



Gratitude Report 2024-2025



MEET JANESEA, 2024 CHAMPION CHILD

Janessa Dumas accomplished some incredible things as Manitoba's Champion Child in 2024. As the first Champion from a remote First Nations community, she became a powerful voice for the 140,000 kids who rely on HSC Children's Hospital every year, of whom around 60 per cent are Indigenous.

Janessa shared her story and the amazing work and research being done in Manitoba at more than 20 events. She inspired countless donors while also running her own fundraiser to support the Nephrology Clinic and Hemodialysis Unit. Plus, she represented HSC Children's with fellow Champions from across North America in Orlando for Children's Hospital Week.

Her impact has been felt throughout the province and beyond, and she was even awarded a King Charles III Coronation Medal for her dedication.

Learn more about Janessa: goodbear.ca/janessa



YOU HELPED #GIVEBETTERFUTURES

How can we possibly express thanks to you—the donors who supported Better Futures over the past five years!

This past year has been a true testament to the power of community, showing us what can be achieved when we unite toward a common goal. Through the support of donors like you, the Foundation's Better Futures campaign that started in 2019 – and the largest donor-driven child health fundraising campaign in Manitoba's history – surpassed its \$75 million goal! With an additional \$25M support from the Manitoba Government last Fall, the campaign closed at **\$112 million!**

Our community's inspiring generosity is already in action to improve pediatric care. Throughout these pages, you will see how your funds are at work in Children's Hospital infrastructure, life-saving medical equipment and technology, innovative programming, and leading-edge pediatric research at the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba.

We are also proud of kids helping kids from Manitoba communities. Janessa Dumas was the first Champion Child from a northern remote First Nations community and represented kids from across the province. She made an impact by raising funds for the Nephrology Clinic and Hemodialysis Unit, and we have no doubt she will continue to accomplish extraordinary things like our other past champions of the five year campaign: Gianna, Brady, Keira, and Pacey. Thank you all!

We know the Foundation's work must continue for these kids and many more. There are still urgent needs to be met, including critical child health research right here in Manitoba to help make breakthroughs possible for kids suffering from childhood diseases. You can help ensure that Manitoba's only children's hospital can continue to provide the very best care for every child who needs it.

With gratitude,



MICHAEL HOLMES
Chair



STEFANO GRANDE
President & CEO

A full list of donors in 2024-25 can be found at goodbear.ca/donors2024-25.

BY THE NUMBERS

HSC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



248
BEDS



5,402
SURGERIES



6,940
ADMISSIONS AND
TRANSFERS-IN



83,748
CLINIC
VISITS



142,244
CHILDREN CARED
FOR IN HOSPITAL



46,154
EMERGENCY VISITS,
69% UNDER AGE 9



2,100
EMERGENCY MENTAL
HEALTH VISITS,
23% REQUIRED
ADMISSION

54%⁺
KIDS LIVE
OUTSIDE
WINNIPEG

UP TO 60%
KIDS FROM
INDIGENOUS
COMMUNITIES



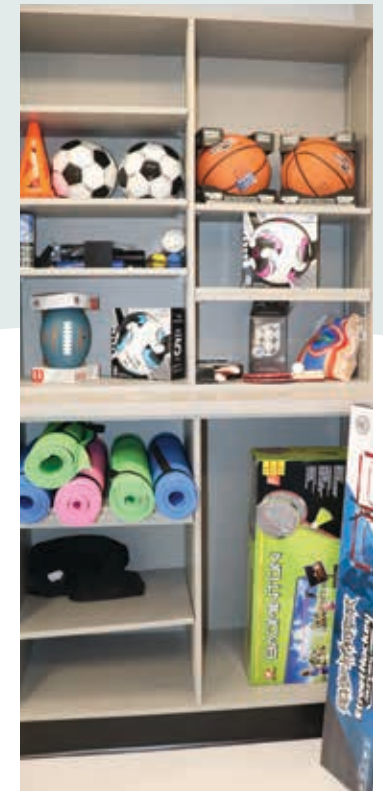
YOU GAVE NEW SPACES FOR HEALING

"The Manitoba's Credit Unions Play Space, where kids can participate in meaningful activity indoors, is really valuable for healing and recovery."

– Val Mondor, Director of Health Services – Mental Health

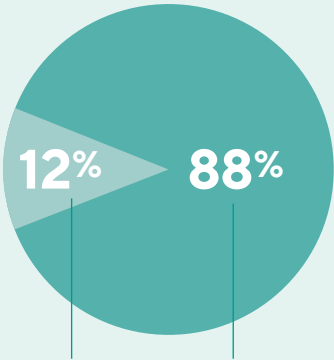
Over 600 youth are admitted each year to the Child & Adolescent Inpatient Unit for acute mental health.

Manitoba's Credit Unions generously provided \$250,000 so these young patients can access a safe indoor play space while receiving care. The open design is perfect for yoga, guided fitness programs or just unwinding with a book or music.



FUNDING IN 2024-25

FUNDS RAISED



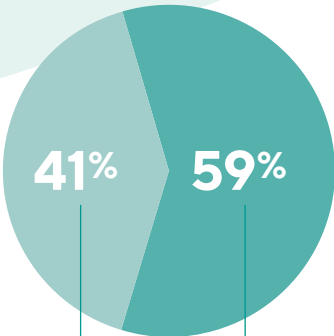
EVENTS

Including Children’s Miracle Network, Canada’s Children’s Hospital Foundations, Ice Crystal Gala, golf tournament, and give-a-thon

PROGRAMS

Including annual giving, major gifts, planned giving, and community relations

FUNDS GRANTED



HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT & PROGRAMS

LEARNING & RESEARCH

“YOU MAKE MY HEART HAPPY”

Six-year-old Nixon’s words remind us just how much donor support means to kids in hospital.

After he was able to go home following life-saving surgery for a rare type of brain tumor, Nixon shared his story to support other kids and thanked donors who gave. He also wanted to give back, so he and his sister, Kiara, chose to buy toys for other kids in hospital.

Thank you, Nixon, for your kindness and generosity!



“You don’t realize until you need it, how much Children’s Hospital can help your family. The doctors, the nurses, the entire staff...they made a big difference and helped us so much through the tough times. I’m so thankful.”

BY THE NUMBERS

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MANITOBA (CHRM)



400+
RESEARCHERS



30+ RESEARCH
AREAS OF FOCUS



\$27M+ ANNUAL
FUNDING AWARDS



3,700+ FAMILIES
ENROLLED IN RESEARCH STUDIES



97 ACTIVE STUDIES IN THE
RESEARCH SUPPORT UNIT

"Research is critical to care. It is the best way to advance knowledge to treat sick and injured children and prevent children from getting sick in the first place. Donors who give to research open the door for new breakthroughs and better evidence in children's health care."

– Nicola Wigle, Acting Chief Executive Officer, CHRM



CELEBRATING TWO DECADES OF CHILD HEALTH RESEARCH

The 20th Annual Child Health Research Days welcomed nearly 300 attendees in October 2024. The conference celebrated the rich history of child health research at CHRM and included presentations on a variety of topics. Thank you to everyone who presented, participated, organized or attended!



LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

When Haylie was born, she struggled to breathe and was rushed to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at HSC Children's Hospital. Thankfully, a specialist at Children's Hospital noticed Haylie's father has a congenital disorder called Hirschsprung's Disease and soon confirmed Haylie has the same condition and could start treatment.

Since her diagnosis, she has had 30 surgical procedures and spent more than 200 nights in hospital. After trying many different treatments, in early 2024, the surgical team put in an ostomy bag to divert waste from her affected intestines—and now Haylie is thriving.

Haylie's parents are grateful for the amazing care their family continues to receive at the hospital and research that helps children with illnesses like this.

"It is extremely important to continue to educate and bring awareness to Hirschsprung's Disease and to continue fundraising for researching a cure. On behalf of our family, I want to thank all donors who support the Children's Hospital and Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba."

– Haylie's mom, Jayme

YOU GAVE THE RIGHT TOOLS FOR THE JOB

IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR OUR TINIEST PATIENTS

Generous donors like you help healthcare heroes get the tools they need to look after critically sick and injured babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).



"We are very excited to add the Point-of-Care Ultrasound Machine to our NICU, to support our clinicians in real-time assessments and patient care decisions, for our work with tiny babies every day. We're so grateful to donors for their generosity."

– Nikki Hill, Manager of Health Services, Child & Women's Respiratory Therapy Department

DOUBLING THE IMPACT FOR EQUIPMENT

Donor support for surgical equipment and research is transforming care and improving outcomes for kids. A big bear hug to Heather and Bob Williams for doubling the impact—matching your donations up to \$400,000 to support critical surgical equipment needs!

A PERSONAL CONNECTION

When their son Elijah was diagnosed with Kawasaki disease, the Rempel family experienced firsthand the exceptional care at HSC Children's Hospital. Grateful for the life-saving treatment he received, their company Vidir Solutions chose to give back by purchasing critical equipment like a nasolaryngoscope for the NICU.

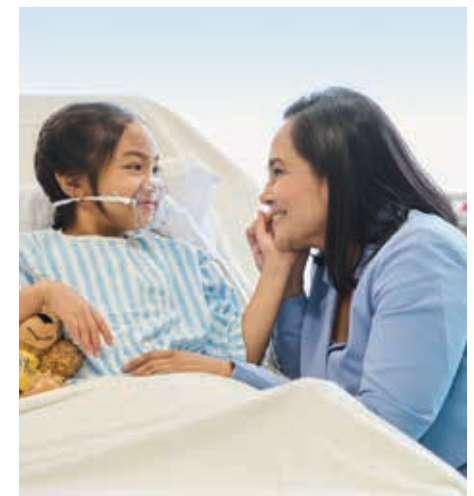


YOUR PRESENT HAS CHANGED THEIR FUTURE

"Five years ago, we shared with the team at Children's Hospital Foundation that there were extensive needs that must be worked on in order for the healthcare teams to be able to do their work for sick and injured children at Manitoba's only children's hospital. Because HSC Children's is one of the oldest children's hospitals in Canada, we require ongoing renovations and new equipment to keep up excellence in care for kids who need us."

– Dr. Patricia Birk, Department Head of Pediatrics and Child Health, HSC Children's Hospital

\$75M
GIVE BETTER
FUTURES



YOUR GENEROSITY IS ALREADY SAVING LIVES

The Better Futures campaign surpassed all expectations. Thanks to our generous donors we exceeded the goal and over 90 per cent of the funds have been actioned, with tangible impacts already seen and felt by the families and kids who need care.

A big thank you to the Province of Manitoba for investing \$25 million into kids' health, bringing our campaign impact to an astounding \$112 million. The provincial funding supports initiatives like a modernized emergency department, new operating rooms, and redevelopment of the pediatric hemodialysis unit.

YOU GAVE IMPROVED CARDIAC CARE TO KIDS

The 6,000 kids who need cardiac care at HSC Children's Hospital each year can now be helped with specialized equipment and access to state-of-the-art spaces and care through the new Travis Price Children's Heart Centre,



Paul Albrechtsen Catheterization Diagnostic Lab, Fluoroscopy Diagnostic Lab unit with new fluoroscopy machine, and remote monitored beds.

YOU GAVE KIDS A SAFE PLACE TO PLAY

Over 600 youth admitted to the Child & Adolescent Inpatient Unit each year for acute mental health issues now have access to safe indoor and outdoor playspaces while receiving care.



YOU GAVE SUPPORT FOR TODAY'S RESEARCH FOR TOMORROW'S CURE

The leading-edge research at Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba ensures kids continue to get the best data-driven care, treatments, medications, and more. Through your donations, we've been able to support life-changing pediatric research projects like DREAM (Diabetes Research Envisioned and Accomplished in Manitoba) and ADORE (Autism Database and Outcomes Registry), among many others.

YOU GAVE CRITICAL EQUIPMENT TO SAVE MORE LIVES

Life-saving tools are now ready for healthcare teams to continue providing the best care possible, including Babyleo incubators, child-sized surgical tools, ultrasound machines, pediatric wheelchairs, and hoist lifts.



YOU ARE GIVING A CULTURALLY SAFE SPACE FOR FAMILIES

The Indigenous Community Healing Space will offer families a safe space for healing while away from their home communities and cultural supports. Read more on page 24.



YOU GAVE CRITICAL ENHANCEMENTS TO EMERGENCY CARE

Our Emergency Department—the only one with specialized care for infants and children in Manitoba—sees 50,000+ kids annually but was designed for just 36,000 annual visits. Planned improvements will enhance the overall patient and staff experience, improve patient flow and safety, and equip the department with state-of-the-art medical equipment. It will also fund emergency research programs and a national knowledge mobilization network.

YOU GAVE SUPPORT FOR A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR KIDS' KIDNEY HEALTH

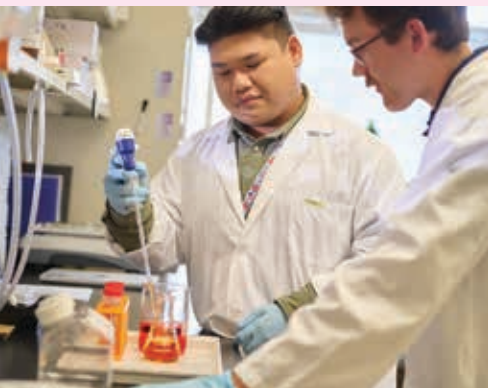
Over 1,000 kids need kidney care at our hospital, but the facility requires major improvements. Your ongoing generosity will support life-saving treatments like dialysis, transplants, and kidney biopsies.



YOU GAVE INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING FOR KIDS STAYING IN HOSPITAL

Thousands of kids receiving treatment and care can use innovative programming that's both therapeutic and fun! Vital programs like the Therapeutic Gaming and Technology Support Program directly benefit young patients and their families by providing comfort and distraction.

Over 140,000 kids rely on HSC Children's Hospital every year, and countless more benefit from leading-edge work at CHRIM. Continued research is still badly needed to heal more kids. Your gift today to research will make a difference.



YOU GAVE SUPPORT BEYOND THE BEDSIDE

Being a kid in hospital can be tough, but a special team called Child Life helps kids at HSC Children's Hospital cope.

Child Life team members are experts in childhood development, and programming includes music therapy, the library program, Children's Hospital Television (CHTV), special holiday celebrations and, of course, play. This programming, which makes such a profound difference in the lives of our young patients, is made possible thanks to the generosity of donors.

"We know opportunities for comfort, distraction, and engagement—like music therapy, the library program, The Good Day Show, and therapeutic play—are an important part of a child's recovery. We can't thank donors enough for continuing to raise funds for these important initiatives."

– Jenny Kidder, Manager of Child Life

YOU GAVE KID-FRIENDLY CARE



2,606

PLAYROOM VISITS



13,270

BOOKS AND DVDS BORROWED



245

GOOD DAY SHOWS ON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL TV (CHTV)



2,889

MUSIC THERAPIST INTERACTIONS WITH PATIENTS & SIBLINGS



730

PRIZES GIVEN OUT ON CHTV



112

PATIENTS WHO CALLED OR TEXTED CHTV



5,635

LIBRARY CART VISITS TO PATIENT ROOMS



175

PATIENTS AS GUESTS ON THE GOOD DAY SHOW



4,609

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT PATIENT AND FAMILY INTERACTIONS WITH CHILD LIFE SPECIALIST



SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY DAY CAMP

In summer 2024, the Speech & Language Therapy Day Camp ran for a second year, bringing together children with craniofacial differences to laugh, play, connect, and grow.

We thank the wonderful visitors who brought joy directly to kids in hospital this year, including the Winnipeg Jets, Winnipeg Blue Bombers, and Winnipeg Sea Bears, plus a few princesses and superheroes courtesy of Heather's Pretty Parties. Kids also had a chance to meet AHL player Dylan McIlrath and see the Calder Cup up close!

For the third year, kids were also paid a visit from superheroes and first responders as part of Suspended Superheroes, led by Voyageur Technical. Specially trained participants rappelled down the building for an unforgettable Halloween celebration and raised over \$50,000!



PARTNERS GAVE AN EXPANDED COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

We're pleased to be part of a national network of partners that support local children's hospitals each year. Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba is one of 13 foundations that are part of Canada's Children's Hospital Foundations (CCHF). CCHF proudly manages Children's Miracle Network (CMN) in Canada, which raises funds and awareness for children's hospitals across North America. All funds raised through our partners in Manitoba stay in Manitoba.



View partners who support Manitoba's only children's hospital at goodbear.ca/CMN.



Over \$141,000 in donations at the Brick Warehouse went toward supporting kids and families who rely on the HSC Children's Hospital.

The Air Canada Foundation donated \$85,000 toward Excellence in Neurodevelopment and Rehabilitation Research in Child Health (ENRRICH).



INCREDIBLE LOCAL BUSINESSES AND FAMILIES GAVE TO THE CAUSE WITH THEIR OWN FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Here are a few highlights from 2024-25 showcasing the efforts of community champions who hosted their own imaginative fundraising initiatives. Thank you to all community supporters!



ScotiaRISE, Scotiabank's \$500 million community investment initiative, made a generous gift of \$150,000 to support the Comfort and Joy Fund.



Winnipeg Police Association gave a generous donation of \$45,000.



Boston Pizza Enright Group supported emergency care at the HSC Children's Hospital with a \$150,000 donation.



Popeyes raised \$15,510 by donating \$1 from every chicken sandwich sold from Sept. 30 to Oct. 6, 2024.



Maple Leaf Construction donated \$75,000 to the Ice Crystal Gala 2024 Fund the Need!



Red River Co-op gave \$950,957 toward Child Life programming.



We extend our gratitude to all our annual donors, including the K+P Talbot Community Fund and Talbot Family Foundation, whose generous matching of holiday donations made a powerful impact.



The Stead Ranch Steak House in Gull Lake organized an eight-week-long talent show with Manitoba musicians and food specials, raising \$3,000.



Alex + Mom raise funds to support HSC Children's Hospital by creating custom artwork. Alex, a young artist, will draw your pet, and her mom will then redraw it digitally. They also drew Dr. Goodbear for the Foundation!



A heartfelt thanks also goes to Qualico for matching donations on Giving Tuesday to reach \$254,344.06 and to the donors who supported the give-a-thon sponsored by Johnston Group.

To every partner who continues to ask their networks, organizations and supporters for donations to support kids who need HSC Children's Hospital: thank you.

YOU GAVE UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS AND LASTING IMPACT

It was another record-breaking year for the Foundation's signature events! Thanks to you, our goals were surpassed and you also helped create lasting memories and made a deeper impact in the lives of kids and families.



Dr. Goodbear golfers raised more than \$255,000 in the spring—a new high! We also celebrated the milestone of more than \$1 million raised in honour of Kenzi Kopansky, who passed away from appendicitis at only six months old.



Our Ice Crystal Gala was anything but frosty! Filled with warmth, excitement and a whole lot of boot-scootin', the rodeo-themed event and its Fund the Need auction raised an amazing \$1,556,567 – and won a national award!



During December's Holiday Give-a-thon, we heard from families, medical staff and generous supporters about the incredible difference made for sick kids in the community.

YOU GAVE KIDS A BEARY GOOD DAY

Dr. Goodbear and friends reunited at the 35th Teddy Bears' Picnic, which made its long-awaited return to Assiniboine Park on September 8, 2024.

A Manitoba tradition, the Teddy Bears' Picnic gives kids a chance to learn what happens in a hospital or research setting so they feel more comfortable getting the care they need. Made possible by generous sponsors and 1,000+ volunteers, the event brought the community together for an unforgettable day of family fun and celebration of the Better Futures campaign. Attendance was over 35,000 people and 1,500+ teddy bear patients were treated in the Dr. Goodbear Clinic, and \$261,527 was raised!



YOU GAVE TIME

**DEDICATED GROUPS OF VOLUNTEERS WORK
TIRELESSLY EVERY YEAR TO SUPPORT NEEDS
IN HOSPITAL**



Volunteers of Book Market meet 2024-25 Champion Child Janessa.

At Children's Hospital Book Market, proceeds from thousands of gently used books go toward innovative programming to provide comfort to kids at HSC Children's Hospital. The popular event is made possible thanks to more than 300 volunteers working year-round to collect and organize donated books from Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service stations and Dufresne Furniture & Appliances stores. The 2024/25 Book Markets raised a page-turning \$551,273!

The Children's Hospital Guild of Manitoba is a group of dedicated volunteers who run The Nearly New Shop in Winnipeg. The guild also coordinates other fundraising events throughout the year like an annual High Tea, all to support the kids who need care at the HSC Children's Hospital. On top of this—and along with Bell MTS retirees—they sew clothes and costumes for Dr. Goodbear stuffies. We are deeply thankful for their ongoing time and effort in raising \$125,000.



Steeped in generosity: The Children's Hospital Guild of Manitoba hosts their annual springtime High Tea.

YOU GAVE SUPPORT TO RECONCILIATION ACTIONS

As we gather, work, and care for each other on Treaty 1 land and serve children who rely on HSC Children's Hospital from First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities, the Foundation's ongoing commitment to ReconciliACTION is important to our staff, the hospital healthcare teams and the families we serve.

The Foundation is committed to working alongside Indigenous communities to listen, learn, and drive meaningful, lasting change. While we've made progress, there's still much more to be done on this critical journey.

INTEGRATING INDIGENOUS CULTURES, HISTORIES AND TRADITIONS

...IN OUR SPACES

Up to 60 per cent of children using the hospital are from Indigenous communities, many living with conditions like diabetes and some cancers that are more common among Indigenous kids and require ongoing hospital care.

Recognizing the value of Indigenous healing practices—and making them available for Indigenous patients where requested—is the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action 22.

Your donations will support a new Indigenous Community Healing Space at HSC Children's Hospital.

"The creation of the Indigenous Community Healing Space will foster equitable care while embracing Indigenous cultures and be a place where children and their families can feel safe, have ceremony and traditional medicine while recognizing themselves and their culture within the healthcare environment."

– Dr. Melanie Morris, the first Métis pediatric surgeon in Canada, who was appointed as the first lead of Indigenous Health at HSC Children's in 2019.



The 2,000-sq-ft space is designed to be a place where children and families feel safe, connect with each other and nurture their whole selves while away from their home communities and cultural supports.

The Indigenous Community Healing Space will feature:

- design elements that reflect Indigenous culture, spirituality and worldview
- space for traditional Indigenous ceremonies, including smudging
- a place for Indigenous Elders, healers, and Knowledge Keepers to support families in care
- a library space for Indigenous children's books



Consultation meetings were held in 2024 for guidance from First Nations, Metis and Inuit leaders, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and other Indigenous community members and leaders in our medical community. To build a more meaningful framework and design options, additional fundraising is still needed but demolition of the current space will begin in Fall 2025.

...IN OUR OUTREACH

Manitoba's first Champion Child from a remote First Nations community, Janessa Dumas, from Pukatawagan, highlighted the challenges children in Manitoba from remote and isolated communities face to get specialized pediatric care. Read more about Janessa on page 2.



...IN OUR BRAND

We worked with Indigenous graphic artist Leticia Spence, and with the guidance of the Foundation's Indigenous Advisory Circle, to develop meaningful graphics that fit the light, fun, and supportive tone for all kids who need care at HSC Children's Hospital. Brand graphics represent First Nations, Métis, and Inuit cultures, including beading-style florals (buttercup, wild rose, fireweed blossom, and arctic cotton), traditional medicines (sage, tobacco, cedar, and sweetgrass), and other elements, like winding vines with mouse tracks and seeds.



...IN OUR OPERATIONS

Indigenous Advisory Circle members provide valuable input and feedback on Foundation events and fundraising initiatives.

We thank Rebecca Chartrand, Chair, and Heather Berthelette, Vice Chair, who sat on Foundation Board providing direction and feedback with an Indigenous lens.

This support guides our ongoing work to support kids from Manitoba, Northwestern Ontario and Nunavut who receive care at Manitoba's only Children's Hospital.



...AT OUR EVENTS

Attendees at the 35th annual Teddy Bears' Picnic listened to the powerful rhythms of Indigenous drummers, heard special messages from Indigenous leaders in the province and enjoyed on-stage entertainment from First Nations dancers, Inuit throat singers, and Métis fiddlers. Elders also offered teachings in a teepee throughout the day.

Read more about our journey and updates on the Indigenous Community Healing Space and other initiatives: goodbear.ca/ReconciliACTION



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING AN AWARD WINNING TEAM!



Largest Percentage Increase
Children's Miracle Network



Champion Child Program
Premier's Volunteer Service Award



Best Small Scale Event – Ice Crystal Gala
Canadian Event Awards

LET'S MAKE BREAKTHROUGHS POSSIBLE



**Please support
leading-edge
child health research
in Manitoba.**



Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba
533A-715 McDermot, Winnipeg, MB R3E 1M6
204-594-5323 or 1-866-953-KIDS (5437)

Donate today at goodbear.ca

Let's make anything possible.