



IWK Foundation

OUR FUTURE

A NEWSLETTER FOR IWK FOUNDATION DONORS

2025



Jannie, IWK Patient, pictured with Dr. David Conrad, Division Head, Hematopathology and Creator & CEO of The Cellfie Project.

Thank You

As we step into 2025, we do so with a profound sense of gratitude and responsibility. It is with deep appreciation that we reflect on all that you have made possible for our Maritime children and families over the past 40 years.

Every patient the IWK serves, every milestone they reach, and every life they touch is a testament to your extraordinary generosity. Thanks to you, we have not only sustained but transformed access to care for the most vulnerable members of our region.

The young man on the cover of this newsletter is Jannie. He's a vibrant 10-year-old boy from New Brunswick who loves soccer and has a deep curiosity for the world around him. A leukemia diagnosis—the most commonly diagnosed form of cancer in Canadian children—led Jannie to the IWK in 2023, where he received life-saving cancer treatment. It was there that he met Dr. David Conrad, Division Head, Hematopathology and Creator & CEO of The Cellfie Project. IWK Foundation donors helped fund this innovative program, which allowed Dr. Conrad to educate Jannie about his cancer and show him pictures of his cells before and after chemotherapy; a powerful visual that his leukemia cells had been eliminated. Donor support funded this research and empowered this bright young boy to feel autonomy and hope during an otherwise scary time in his life.

We move forward into the new year, knowing our work is far from done. Your contributions ensure that your IWK remains at the forefront of women's and pediatric care, advancing the latest technologies and the most exceptional care available. That's why, within this newsletter, you'll learn more about our plans for the future.

With your continued partnership, we know we can help ensure the IWK continues to offer the very best care to every woman and child in our region.

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for everything you do to make the IWK a beacon of hope for the Maritimes. You are a vital part of our story, and we look forward to another year of shared action, hope, and healing.

Jennifer Gillivan, ICD.D
President & CEO
IWK Foundation

You Turned These Dreams into Reality!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of donors like you, many patient spaces within IWK Health have been reimagined and equipped, allowing us to transform the way IWK cares for the Maritime community. Read on to learn more about the impact you made!

A Modernized Waiting Area for the Mental Health & Addictions Specific Care Clinic

Thanks to donors, the Mental Health & Addictions Specific Care Clinic at the IWK now has a bright waiting area with updated furnishings, beautiful artwork, and enhanced privacy and confidentiality. This calming space has been intentionally co-designed with families, physicians and staff to convey a message of hope, positivity and healing.



A Renovated Welcoming Area for Women

The new Admitting and Registration Area for Women's Health serves women and gender-diverse individuals receiving breast and gynecological care related to bladder health, breast health, pelvic floor health, endometriosis and more. These renovations were made possible by you!



Urgently Needed Anesthesia Machines

Thanks to you, our community of donors, vital pieces of specialized equipment were purchased for the IWK in 2024. Most recently, we issued a call to help purchase four new anesthesia machines. These machines will be used in operating rooms and ensure IWK patients needing surgery can be safely put to sleep while their vitals, such as heart rate and blood pressure, are carefully monitored.



Photo: Rendering of new IWK Emergency Department (Source: William Nycum and Associates)

Coming Soon: A Brand New IWK Emergency Department

A new IWK Emergency Department (ED) for Maritime children, youth and families will soon be a reality—thanks to donors like you. Triple in size, this new department will help the IWK meet the increased demands of the growing Maritime population and will transform pediatric emergency care in our region.

The new design will ensure less time spent in a crowded waiting area; a feeling that you are moving forward instead of standing still, waiting to be seen. These changes offer a more efficient approach to emergency care resulting in a quicker diagnosis and treatment. Key features of the new ED include a private Emergency Mental Health and Addictions Space and a zone to streamline care for patients presenting with less severe conditions.

Patients and families are playing a key role in this project. Hearing from them directly is essential to help create a calmer, more comfortable environment that inspires hope and distracts from fear.

On the Horizon

We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support in helping IWK Health provide world-class care to Maritime women, youth, and children. With your continued partnership, we hope to transform what's possible across our five areas of focus in 2025. Each pillar is a step toward building a brighter future. Together, they reflect the evolving needs of the communities across our region.

Your generosity has made a profound impact, and together, we can turn these priorities into transformative action. We would be honoured to walk alongside you on this journey.



Children's Health

IWK Health is dedicated to providing best-in-class care to children, youth, and families in the Maritime provinces and beyond. With your help, we can continue to offer complex levels of care in our region, be strong advocates for the health of families, and remain a global leader in research and knowledge sharing.



Women's Health

IWK Health is committed to meeting the healthcare needs of women through all stages of life, from pediatrics to menopause. Donors are helping to purchase specialized equipment, fund innovative research and enhance the care spaces in which women are treated. Together, we are shifting the conversation around women's healthcare and research.



Area of Greatest Need

By supporting the IWK's area of greatest need, you're ensuring the IWK can respond to urgent healthcare needs for our Maritime women, children, and families. And together, we're ensuring the IWK can continue to provide world-class care—close to home and when it matters most.



Mental Health & Addictions

The IWK has the expertise and care models to deliver all levels of mental health and addictions care to children, youth and their families—ranging from community-based services such as outpatient clinics, shared care community clinics and integrated youth services, to highly specialized inpatient, intensive services and emergency care.



Research

IWK Health is a global leader in research, innovation, and knowledge sharing that directly improves the health and well-being of women, children, and families throughout the Maritimes. We're continuing to invest in research opportunities at the IWK that can have an impact locally, nationally and worldwide.

Impacting the Future of Youth Mental Health & Addictions Care

While one in four Canadian youth are affected by mental health or substance use challenges, less than 25 per cent are receiving the mental health support they need. Children and youth are falling through the cracks. Now is the time to make real change.

The creation of an **Ecosystem for Child & Adolescent Mental Health and Addictions** will help create this change. According to available information, this Ecosystem will be the first of its kind in the world. It will bring mental health and addictions services together, ensuring the IWK will be there to help children, youth and families navigate the care they need, when and where they need it.

This Ecosystem includes the IWK's Garron Centre for Child & Adolescent Mental Health (acute inpatient care), the Emergency Mental Health and Addictions Space in the new IWK Emergency Department, Integrated Youth Services-NS (IYS-NS), and a reimagined therapeutic environment for IWK Mental Health and Addictions Intensive Services.

Integrated Youth Services-NS (IYS-NS)

The IWK Foundation is committed to working with our donors to support the creation of eight IYS sites in communities across Nova Scotia. They will provide easy access to the care and services youth aged 12 to 25 need for their mental health and well-being, close to home.

Intensive Services

In the fall of 2024, Myron and Berna Garron announced a catalyst \$25 million donation to support a reimagined environment for Intensive Services—a Mental Health & Addictions program for children and youth who do not need inpatient care but may require services beyond what can be offered in an outpatient clinic. These services are currently fragmented and can be difficult to access. Donors joining the Garrons will help create a new environment for Intensive Services in the community matching the exceptional care provided by IWK teams.



Together, we celebrated the impact of Myron and Berna Garron at the IWK, proudly surrounded by their family. Myron and Berna's donation to Intensive Services is the single largest individual donation to health care in Atlantic Canada.

With your support, we will make the Ecosystem for Child & Adolescent Mental Health and Addictions a reality. Together, we will impact the future of mental health and addictions care for generations of children and youth.

Your Community, Your IWK

IWK Health is much more than a building on University Avenue in Halifax, NS. It is an essential part of our Maritime community. Across the region, IWK teams engage and collaborate with care teams in their communities to help ensure patients and families have access to specialized care and enhanced education close to home.

Every patient deserves the same level of care, regardless of where they live. That's why the IWK is expanding its reach in the community by developing a **Pediatric Learning Health System (Peds-LHS)**—an innovative program supported by donors to improve access to specialized care for Maritime children, youth and families. The Peds-LHS team will work with health leaders, local care providers, researchers, community partners, and patient and family advisors to address challenges and gaps in pediatric healthcare in your community.

Building on the success of TREKK

Peds-LHS will leverage a national project called Translating Emergency Care for Kids (TREKK). This is one of the many examples of how the IWK expands its walls across the Maritimes. This project ensures that children being cared for in rural and non-pediatric emergency departments have access to the same care as they would at the IWK. Many pediatric conditions are time-sensitive, and every health care provider needs the resources to provide appropriate care to children and youth.

Through donor generosity, the IWK has developed educational videos and modules for TREKK. The IWK has also delivered training to hospitals across Nova Scotia using TREKK resources. In the fall of 2024, the team held education sessions for teams in emergency departments throughout Cape Breton and Western Nova Scotia. The sessions included simulation learning and lectures on diagnosing and treating Meningitis in children and youth.

With the support of donors, the IWK will build on the success of TREKK to implement Peds-LHS. This new program will ensure children and families have access to the best resources and care when they need it most, from emergency care and pain management to mental health and addictions support.



A Proud Moment for the Future of Women's Health in the Maritimes

In October 2024, we were thrilled to be welcomed as the newest member of the Women's Health Collective Canada (WHCC), a strategic alliance of leading women's health and hospital foundations from across Canada. Through intentional collaboration, WHCC foundations are bringing resources and fundraising together to address the legacy of inequity in women's health research.

Stay tuned as we work toward a campaign focused on women's health. We will share women's stories of their health journeys and give women a voice so we can fully understand what needs to be done to improve women's health.

Join the Journey

Donors ensure that the IWK has cutting-edge technology and world-class facilities to care for patients. Here are a few other ways you can continue to help Maritime women and children.



Become a Monthly Donor



Give a Gift of Securities



Fundraise for the IWK



Make a Tribute or Memorial Gift



Honour an IWK Team Member



Leave a Gift in your Will



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