



Teddy News

Your Donor Impact Report

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"We know that the best people in the world are taking care of him."

As they watched their tiny son Jack battle for his life, Samantha and her husband, Jason, had already lived through an incredible loss.

Just days before, they kissed Jack's twin Jori goodbye. Born at only 2.2 pounds, Jori lived for only six precious days.

"It broke my heart. I just wanted every piece of my hope to go in him and keep him alive," Samantha shared with us.

Samantha believes Jori's spirit has been looking out for his brother all his life.

"All the fight in Jori's spirit went into Jack. I know it because I saw it."

It made it easier for Jack to fight through everything he had to.

For us, it was time to make sure that the same thing didn't happen to Jack."

And tiny baby Jack did fight — with the HSC Children's Hospital team battling alongside him minute by minute. Supported by our village of donors like you, who fund the specialized equipment they need to save little lives like Jack's.

Jack has two conditions. He was born with hydrocephalus — a condition where he had fluid on his brain. When he grew to 5 lbs, he had his first surgery.

"We had the most amazing neurosurgeon. Next time we see him, I'm going to hug him."

That was just the first of seven different surgeries that Jack underwent in his very first year of life.

At age two, Jack was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. It severely affects his lower limbs and physical development. While other children can stand and walk in order to explore the world with their hands, he explores the world with his eyes.

Crawling or walking, the Children's Hospital team and supporters travelled every step of Jack's journey with him.

"He wouldn't be here if we hadn't received urgent and diligent care. From respiratory therapists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, the neurosurgery and ENT specialists, and pediatric ophthalmologists... we could relax because we knew the very best people were taking care of him."

Jack's family have seen first-hand how important both the care kids receive at Children's Hospital and the research done at the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba are.

"I am eternally grateful to anyone who has supported Children's Hospital. Without your help, I might have lost both my sons. This hospital changes the course of children's lives."



Jack

Donors Play A Huge Role In Groundbreaking Diabetes Research

When you speak to Dr. Peter Thompson about his research into Type 1 diabetes, it's impossible not to walk away excited and enthusiastic about breakthrough treatments on the horizon.

Breakthroughs that supporters like you play a huge role in.

"Type 1 diabetes is different because it doesn't rely on things like diet or lifestyle. It's really driven by an autoimmune disease. What that means is that our body's immune system, instead of protecting us, actually starts attacking the cells in our own body."

People who develop Type 1 diabetes do not produce insulin within their own bodies. They will have to take insulin injections for the rest of their life. When it affects kids, it creates a lot of challenges."

"Our research is aimed at better understanding Type 1 diabetes in kids, and developing new interventions that will stop the disease in its tracks."

Although a diagnosis of Type 1 diabetes could come at any time, with children there are often two distinct windows: around ages 5 to 8, and again around ages 10 to 15.

Often, these cases are only discovered in the emergency room when a child comes in with a life-threatening condition called diabetic ketoacidosis.

They recover with insulin injections, but the crisis is dangerous and incredibly stressful to children and their families.

It's moments like these that drive Dr. Thompson and his team to keep searching for better answers. Dr. Thompson has been thrilled at the support he's been getting from donors.

"Having donors who are excited about the research and see the potential and want to get behind us is absolutely instrumental. It's what makes my job worth doing some days."

Your support is helping us to push the needle forward, and make sure that here in Manitoba — and even across Canada — we are staying global leaders in research. And that's very exciting!"



Thank you for helping continue research into childhood illnesses at Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba

You Make Stories Like These Possible

Because of your support, families across Manitoba, Nunavut, and Northwestern Ontario are getting the care they need when it matters most. Thank you for being part of their journey.

To read more heartwarming stories of children you've helped through your generosity, visit goodbear.ca and meet more of our Foundation Families.

"Both Mike and our daughter, Haylie, are alive today because of the knowledge and care we have received at Children's Hospital."

Jayne, Haylie's grateful mother

"Supporting the hospital ensures that the services will be there when your own grandchild, neighbour or friend needs help."

Liz, Max's grateful mother

How Technology Is Helping Kids Heal

Technology is developing at an exciting pace. It's a part of everyday life. And it's particularly exciting when technology can be used to help children.

Did you know that technology is helping young patients at HSC Children's Hospital while they're being cared for?

Specialized pediatric medical equipment plays a vital role in helping our medical teams treat kids in need of treatment and care.

And while kids recuperate or need longer-term treatment, video games, TV and things they use at home every day keep them busy, eases their stress, and aids the healing process.



Jimmy Liu (left), gaming technology expert, playing a game with a patient

Jimmy Liu is the gaming technology support specialist at Children's. He not only keeps all of the gaming and TV equipment running as it should, but he also spends time playing video games with patients — keeping them distracted, actively engaged and, more

importantly, having fun.

"Many patients have to stay here for quite a while, and this environment is very unfamiliar to them at first. Having kids play something they're familiar with, like games they have at home, eases the stress of their stay."

Along with gaming consoles that promote active play, the Therapeutic Gaming and Technology Support Program also provides DVDs and live shows for families to relax and enjoy together.

Video games can even play a role in rehabilitation — encouraging children to sit up and play after lying down for hours.

We are grateful to our donors for the gifts that go towards patient support programs at Child Life, and to all the partners in our community who have donated new or gently used tablets and consoles. These special programs rely completely on the generosity of donors like you.

Thank you for all you do to help kids be kids — even in the hospital.



A patient trying out the new virtual reality goggles — funded by donors

"I quickly realized that Dr. Soni along with the rest of the team are much more than just medical professionals looking after our daughter's heart."

Haley, Emberly's grateful mother

"I call them angels on earth, because they were so wonderful. It was so busy, but we never once felt not heard or like we couldn't ask questions. They took the time to explain everything to us."

Carra, Jayden's grateful mother

"By sharing our journey we hope to motivate others to support Children's Hospital because donations can make a real difference in the lives of children and families in need of care."

Joanna, Jacob's grateful mother

Are you a grateful parent with a story to tell? Please contact us at communications@goodbear.ca to share your child's health journey.

The Tale Of A Tiny Fish And A Huge Heart

Meet Sean Johnston, the owner of Harvester Outdoors.

For five years now, Sean and his team have been hosting a fundraising campaign for Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba. During the months of December through March, they make a donation for every tub of frozen minnows they sell. This year, they sold a whopping 785 tubs!

Q: Tell us a bit about Harvester Outdoors.

Sean: We're a small family-run outdoor store in Selkirk. We sell tackle, minnows, commercial fishing gear and outdoor equipment.

Q: What inspires your support for Children's Hospital Foundation?

Sean: At one point or another, I think every child needs Children's Hospital. Our sons both needed to be stitched up at the Children's Hospital, but this year, watching friends have a family member who needed the full support of the hospital, it just anchored our resolve to make Children's Hospital a primary focus when we consider our charitable donations and programs.



Sean (2nd from right) with his wife, Angie, and his sons, Jake and Joey

Q: How do your customers feel about the campaign?

Sean: We get a great deal of customers coming in and stocking up when they know the campaign is on. Everyone sees it as a win-win.

Q: And, finally, do you have any tips you can pass on to other businesses or individuals thinking about supporting the hospital with an event like yours?

Sean: Business isn't just about making yourself rich. Now, businesses have a conscience and whether you see it in your bottom line or not, feeling like you made a difference is far more valuable.

It's a delight to see the creative ways that our supporters come up with to help the hospital and the kids in care here. If you would like to host your own fundraiser to raise money to support Children's Hospital, please email us at pkreitz@goodbear.ca.

Events:



36th ANNUAL
Teddy Bears' Picnic

Sunday, September 7th
Assiniboine Park

Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba
invites your family to enjoy

Island Vibes

Ice Crystal Gala 2025

RBC Convention Centre
To attend or sponsor visit
goodbear.ca/IceCrystalGala

 **Saturday, October 18**



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