

Mackenzie Forbes Society

Making plans today to give each child the brightest future



How to Maximize your impact and help our young patients get back their mischievous side!

By Renée Vezina, President

Many of us look forward to the New Year with hope and anticipation. The same is true for our patients and their families. Their courage in the face of tough challenges is remarkable.

There is nothing like the promise of a better future to put a smile on a child's face. The determination of these young patients to fight a life-altering disease and encourage other children to do the same is simply incredible.

A former patient at The Children's, Nicolas W. Matossian Jr., showed his bravery by starting a fund-raising event that his family continues to hold annually in his honour has raised over \$1 million to date.

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From left to right: Christian, Martha and Nicolas Matossian Sr.



Nicolas Matossian Jr.

Following in their Son's Footsteps

The year is 1985, Nicolas W. Matossian, Jr. is almost 16. The popular grade 10 student has a wide circle of friends, plays football for Lower Canada College, and loves a new band called U2. Life is good.

Looking back, his dad, Nicolas Sr., recalls with fondness how his son was always a bit of a daydreamer. Suddenly, Nicolas Jr. became increasingly forgetful. Headaches drained his energy. Days before his birthday, tests at The Montreal

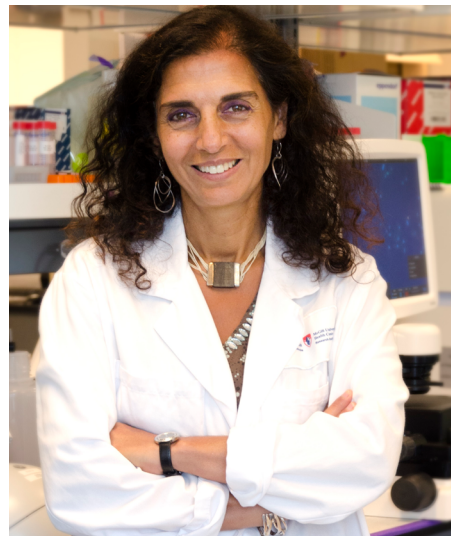
Children's Hospital revealed a benign brain tumour the size of a tangerine. Within months, the tumour became an inoperable form of brain cancer called glioblastoma.

To this day, the family remains grateful to neurosurgeon Dr. José Montes, who encouraged Nicolas to live his life. The young man took the advice to heart. Despite the diagnosis and treatments, Nicolas found it unacceptable that

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From small steps to big discoveries

“Over the past 20 years, pediatric brain tumour research has undergone a revolution,” says Dr. Nada Jabado, a hemato-oncologist at The Children’s and senior scientist at the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre. “Significant progress has been made by our researchers and clinicians.”



Dr. Nada Jabado

“We first proved that pediatric brain tumors behave differently than tumors in adults. Today, they are all classified and studied, and innovative targeted treatments from the lab to the bedside are being tested. Certainly, there is still much to learn, but we have targets for many childhood brain tumors, and we are treating many of them with precision medicine.”

“Tumor markers specific to certain pediatric cancers have been identified and we are able to collect some of them in a liquid biopsy. This revolutionary technology can track and soon identify some brain cancers along with conventional imaging.

Biomarkers will also help identify safer, more targeted drugs, determine whether or not a treatment is effective, and even see signs of remission or relapse.”

Diagnosed with a very rare congenital neuroblastoma, Lylia, a little ray of sunshine, continues to fight after two rounds of chemo, radiation therapy, immunotherapy and two stem cell transplants. At three years old, Lylia is undergoing experimental treatment in which she is testing a promising drug.

“In the near future, our researchers will be able to test cell and gene therapies, and innovative treatments so that we can offer children with incurable cancers acceptable alternatives to improve their lives and quality of life. The future looks bright, and I thank the donors who support our research. Thanks to their generosity, we have made great strides.”

Pioneer for Change

Dr. Jabado’s groundbreaking research discoveries prompted the World Health Organization to revise its classification of nervous system tumors.

In 2021, Dr. Jabado received the Canadian Cancer Society’s Robert L. Noble Award for outstanding achievement in fundamental biomedical cancer research.



Expert Corner

Can I maximize my charitable donation by gifting assets?

Rhonda Rudick, Davies Ward, Phillips & Vineberg LLP

You may wish to attain your charitable objectives by donating both cash and other assets. But what you probably want the most is to make an impact now and for years to come. Blended giving, which combines different ways of giving in a tax-efficient manner, may be the answer. For example, if you own shares of a private or public company, or real estate with significant capital gains, it is worth considering whether those assets could be used for part or all of your charitable donations to The Children’s Foundation.

Donation of Shares

You may hold **preferred (fixed value) shares in a private corporation**. Donating your shares to The Children’s Foundation can accomplish your philanthropic goals, while resulting in a significantly lower personal tax liability versus the redemption or the disposition of those shares. **Gifts of publicly traded shares** are exempt from tax on capital gains. It is therefore preferable to donate publicly traded securities directly rather than selling those shares and making a donation in cash.

Donations of Real Estate

Gifting real estate is another way to donate to The Children’s Foundation in a tax efficient manner. Real estate may be donated in a way that eliminates both capital gains tax and recapture of depreciation by electing to donate the property at its cost. Gifts of real estate can be made outright or subject to a life interest, whereby the donor retains possession until the end of the specified term or his death. Corporately held real estate may

also be gifted to a charity and can reduce or eliminate double taxation.

Gifts of assets

Gifts of assets can be made during one’s lifetime or in one’s will. If you have any questions regarding how to effectively donate your shares, real estate, or other assets, please contact The Children’s Foundation’s planned giving team at: pginfo@mchf.com.

We can guide you or refer you to one of our Legacy Advisory Council members.



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Members of the MacKenzie Forbes Society have made a legacy gift to The Children’s through a bequest, a charitable annuity, a gift of life insurance or by establishing an endowment. We are extremely grateful to these donors for helping to ensure the best pediatric care for future generations of young patients. Dr. Alexander MacKenzie Forbes founded the Montreal Children’s Hospital in 1904 and served as its Surgeon-in-Chief until 1929.

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Diverse ways of giving can maximize the impact of your donation. The Matossian family's annual fundraising event supports an endowment fund at The Children's in Nicolas' name. Some donors use their shares to increase their tax exemptions while giving back, others leave a meaningful gift through their will. The possibilities to help sick children through blended giving are varied and can be adapted to the circumstances of each individual and their family.

In this sixth edition of the MacKenzie Forbes Society Newsletter, you can learn how blended giving may maximize the impact of your support and discover how the Matossian family found strength and hope by creating a legacy fund in memory of their remarkable son.

Children deserve to be carefree and happy. When you plan a gift for the future, you are making a difference for our children and their families.

For those who wish to help children for generations to come, please feel free to contact:

Susan Elias,
Director of Major and Planned Gifts, at seli@mchf.com or

Samar El Soufi,
Senior Gift Planner,
at sels@mchf.com.

May you have a healthy and Happy New Year. Thank you for all that you do today, and for the future.

Following in their Son's Footsteps

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The Children's did not have a CAT scan machine and organized a charity golf tournament to help raise the needed funds. "We were worried about his health, but Nicolas threw himself into the fundraiser, recruiting his younger brother, Christian, and friends to help," said mom, Martha. They raised \$25 thousand for The Children's Neurosurgery Unit. A year later, the 2nd annual tournament raised \$30 thousand.

Sadly, Nicolas passed away a month before his eighteenth birthday.

Usually, it's the parents who set the bar high for their children. For the Matossian family it was their son Nicolas Jr. For 35 years, with the

support of friends, they have organized various fundraisers including concerts at the old Spectrum and an annual hockey tournament. Today, thanks to the City of Westmount, the Westmount Oldtimers Hockey Charity Tournament is in its 31st year.

Still playing in the tournament, Nicolas Sr. has passed the puck to Christian who will be organizing the annual fundraiser in the future. To date, the family has raised over \$1 million to fund neuro-oncology research and equipment.

Now in their 80's, Nicolas Sr. and Martha are preparing for the future. Along with Christian, they have opened the Nicolas W. Matossian Endowment Fund.



From left to right: Christian and Nicolas Matossian Sr., The Westmount Oldtimers Hockey Charity Tournament, 2022.

For generations to come, the family fund will have an impact on the lives of countless children diagnosed with brain cancer.

By directing a portion of their gift to research, they will help to find a cure.

