



“Will I still be me
when I wake up?”

— Ainsley

Every parent hopes for a healthy and happy child. Unfortunately, the odds were stacked against us.

Ainsley was 11 months old when The Children’s pediatricians noticed she wasn’t hitting milestones. The diagnosis: a brain abnormality on the right side. One night, I heard a choking sound that woke me up worried. Ainsley was having a seizure. Panic swept over me. We went to The Children’s ER where they gave Ainsley anti-seizure medication.

Eight months later, Ainsley had her second seizure. What was wrong? Dr. Elisabeth Simard-Tremblay asked us to stay at the hospital so they could monitor a seizure. That’s when they realized she was having silent seizures. “It’s killing her from the inside,” said Dr. Simard-Tremblay. We felt helpless again. But, thanks to your support, we had access to cutting-edge expertise. We were then offered a radical procedure. Dr. Simard-Tremblay and Dr. Jean-Pierre Farmer, The Children’s Surgeon-in-Chief, said it was possible to cure Ainsley’s seizures. To do so, they’d have to disconnect half of her brain. This was the hardest decision Ainsley’s dad and I would ever make. We were choosing to paralyze her on one side.

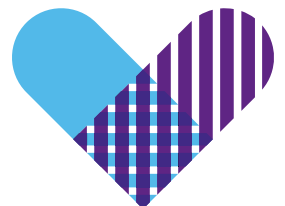
“Will I still be me when I wake up?” Ainsley asked. She was only 9, yet old enough to understand the seriousness of the surgery. My family stayed with us for the entire 15-hour operation. I kept thinking: My baby is in their hands, and their hands are in her head! By losing half her brain, Ainsley lost half of her eyesight. However, she hasn’t had a seizure since surgery.

I do wonder if she will ever live independently. Now, she walks, she has friends, she’s learning to read and most importantly, she’s happy.

The Children’s will continue to be a big part of Ainsley’s life. And you will always be a part of hers.

Thank you.

— Jocelyn



What you've helped accomplish

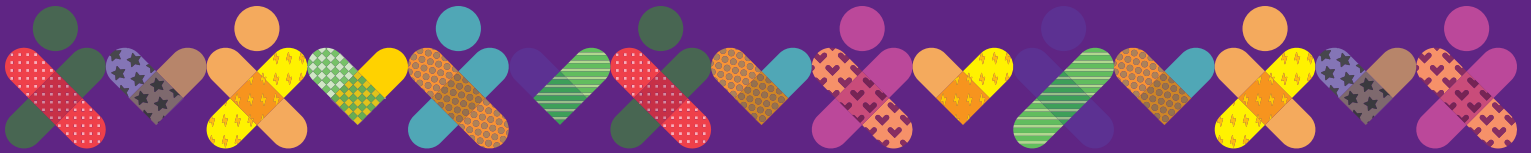
We are reminded of your generosity every time a grateful parent tells their story or a medical team performs a life-saving procedure. Without you, many of these stories would have different endings. We are so grateful that you chose to support our young patients when they needed you most.

A little goes a long way

For some families, having a sick child can result in financial hardship because of loss of employment or unforeseen expenses, such as accommodations and parking. Generous donations to the Tiny Tim Fund help to relieve some of that burden by covering costs for meals, transportation and hotel stays for families from outside of Montreal. Thanks to you, the load was a little lighter for 600 families who could focus on what mattered most: caring for their little ones.

The future of pediatric care is bright

The Children's dedicated and caring staff is second to none. Our donors play a big role in making sure we attract and keep the best and the brightest physicians, nurses and allied health professionals. From bursaries to tuition to training and start-up research funds, your gift is helping to build the foundation of tomorrow's pediatric super stars in our own backyard. On behalf of all the patients who will benefit from this expertise, thank you!



Charlotte Cardin: The Foundation's New « Main Girl »

The Children's Foundation is proud to welcome one of Quebec's most talented artists, Charlotte Cardin, as its ambassador.

The internationally renowned singer-songwriter who recently garnered six 2022 Juno nominations, beating Justin Bieber and The Weeknd, has generously agreed to support the Foundation's fundraising efforts in her new role.

With several hits under her belt, like the songs *Faufile* and *Main Girl*, Charlotte is also supporting The Children's SPOT

Montreal, a specialized mental-health centre for adolescents in suicidal crisis, with a personal video released at the official launch in March.

“As someone who had access to mental health resources as a teen, I applaud and appreciate this initiative. We often tend to prioritize the importance of physical health for young people, which is very important, but we can forget how vital it is to offer resources in mental health.”

We're grateful for this wonderful partnership, which will spread awareness about The Children's and its patients, helping the Hospital find Unexpected Ways to Heal.

Welcome to The Children's big family, Charlotte!



Our tiniest patients thank you!

With 52 patient rooms, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) is the largest care unit at The Children's.

Led by Dr. Richard Gosselin, the team is made up of more than 250 nurses, physicians and allied health professionals who provide ultra-specialized care to the Hospital's tiniest and most fragile patients.

The NICU's needs are many and varied. Thanks to our donors' generosity, the Foundation can meet these needs, large and small. In the last year alone, you helped fund research and training, complementary programs like Books for Babies and music therapy, financial and emotional support for families facing long hospital stays, and medical equipment used everyday to save lives. Equipment can range from ultra-sophisticated incubators and infant warmers to simple devices used to evaluate a baby's progress.

The Bayley-4 kit, for example, was purchased for the Neonatal Follow-Up Program. This important tool helps to identify potential developmental challenges faced by preterm children so that the team can intervene early and appropriately.

Because of you, NICU "graduates" can continue to thrive under the watchful eye of our dedicated caregivers.



Rémi: a warrior since birth

Rémi was born with a heart murmur, and diagnosed with subaortic stenosis – that narrows the heart's aortic valve and reduces blood flow. He had to undergo two open-heart surgeries before his 8th birthday.

"It was a shock to hear that our son needed open-heart surgery. But the staff at The Children's were very reassuring. We felt comfortable trusting them with our son's life," says Rémi's mom, André-Kim.

Thanks to generous donors like you, The Children's Cardiology Division added a dedicated nursing position to ensure that young patients with cardiac conditions receive a seamless transition of care from the neonatal age, through to adulthood. Michele Zegray, who has been a member of the cardiology team for more than 20 years, currently occupies this position.

"I can only do what I do because so many people do so much other crucial work," explains Michele. "Together everyone truly achieves more."

Michele also highlights the importance of collaboration in successfully helping families through hardships.

"We are extremely grateful for the amazing care we are receiving at The Children's and for Michele's support. I can't imagine this experience without it," says André-Kim.

Thank you for helping young patients like Rémi and his family in their healing journey.

The Children's in space!

The Children's research goes to space to help answer important questions about chronic pain, sleep and microbiome.

When complex pain expert Dr. Pablo Ingelmo was asked to participate in a research project aboard the International Space Station (ISS), the Director of the Edwards Family Interdisciplinary Centre for Complex Pain at The Children's knew it was the opportunity of a lifetime.

"We hope this research will lead to the development of new technology and treatments to help both children and adults living with chronic pain," said Dr. Ingelmo.

Dr. Evelyn Constantin, Director of Pediatric Sleep Medicine at

The Children's, and her team were also excited to conduct research on sleep and the microbiome during Axiom Space's Ax-1 mission in April.

"What we learn about the astronauts' microbiome will help us understand the links between a child's microbiome and their sleep and overall health," said Dr. Constantin.

This research was made possible thanks to Mark Pathy, who was part of Ax-1's four-person crew and is a member of The Children's Foundation's Board of Directors and Campaign Cabinet.



Our beloved Caramel becomes a zero-gravity indicator

The first private mission to the International Space Station used a 'high-tech' tool to demonstrate the moment when the spacecraft escaped gravity's bond. Caramel, the Montreal Children's Hospital mascot, was the mission's zero-gravity indicator. To mark this important event, people can get their own souvenir Caramel and the official patch for the Ax-1 space mission by donating \$200 or more. Funds raised will help sick children get back their fighting spirit, showing them the sky is not the limit.

**GET YOUR SOUVENIR CAMEL
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