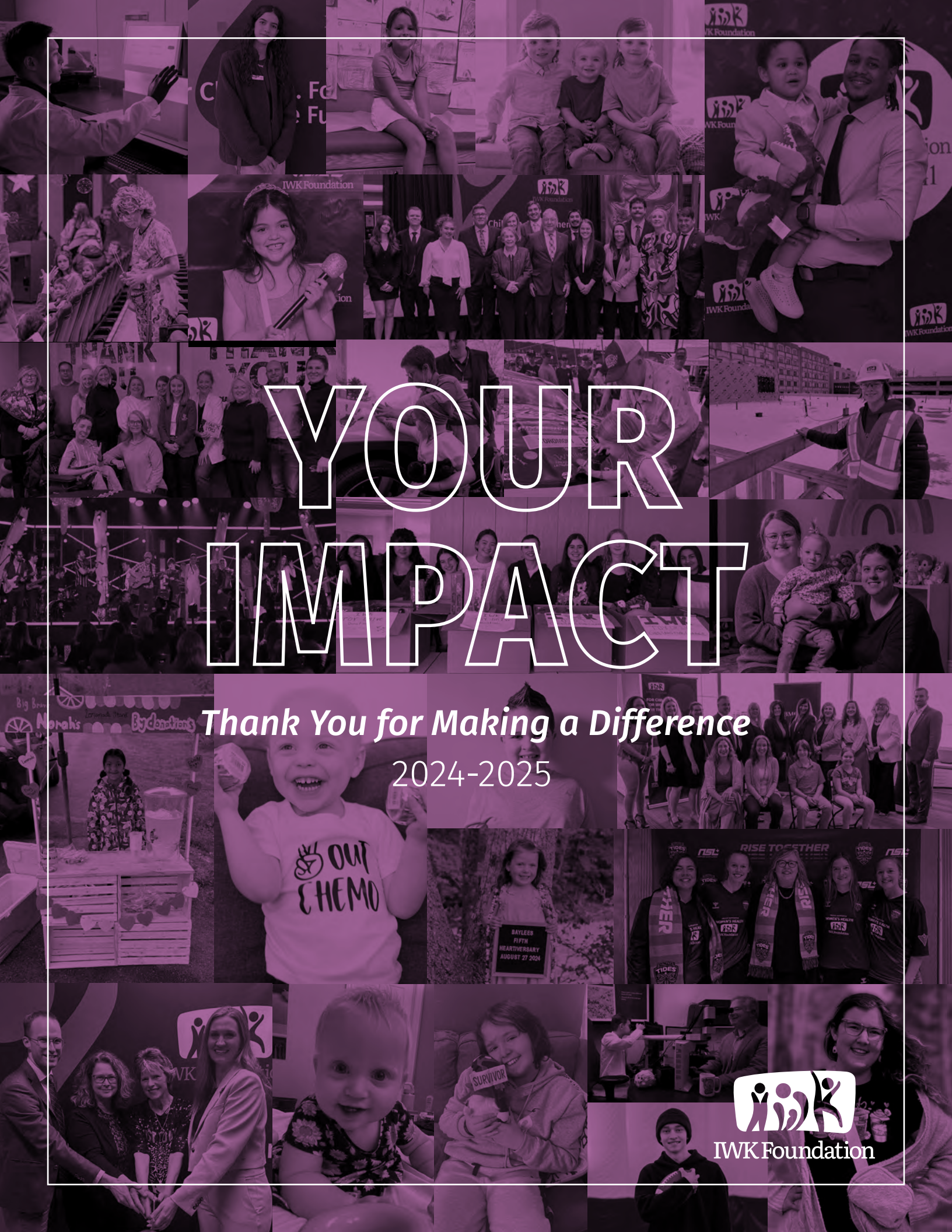




YOUR IMPACT

Thank You for Making a Difference
2024-2025



IWK Foundation

A Message from Our Champion Family

“In January 2025, my daughter, Norah, was announced as the 2025 Children’s Miracle Network Champion for the IWK, a role that celebrates her courage and resilience. Born with a bilateral cleft lip and palate, Norah has embraced this visible difference and used her platform to advocate for the IWK and all the children across the Maritimes who go there.

This experience has been transformative for her self-confidence, mental health and has helped to develop her speech as well. Most importantly, it has instilled a deep sense of pride in who she is, in a world where she rarely sees others who look like her. The experiences, memories and impact of this opportunity will stay with her for life.”

— Marie, mother of Norah, 2025 Children’s Miracle Network Champion for the IWK.

DID YOU KNOW? The IWK Foundation is a member of the Children’s Miracle Network (CMN), which raises funds for children’s hospitals across Canada. Every single dollar raised through a CMN program goes directly to your local children’s hospital foundation. So, if you donate at checkout or purchase a CMN Miracle Balloon in the Maritimes, your donation will support the IWK.



Stories of Strength & Resilience

When you support the IWK, you give the gift of hope and the chance of brighter futures for Maritime women, children, youth and families. In this report, you will meet remarkable IWK patients and families who inspire others with their courage and determination. Their stories are powerful reminders of why the IWK is so vital to our region and how your generosity helps to save and change lives.



Van

A powerful reminder that 18-year-old Van has demonstrated in his life is that **the true strength of a person comes from within.**

At 10 months old, Van was diagnosed with a degenerative neuromuscular condition that causes profound muscle weakness and, as a result, has had to overcome many challenges.

Recently graduating from high school as valedictorian, Van is heading to university with the goal of becoming a professional endorsement agent for para-athletes when he graduates.

In 2025, Van was awarded the Youth & Family Partner Leadership Award from Children’s Healthcare Canada for his exceptional leadership and dedication to improving the patient and family experience in pediatric healthcare. He also received a Terry Fox Humanitarian Award, given to an individual with a passion for helping those in need or demonstrating perseverance in the face of adversity.

It’s been an honour to have Van as a longtime patient ambassador for the IWK and as the IWK’s Children’s Miracle Network Champion Child in 2019. Through his passion to give back, he’s helped raise awareness and funds for the IWK.



Corinne

In August 2023, on a winding road in a small, rural Nova Scotia town, Corinne's life took an unexpected turn. She and her friends were in a serious car accident that threw those not wearing seatbelts from the vehicle when the driver lost control and hit a tree.

Corinne's extensive injuries included a brain injury, a broken pelvis, back, and collarbone. She also suffered a stroke that stole her ability to speak and understand language.

Corinne spent 71 days in the IWK. Thanks to her hard work and the specialized care she received, Corinne walked out of the hospital just before her 16th birthday.

Since her accident, Corinne has taken control of the life she wants to live—and it's one filled with courage, strength, and optimism.

In June 2025, she graduated from high school and signed a modelling contract. She continues to use her voice to remind others about the importance of wearing a seatbelt. When Corinne turns 18, she wants to be a Disney Princess to spread magic, joy and smiles to all those around her!

Not yet a year old, Hugh has already faced and overcome more than most do in a lifetime, proving just how incredibly strong he is.

When Hugh was born in January of 2025, his tiny heart struggled, but his highly skilled IWK care team was ready and acted fast. Hours after birth, Hugh was in surgery and was just big enough to receive the pacemaker that saved his life. **He was one of the youngest patients to ever receive a pacemaker at the IWK.**

Today, Hugh is thriving! He visits the IWK Children's Heart Centre every three months for a thorough checkup. He is currently working on rolling and sitting and is eating and sleeping like a champ. When he's not conquering his milestones, Hugh loves spending time with his big brother, Dean.

As he approaches his first birthday, we look forward to following his incredible journey ahead!



Hugh



Caden

When 18-year-old Caden was struck by a vehicle in 2022 and suffered serious injuries, there was uncertainty about whether he'd survive. And, if Caden did survive, his family didn't know if he'd be the same person he was before the accident because he had suffered a traumatic injury to his brain stem.

Thankfully, with each passing day at the IWK, Caden's health greatly improved. Caden was able to return home after 31 days of receiving specialized care and undergoing rehabilitation therapy.

In June 2025, Caden proudly donned a graduation cap and gown and walked across the stage at his high school graduation ceremony. In the fall, he'll be starting the Achieve Program at Nova Scotia Community College, where students gain new skills to prepare for employment, future learning, and participation in their community.

United in Support of the IWK

Donors across the Maritimes help make the IWK a place filled with hope, healing and exceptional care. From lemonade stands and birthday parties to monthly donations, gifts of shares and transformative investments, every act of giving makes a tremendous difference.

We asked some of our incredible donors and volunteers throughout the region what inspires them to support the IWK. Here's what they shared:



"Volunteering for me is second nature. Life gives us so many blessings—if you can't give it back in one way or another, then you're missing the best part of life. I love being part of the incredible work the IWK Foundation does for Maritime women and children."



"I support the IWK Foundation in honour of my wife, Colleen. For seven years, she received excellent care for ovarian cancer at the IWK, and I will always be grateful for their compassion and dedication."



"The Winsloe Lions Club is proud to continue our annual support of the IWK as we recognize the importance of having world-class care close to home for Island children and their families. We deeply value the IWK's commitment to our community and the life-saving care it provides every day."



"We support the IWK because they saved our son, Curtis, who was diagnosed with a rare form of lymphoma at the age of 15. Throughout his treatment, the oncology team was compassionate, dedicated, and gave us strength during an uncertain time. Today, Curtis is a healthy, thriving 29-year-old. We're reminded every day of the gift the IWK gave us: the opportunity to watch our son grow into the remarkable person he is."

Margie & Adam Kennedy, New Brunswick

"My brother Brett and I, along with our families, are honoured to support the IWK as they build a new therapeutic rooftop garden for patients and families across the IWK. As parents, we believe in the incredible work being done at the IWK and are proud to be a part of creating a space that complements the care its teams provide every day. We hope our gift will inspire others to give back to the IWK."

Corey Miller on behalf of the Miller Family

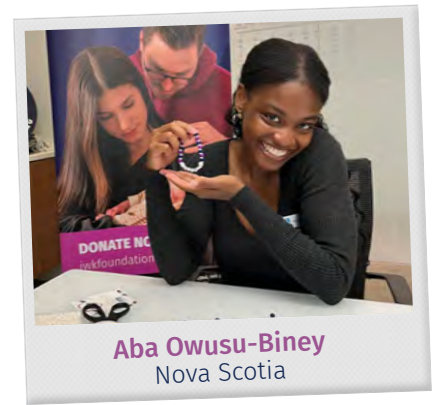




“We believe every child receiving care and treatment deserves to feel seen and supported. Our mission is to bring comfort and joy to patients at the IWK by fundraising and delivering thoughtful support baskets. It’s an honour to be there for children and youth during some of their hardest days, reminding them they are never alone.”



“We proudly support the IWK, as many of our employees’ families and those within our communities have experienced first-hand the exceptional care and compassion the team at the IWK provides. Giving back is our way of showing appreciation for the impact it has had on those close to us.”



“I volunteer with the IWK Foundation because the team truly cares about those they serve and those who support them. They make everyone feel valued and have shown me that every act of giving matters. Every volunteer at the Foundation is unique and I love being part of such a compassionate space.”



A Legacy of Love

Every child who enters the IWK leaves an impact far beyond their years. Melanie Hackett was one of those special souls. Her kind heart, quick wit, and radiant smile made a lasting impression on everyone she met.

Melanie was just five years old when she was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumour. Over the next year and a half, the IWK became her second home—a place where she and her family found strength, comfort, and hope.

Despite unimaginable challenges, Melanie defied expectations. She graduated from high school with honours, pursued her passion for baking, travelled the world, and built a life filled with gratitude.

“We consider ourselves lucky that we had so many wonderful years with her,” says her father, Jim. “We had 30 more years because of the IWK, and Mel never forgot the care she received there.”

In 2023, when she received a second cancer diagnosis, Melanie met it with the same courage. Before her passing in 2025, she left a gift in her Will to the IWK to help ensure other children receive the same compassionate care that had allowed her to live life to the fullest. This selfless act lives on as part of Melanie’s legacy—a bright light that will continue to make a difference for years to come.

To learn more about Melanie, visit yourimpact.iwkfoundation.org

Your Generosity in Action

At the IWK, every piece of specialized equipment and innovative research project plays a vital role in delivering exceptional care for patients and families. Let's celebrate a few of the many ways you, our donor community, made a difference this past year. Your generosity makes a lasting impact both today and for years to come.



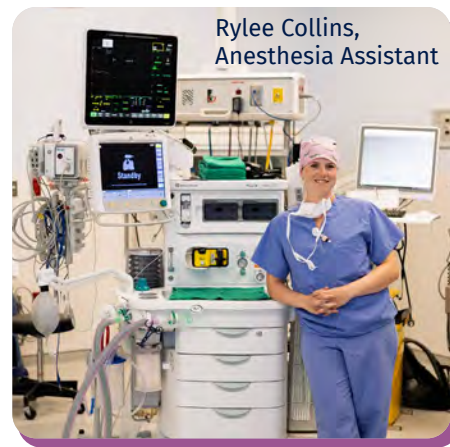
Life-Saving Equipment for Critically-Ill Children & Youth

Supporters of the **2024 Kent Great Big Dig** helped purchase critical care monitors and stretchers for the new IWK Emergency Department. These monitors allow staff to track patient vitals from a central workstation to follow trends and changes in the patient's condition. The stretchers, equipped with IV poles and oxygen tank holders, ensure patients receive the medication they need at the bedside or during transport.



The IWK's First Optical Biometry Machine

Through a year-long fundraising campaign, the **Lions Clubs of Nova Scotia** helped purchase the IWK's first Optical Biometry Machine (OBM). This non-invasive device is equipped with the latest technology to measure the size of the eye in preparation for cataract surgery. The OBM provides immediate results while also helping to shorten a patient's visit at the IWK.



A Fleet of New Anesthesia Machines

Thanks to donor generosity, new anesthesia machines have been purchased to help replace the existing fleet at the IWK. These machines are used in operating rooms to ensure patients can be safely put to sleep while their vitals, such as heart rate and blood pressure, are carefully monitored. Thank you to those who supported our **2024 year-end campaign** to purchase this urgently needed equipment. A special thank you also to the **Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation** for purchasing additional anesthesia machines for the IWK.



Telethon 41 Makes History

Year after year, our community continues to show up and unwaveringly support their IWK.

In June 2025, we made history during the **41st IWK Telethon for Children on CTV**—a four-day celebration of Maritime generosity that included the IWK Radiothon on Bell Media stations and a live Tribute Show. Together, we raised a **record-breaking \$8.33 million** to support the IWK's most urgent priorities. Thank you for making Telethon 41 truly unforgettable!

During the Telethon broadcast, you helped purchase IV syringe pumps for the Emergency Department, transilluminators and diaper scales for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, vital signs monitors for Outpatient Clinics and CADD pain pumps for departments across the IWK.

Your Impact, When and Where It's Needed Most

Life is unpredictable—and so are healthcare needs. That's why gifts to the IWK's Area of Greatest Need are so powerful. Your support gives the IWK the flexibility to respond where it matters most—whether it's advancing groundbreaking research, investing in life-saving technology, or creating welcoming care spaces.

From state-of-the-art equipment to critical research, here are two powerful examples of what is possible at the IWK because of donor support.



Guiding the Way Forward for Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Did you know that the Maritimes has one of the highest rates of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in the world?

Because of donors like you, the IWK now has the equipment to guide the way forward in how care is delivered for children and youth with IBD.

The new Transabdominal Ultrasound allows a gastroenterologist to look for bowel inflammation while the patient is in the clinic for a follow-up visit. Radiation, sedation, or bowel preparation are not required, making it a more comfortable experience for children and families.

Flipping the Script and Improving Pain Management for Women

Through donor generosity, the IWK Foundation is proud to help support Dr. Laura Kennedy, a Health Systems Impact Fellow at the IWK, whose research is focused on better understanding how pain is assessed, understood, and treated in women.

"Providing pain care is essential to patient safety," says Kennedy. "The IWK can lead in creating supportive environments for pain management for women's health."

Dr. Kennedy is the first Impact Fellow at the IWK focusing on women's pain, building on the work being done at the IWK to improve pain management for women. Recommendations for assessment and treatment include assessing pain scores during procedures, administering medication, and using distraction techniques.

This important research is also situated within the gender health gap, which reveals differences in men's and women's health due to sex and gender.

"Part of the reason why the gender health gap persists is because of underfunding and the underrepresentation of women in research. We want to flip the script and improve experiences for women."



Dr. Laura Kennedy

Building a Brighter Future for Children & Youth

Children and youth make up 25 per cent of our population, but 100 per cent of our future. That's why the IWK is leading the creation of a **first-of-its-kind Ecosystem for Child & Adolescent Mental Health and Addictions**. This Ecosystem will connect mental health and addiction services for young people and their families, ensuring they can access the support they need when and where they need it most.

One key piece of the Ecosystem is Anchor Youth Space, formerly known as Integrated Youth Services-Nova Scotia.

In communities across Nova Scotia, **Anchor Youth Spaces provide free, walk-in health and wellness services for youth aged 12 to 25 and their caregivers**. Led by local organizations and supported by IWK Health, these welcoming spaces offer support for mental health, addictions, housing, employment, life skills, and more.

What makes Anchor truly special is the involvement of youth and caregivers through provincial Youth and Caregiver Advisory Councils, comprised of young people aged 12 to 25 and caregivers with lived experiences. These councils offer input on the design of the sites and the services they offer, ensuring they reflect community needs.



Several members of the Youth and Caregiver Advisory Councils at the opening of the first Anchor Youth Space in Cumberland County.

In September 2024, **Myron and Berna Garron announced a catalyst \$25 million commitment** to support another essential piece of the Ecosystem—a reimagined therapeutic environment for Intensive Services—for children and youth who are very sick but do not require inpatient care. These patients may require intensive rehabilitative interventions, over longer periods of time, beyond what can be offered in an outpatient clinic.

Thank you, Myron and Berna, for believing in the IWK and for investing in the future of mental health care for Maritime children and youth!



The Garron family at the IWK

“Growing up, it was hard to know where to go for mental health support. Having one location for information and programming would have made it less confusing. If I had some of the Anchor services and programs in my youngest years, maybe it would have helped prevent some of the struggles I eventually faced.”

– Jenna,
member of the Youth Advisory Council

Visit yourimpact.iwkfoundation.org to learn more about Jenna.

The IWK Foundation is proud to work with philanthropic partners and donors to raise \$10 million to help establish eight Anchor Youth Spaces across Nova Scotia with a total of five sites open by the end of 2025.

anchor
youth space

The name “Anchor” symbolizes both Nova Scotia’s nautical heritage and a safe space where youth can feel supported and grounded.

A Chapter of Hope



For many Maritime children, the IWK will fortunately be a place they'll only ever know by name. However, for many others, it can become a big part of their lives.

That is the reality for 16-year-old Peter, who has been going to the IWK since he was three years old. That was when an MRI showed he had a non-cancerous brain tumour caused by neurofibromatosis (NF), a rare genetic condition.

NF causes tumours to form throughout the body. Unfortunately, there is not yet a cure, and the condition can cause many serious complications, including a higher risk of developing cancer.

Because of the tumour's location, it was too risky to remove surgically.

Fortunately, for many years, the tumour remained unchanged. In 2017, his family received the incredible news that it had completely disappeared. Unfortunately, this joy was short-lived because a new tumour was discovered in his brainstem.

Chemotherapy was the only option. Over the next six years, many different chemotherapy treatments were tried with the hope that one would stop the tumour from growing. Sadly, this wasn't the case.

They were running out of treatment options, and they needed to act quickly. Peter's tumour was pressing against a narrow tube in the brain and, if left untreated, could cause a buildup of fluid in his brain. The result would be fatal.

In December 2023, Peter underwent a lifesaving procedure to redirect and prevent a buildup of cerebrospinal fluid. A biopsy of his tumour was also sent for testing through a research project called PROFYLE (short for PRecision Oncology For Young peopLE).

PROFYLE is a vital project for children and youth with a tumour who have been told they are out of treatment options.

Remarkably, a targeted treatment was discovered for Peter's tumour.

In November 2024, an MRI showed that Peter's tumour shrank—for the first time since it was discovered!

Peter will continue to have periodic MRIs and will be closely followed by the IWK. And thanks to PROFYLE, Peter's mom, Elaine, has hope that he will go on to live a healthy life—one with fewer hospital visits, medical procedures, tests and treatments.

To learn more about Peter's IWK journey, visit yourimpact.iwkfoundation.org

Trailblazer For Cancer: Going the Distance for Young People Impacted by Cancer

A heartfelt congratulations to Trailblazer For Cancer, a family-friendly grassroots fundraising event, on celebrating its 10th anniversary in June 2025!

Over the past decade, Trailblazer For Cancer has raised more than \$1.5 million for PROFYLE research at the IWK.

This is an incredible milestone thanks to the dedication of participants, donors and the event organizers.



To learn more about the inspiration behind Trailblazer For Cancer, visit yourimpact.iwkfoundation.org

Together, **We Can Revolutionize Women's Health**

While the IWK is often recognized for its work in children's health, its mandate has always included women. Now is the time to bring women's health to the forefront.

Despite progress in many areas, women's health remains under-researched, underfunded and under-prioritized. Working alongside the IWK and our donor community, the IWK Foundation is committed to increasing awareness and understanding around women's health.

We are taking bold steps to ensure women across the Maritimes and beyond feel seen, heard and prioritized. We are advocating for gender health equality regionally, nationally and internationally. We are on a mission to change and equalize health care and research for all women.

An Opportunity to Share Your Story

In July 2025, **the IWK Foundation launched a first-of-its-kind regional survey** to better understand women's health experiences across Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. The results will help inform a groundbreaking study to explore awareness, perceptions and lived experiences of Maritime women, and provide actionable data for change. Learn more at iwkfoundation.org/womenshealthsurvey



A Bold Partnership with the Halifax Tides FC

The IWK Foundation is proud to be the founding charitable partner of the Halifax Tides FC, a member of Canada's first-ever professional women's soccer league. This partnership is the first of its kind in Canada, extending beyond the pitch with a shared goal of driving awareness and inspiring action for women's health.

Sparkling Conversation Through The Fifth Wave

In collaboration with the Halifax Tides, the IWK Foundation has launched a podcast, **The Fifth Wave: Curing the Healthcare Bias Against Women**. This podcast explores the overlooked and misunderstood aspects of women's health, highlighting systemic gaps, personal stories and expert insights. Visit iwkfoundation.org/thefifthwave to listen.



The Orchid Women's Health Initiative: Shining a Spotlight on Women's Health

With compassion and commitment, the Orchid Women's Health Initiative is shining a spotlight on women's health in Nova Scotia and beyond. By bringing attention to the unique health needs and challenges women face, they are not only raising awareness but also driving meaningful change.

In 2024, the Orchid Women's Health Initiative partnered with the IWK Foundation to ensure the IWK has the tools and technology needed to deliver the exceptional gynecological care women deserve. Thanks to the tremendous dedication of the Orchid Gala organizing committee, sponsors, and supporters, the IWK Gynecology Clinic now has new specialized pieces of equipment, including ambulatory towers, procedure chairs and tables, and an ultrasound system.

This is a powerful step toward a healthier future. Together, we are shifting the conversation around women's health care and research.

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

Reimagining Emergency Care for Patients & Families

From 2024 to 2025, children and youth from across the Maritimes visited the IWK Emergency Department (ED) an unprecedented **47,438 times**.

With visits dramatically increasing year after year, the need for a new ED has never been more urgent. What was once only a dream is now becoming a reality. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, we are building a space that will be among the leading pediatric EDs in North America.



Scan the QR Code to watch an exclusive, behind-the-scenes tour of the ED build with IWK patient, Canon and Clinical ED Redevelopment Lead for the IWK, Becky!

Construction is well underway and the IWK is already taking steps to enhance the delivery of patient care. New initiatives are being implemented to improve patient flow and overall experience—changes that will play a vital role in how care is delivered in the new ED.

This includes the introduction of **pre-triage assessment at arrival**. Now, every patient is welcomed by a dedicated nurse who immediately assesses their condition. This role plays a critical part in recognizing patients who require immediate attention, ensuring that those with more serious conditions are identified early and brought more quickly into care. The new space will be designed with this as a key component.

The IWK is also **streamlining registration and triage** (assessment) by having patients and families meet with a nurse and registration clerk at the same time. This collaborative approach minimizes the need for patients and families to repeat information, helping to ease anxiety during a stressful time.

The IWK Foundation is proud to work alongside our donors, IWK Health and the Government of Nova Scotia to build a world-class ED that will serve generations of Maritime children and families.

In 2023, the late Arthur Irving, Sandra and Sarah Irving, the Arthur L. Irving Family Foundation, and Irving Oil gave a generous \$6-million gift to enhance emergency care at the IWK. As part of this gift, Dr. Shashwat Desai has been named the **IWK Fellowship in Pediatric Emergency Medicine (PEM)**. Dr. Desai, the first PEM Fellow supported through this donation, recently completed his fellowship and is now transitioning into clinical practice as a Pediatric Emergency Physician at the IWK!

“During my fellowship, I had the privilege to be trained by outstanding PEM physicians, participate in interdisciplinary trauma teams, engage in simulations and collaborate with pediatric specialists across disciplines,” says Dr. Desai. “These experiences have strengthened my medical knowledge, sharpened my clinical skills and helped me grow into a compassionate advocate for children and families.”



Dr. Shashwat Desai



Shaping our Future, Together

I have the profound privilege of working alongside and learning from some of the most inspiring individuals. From the child braving one more treatment and the parent holding their hand, to the youth facing mental health challenges, the woman advocating for her health, and the IWK team members who care for them all. While each story is unique, every member of the IWK community shares one special trait: they teach us the true meaning of making a difference.

The IWK doesn't just care for patients—it shapes our next generation of leaders.

Over the years, I have watched women, children, and youth defy the odds, break down barriers, and become powerful advocates for others. Their strength is a direct

reflection of the care they receive and the community that surrounds them, which includes donors like you.

This year's report is a celebration of your impact—examples of what your generosity has made possible for Maritime patients and families. From a historic Telethon and life-changing investments in child and youth mental health, to new partnerships and an enhanced focus on women's health and research, I am incredibly proud of what we are accomplishing together.

But our work is far from over. Every day, more patients need the IWK, and more breakthroughs in medicine and research are on the horizon. In these uncertain times, we do not take your commitment for granted. With your continued support, we will ensure patients receive the world-class care they deserve. We will continue to dream big, knowing that with you by our side, anything is possible.

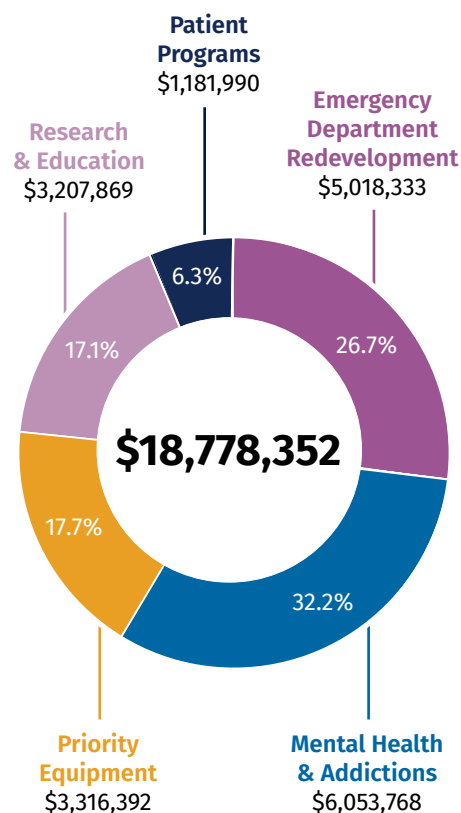
Thank you for believing in the IWK.

With gratitude,

Jennifer Gillivan, ICD.D
President & CEO
IWK Foundation

Investments in Health

Through the incredible generosity of our community of donors, the IWK Foundation proudly invested **\$18.8 million** in the health of Maritime women, children, youth and families.



This reflects amounts that have been funded or commitments to funding that have been made to IWK Health for the fiscal year 2024-2025.

To view the IWK Foundation's 2024-2025 audited financial statements visit iwkfoundation.org/reports

Ways to Give



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