second family – they genuinely care.”



Emberly is now thriving

When it comes to the children we care for, it really does take a village.

A village of care. A village of love. And a village with a lot of heart.

Haley Graham & Jeremy Ferrufino felt that loving support right from the devastating moment they

learned their newborn daughter, Emberly, was facing enormous medical challenges.

Emberly was born with multiple congenital heart anomalies. Within the first two weeks of her life, she needed two critical surgeries.

Here at HSC Children’s Hospital, the dedicated health care team worked day and night to nurse Emberly back to health. As they supported this family, donors like you also supported them – providing the equipment our medical teams used to help Emberly – and funding Child Life programs providing support to Haley and Jeremy.

“The first thing that came to my mind was if her heart anomaly was something I had caused or could have prevented,” remembers Haley. *“But Dr. Soni reassured me there was nothing we did or could have done to contribute.”*

“We are so grateful to Dr. Soni for her incredible support and reassurance right from the beginning. I

quickly realized that Dr. Soni and the team are much more than just medical professionals. They’re a support system and a second family, who genuinely care.”

It was a heart-filling Valentine’s Day treat when Emberly was able to go home for the first time.

There were still many scary moments ahead. That March, Emberly’s airway became blocked while the family were out driving. Haley remembers feeling paralyzed while they waited for the paramedics.

Emberly was rushed back to HSC Children’s and again, the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit team took care of her just like she was their own.

Despite Emberly’s early health challenges, she is now growing and thriving – a happy baby in every way.

Haley and Jeremy are passing that love along to other children in the hospital, along with their families, and held their first annual toy drive for kids at HSC Children’s in November 2023.

As Haley says, *“We can help others who may also be experiencing a similar medical journey with their child.”*

Emberly will continue to need HSC Children’s throughout her childhood. And we’ll always be here ready to care, comfort, and support – just like our donors are for us.



Emberly had two life-saving surgeries in her first two weeks of life.

You've helped create Better Futures for kids in your community

You helped exceed our \$75 million fundraising goal

Your generosity is already being seen, touched, and felt by the families and children we serve.

In 2021, we shared a bold goal with our supporters – to raise \$75 million to transform medical care at HSC Children's Hospital and research at Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba. We launched Manitoba's largest-ever child health fundraising campaign and named it the Better Futures campaign.

Driven by your love and concern for babies, children, and teens who need health care, your generosity has been overwhelming! Your kindness has touched the hearts of every person working on this campaign – and every family with a child who has been cared for here at Children's Hospital.

Your gifts have already had an impact on children and their families in Manitoba. We encourage you to visit goodbear.ca/BetterFuturesNews.

Here are some examples of how your contributions have made a difference:

The new Travis Price Children's Heart Centre is serving 6,000 kids a year needing cardiac

care. This Centre is steps away from the emergency department and ICU. It contains four private cardiac examination rooms, dedicated ultrasound and testing rooms, and a large family-friendly waiting area. It allows the fully specialized team to collaborate with five cardiologist offices, a social work office, a private family counselling room, and a nursing assessment room. The Heart Centre has been fitted with new and state-of-the-art medical equipment dedicated to helping young hearts heal.

Indoor and Outdoor Child and Adolescent Mental Health Playspaces provide a safe space for children and adolescents in Manitoba's only acute inpatient unit for mental health. Each year, 600 children find help and support here for their struggles with depression, severe anxiety, psychosis, and suicidal thoughts.

The future Indigenous Community Healing Space will be a 2,000-square-foot culturally safe space for families, created in consultation with the Indigenous community to provide families with a safe space for healing while they're away from the support of their home communities.

The expansion and rejuvenation of the Emergency Department will help increase its capacity from 36,000 visits a year to 50,000. It is the only dedicated ED for kids in all of Manitoba, Nunavut, and Northwestern Ontario. Your gifts help expand care for children suffering acute trauma; burn, medical, and surgical care; chronic medical and surgical issues; mental health; and drug problems.

Critical life-saving equipment throughout the hospital supports our health care teams to provide the best care possible. Your gifts helped purchase incubators, wheelchairs, lifts, surgical tools, ultrasound machines, ventilators, vital sign monitors, and more.

In every corner of our hospital, your gifts are already hard at work. Your generosity helps to create better futures for the children in our care and brighter futures for the families who love them.



You funded life-saving advancements in research



"Research is critical to care. It's the best way to treat sick or injured children. And it's the best way to prevent children from becoming sick in the first place."

- Nicola Wigle, Acting CEO, CHRIM

Better Futures campaign donors are helping us unlock and open the door for new breakthroughs in children's health care.

Your gifts will support more than 400 world-class doctors, researchers, and students at the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba

(CHRIM) who work hard every day to conduct groundbreaking research into pediatric medicine.

The projects these teams are working on will help children who have diabetes manage their condition, help scientists better understand the diversity of kids living with autism in Manitoba, and bring experts in pediatric cancer together to collaborate and aim for the best outcomes for kids.

At CHRIM, researchers are studying and developing new treatments in mental health, neurodevelopment, rehabilitation, and many other areas that will help children not only in Manitoba – but around the world. Other impactful areas of study include emergency medicine, respiratory challenges, vaccines for infectious diseases, and so much more!

Your impact in 2024

Thank you for your support in 2024! Your present has changed their future by transforming child health care and research. You helped purchase specialized medical equipment crucial for the care of our youngest patients, funded Child Life programming that comforts sick kids and families while in hospital, and fueled leading-edge research at the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba (CHRIM).



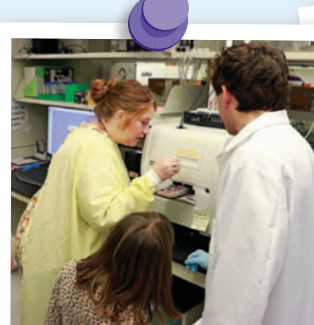
Indoor play space naming and opening



Equipment like vein finders, laryngoscopes, and microscopes



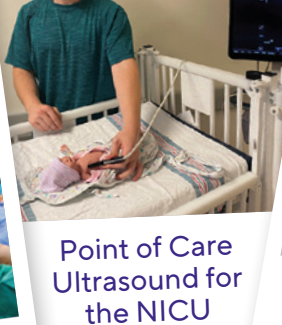
Child Life Programs like book bags for children and bubble tubes



Groundbreaking research + the 20th annual Children's Hospital Research Days



Specialized surgical equipment



Point of Care Ultrasound for the NICU



Virtual reality headsets provide kids with comfort and distraction

When giving is personal

When we asked Better Futures campaign co-chairs what motivated them to lead Manitoba's largest-ever child health campaign, their answer came back simply and specifically...

"Five kids and one dream."

Nancy Cipryk and Kirsten McConnell are equally driven by an immense sense of gratitude for the care their own families have had at the Children's Hospital – and an equal concern that the same devoted, world-class care stays available for any child who needs it.



Nancy Cipryk

"It's just purely out of gratitude. We're very grateful for the care given to our two kids. I had an opportunity to give back, and I jumped at it," says Nancy Cipryk.

Nancy and her husband Greg have two girls who both needed HSC Children's at times for emergency care, surgery, a broken arm, asthma and allergies.

Nancy loves seeing the improvements and advancement that the Better Futures campaign has already brought whenever she visits the hospital and is continuously motivated by speaking with Champion Children and their families.

"Our job is to give these children a voice," says Nancy.

Kirsten McConnell and her husband Dan have triplets – Brynn, Matthew, and Liam. Born with cleft lip and palate, Brynn and Matthew have needed support from Children's Hospital their whole lives, including over a dozen surgeries.



Kirsten McConnell

"Basically, my kids have grown up at the hospital. We love giving back. Seeing how incredibly generous Manitobans are and how involved people are in the community – it's very humbling and it makes me very proud."

Our endless thanks go out to Nancy and Kirsten for their dedication and leadership and to their families for lending them to us for so long!

On behalf of Nancy, Kirsten, and everyone at the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba, our deepest thanks to the visionary donors and community members who came together to make this "one dream" come true.



Upcoming Events



Children's Hospital Book Market

Children's Hospital Book Market – 65th Anniversary Sale
Date: April 25-27, 2025
Location: St. Vital Centre



Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba Golf Tournament
Date: Tuesday, June 10, 2025
Location: Glendale Golf & Country Club



36th ANNUAL Teddy Bears' Picnic

Teddy Bears' Picnic
Date: September 7, 2025
Location: Assiniboine Park



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goodbear.ca Join us on: