



Teddy News

Your Donor Impact Report

Winter 2026 Vol. 24

“This is where kids with cancer begin the fight of their lives.”



Michael is now thriving.

If you could see five-year-old Michael Stern zipping around his kindergarten class, you'd witness an energetic, athletic, funny little boy — enjoying his childhood to the fullest.

You would never guess that Michael spent the last two and a half years in and out of the hospital, battling leukemia.

His mother, Mary, remembers the phone call she received one day in November 2022. Michael's bloodwork had come back with major concerns ... and she was advised to take him into Children's Emergency immediately.

“Looking at the notes I took during that call, it barely looks like my writing,” she says. “I was in a complete state of shock.”

That very night, Michael was admitted to the hospital — in CK5, the unit for children with cancer, blood disorders, and those who need transplants. In the next 12 hours, he went through a whirlwind of tests and procedures that confirmed he had B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

That ward in the hospital became the family's second home. A place of safety during a time of uncertainty. They will always remember the incredible care Michael received there.

“Our experience and level of care were beyond what we could have hoped for. Everyone involved — the oncologists, nurses, PDU staff, and other health care staff — were the most patient and loving human beings I have ever encountered. Children's became like a second home. It's not just a hospital, it's a place filled with hope.”

Today, Mary and her husband, Morris, are big supporters of the Foundation's campaign for childhood cancer, blood disorders, and transplants to better support kids like Michael.

“This is where so many families begin the fight of their lives,” she says. “Upgrading CK5 means more comfort, better technology, more space, and child health research. It's about giving kids the best possible environment to heal, a space that is soothing, warm, and feels like their home away from home.

Now, we want to be a light for other families. The positive stories we heard gave us hope for Michael.

And to the hospital's supporters, I will just say — thank you. Your generosity allowed our son to receive such excellent care close to home. You didn't just help save his life, you helped restore joy and normalcy to our family.”



Michael in hospital.



Artists in Action for the Kids

Imagine being a child facing cancer treatment, surrounded by artwork, discovering new details in a mural every day instead of staring at clinical white walls.

Thanks to supporters like you, we're making this a reality in CK5 — the unit where our medical teams treat children with cancer, blood disorders, and those who need transplants.

As you read this, inspiring artists are hard at work helping us create a beautiful, healing space for children here at Children's Hospital.

We know that environments are incredibly important to any patient's healing journey ... and that is especially true for children spending extended time in hospital.

Soon, our children will be surrounded by artwork that sparks comfort, joy, and imagination.

The artwork in each room will help lift spirits, create hope, and reaffirm the timeless message for these brave kids that, together, anything is possible.

That same message underpins our gratitude for donors like you, who support the funding of equipment, programs, projects, and research that bring healing and health back to kids in hospital.

We are waiting with bated breath to see the final creations! Watch for your next newsletter or email to hear more about the great unveiling.

You made a difference in 2025!

Thank you for your generous support last year! With your kind donations, you helped us purchase the specialized medical equipment our teams need to care for the children in our hospital. Along with internationally-acclaimed research, you also helped fund Child Life programming, which bring comfort to children and their families during their time in hospital. We are so grateful!



ChemiDoc lets
researchers "see"
inside cells



Virtual reality headsets
distract and ease pain
and anxiety

A Lifetime of Care and a Loving Gift



Sharon's grad photo.

Sharon Torgerson was a devoted mother, daughter, wife, and nurse. A proud member of our School of Nursing's Class of 1960, she was the first in her family to hold a post-secondary degree.

Sharon's training in a caring profession perfectly reflected her personality and her values. Deeply committed to her parents and her own family, Sharon's compassion extended into the community. She volunteered for the Women's Help Line, organized blood drives, coached ringette, and canvassed door-to-door for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Despite coming from a family of modest means, Sharon always wanted to share what she had with others. And she believed wholeheartedly in the concept of a hospital dedicated to children.

We were honoured to receive a bequest in Sharon's Will to help us keep caring for the children like the ones she cared for so much in her lifetime.

In her husband, Glen's, words:

"Sharon had a big place in her heart for those



Sharon Torgerson

who were sick, vulnerable, or less fortunate than she was.

She would be happy to know that her donation will be used to help and support children and families in need right here in her own beloved city of Winnipeg.

We are all very proud of her decision. It completes the circle of her involvement with the Children's Hospital.

We encourage anyone to leave a legacy gift, of whatever size, to the Children's Hospital. Children are our future! Sharon would be very happy if her action encouraged others."

If you are interested in learning how you can care for kids by leaving a gift in your Will, please contact Lindsay Rayter at lrayer@goodbear.ca or 204-797-4387.



Child Life programming brings comfort



Specialized surgical equipment enables life-saving procedures



Bladder scanner provides a gentle, non-invasive assessment



Library Program delivers comforting stories to young patients



Canada's first Indigenous Community Healing Space in a children's hospital now under construction

Community Events Helping Support Children In Hospital



During the pandemic, the Salo Family began creating an animated light show to help spread joy during the holiday season. It has now grown to one of the largest residential light shows in Manitoba, and the family has kindly turned it into a fundraiser for HSC Children's Hospital.

Over the last four years, this generous family has raised over \$8,700!

"It has been such an incredible experience to create and share this light show with our community. It is our honour to collect donations each year to help kids in hospital. We are so thankful for everyone's support!"



Chloe (7) and Molly (5) are lovingly known as the Candy Cane Sisters. Each holiday season they don red coats to hand out "Candy Cane Wishes" with the goal of spreading cheer and kindness. The girls encourage the people they meet to donate to the Children's Hospital.

Says their mom,

"We love this way of teaching our girls that Christmas is about gratitude, helping others, and being with the ones we love. Now this tradition of kindness has become our most meaningful Christmas tradition."



Our friends at Happy Math Learning Center have created a happy tradition during their summer camps — a lemonade stand run by the children who study there. The kids personally purchase fresh lemons, make lemonade, design posters, and sell their delicious product to raise funds for HSC Children's Hospital.

"Our event has received tremendous support from parents and community members. We look forward to seeing everyone in the Bridgewater community in the summer of 2026!" Jing, Math Teacher-Principal, Owner

If you would like to host your own fundraiser to support Children's Hospital, please email Paula Kreitz at pkreitz@goodbear.ca.

Upcoming Events



Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba Golf Tournament
Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2026
Location: Glendale Golf & Country Club



Teddy Bears' Picnic
Date: Sunday, September 27, 2026
Location: Assiniboine Park



Ice Crystal Gala
Date: Saturday, November 7, 2026
Location: RBC Convention Centre
Winnipeg



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