



YOU'VE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN JAYDA WILLIAMSON'S LIFE

Donor support throughout the IWK has positively impacted the lives of countless women, children and youth like Jayda.

In March 2017, Jayda—an athletic and active eleven-year-old—became ill with a fever and started vomiting. The next day when she began wheezing, Jayda's parents, Lisa and Brent, rushed her to the IWK emergency department.

Immediately, care teams took Jayda to a triage room where she was given an oxygen mask. Unsure as to what was causing her oxygen levels to be so low, doctors admitted Jayda to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) where she was put on Ventolin, a medicine administered through a mask, to help with her breathing and shortness of breath.

Jayda remained in PICU for three days before she was able to breathe unassisted and go home. After determining Jayda had asthma, she was

given a puffer to assist her breathing when needed.

"We would like to thank all the donors who contributed to the IWK. Your support is truly appreciated," says mom, Lisa.

All went well for Jayda through the spring and summer, and she happily resumed her active lifestyle. However, in late September she had another severe asthma attack and was once again admitted to PICU. She spent three days in PICU until her breathing stabilized followed by another three days as an inpatient before she was well enough to go home.

Jayda's care teams have given her puffers to use daily to control her asthma, and she has resumed her

regular activities like soccer and volleyball. However she must avoid triggering events, like sprinting. If she is doing a lot of running, she must take her puffer first to prevent an asthma attack.

Jayda's family is extremely grateful for the critical care support their daughter received in PICU. She has directly felt the incredible impact of your donor dollars at the IWK.



Donor dollars are helping to redevelop the PICU — by 2020 we will have world-class critical care facilities right here at home.



Erik Dubay, IWK patient

DONORS LIKE YOU ARE HELPING PURCHASE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT

Your generosity enhances the care provided to Maritime patients and families on a daily basis.

At the IWK, there is an ongoing need to ensure we have the newest and most advanced technology and equipment to continue to provide the excellence in care our patients so greatly deserve. The recent purchase of a new Interventional Radiology Suite/Cardiac Catheterization Suite is one example of a new piece of equipment that would not have been possible without donors like you.

This new machine benefits numerous patient conditions throughout the health centre including cardiac, nephrology, and neurology patients, to name a few.

Fourteen-year-old Erik Dubay from Lower Sackville, NS benefitted from this equipment. He has hyperlipidemia – a very rare condition that causes elevated levels of cholesterol in the blood. This condition increases the risk of disease of the blood vessels that can lead to stroke and heart disease. As a result, Erik has required a valve replacement and has undergone several balloon dilations in the Angio/Cardiac Catheterization Lab to help expand his arteries. He also receives regular dialysis to help clean his blood of the extra cholesterol.

What is the Interventional Radiology Suite?

This new equipment uses a form of real-time X-ray technology that allows physicians and interventional radiologists to watch a contrast agent injected into the body as it travels in real time. This minimally invasive way to see what is happening in the body allows procedures such as cardiac angiography, biopsies, and abscess drainages. Without this machine, the only other way to perform many of these procedures would be surgery. Benefits to this new approach include a decrease in risk and recovery time for the patient, faster and increased quality of both images and processing, and a decrease in radiation dose.

EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT THE IWK KIDS' REHABILITATION CENTRE

Donors and innovators like Dr. Jordan Sheriko, the first-ever IWK Pediatric Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Specialist and Medical Director of Rehabilitation Services, are building centres of excellence.

With donor support already improving patient rehabilitation facilities at the IWK, Dr. Sheriko's ideas are enhancing the rehabilitation experience for patients and their families. Since starting his new position in July 2017, he has restructured the approach to clinics.

“We recognize that we need to shift the focus of our interventions so that they are aligned with what the patient's goals are. Patients are more engaged and that likely translates to better outcomes. At the end of the day it is about maximizing our patient's function and that's not disease specific.”

- Dr. Jordan Sheriko

Previously, clinics in the rehabilitation department were organized by diagnosis, where patients may have a wide variety of different functional goals despite the same condition. Under Dr. Sheriko's leadership, clinics are now structured around the functional goals of the patient.

“We are very excited to have Dr. Sheriko here working with us,” says Nicole Works, Coordinator, Rehabilitation Services.

“What matters the most is what the patient identifies as their goal and challenges. By functioning this way, we dispel the myth that a diagnosis defines a patient.”

This new method is a shining example of what it truly means to provide patient and family-centred care, and puts the focus on the whole child by putting their personal goals first.

“While I may bring the expertise and knowledge to help shift the focus for these patients in rehabilitation services,” says Dr. Sheriko. “The IWK wouldn't be able to do any of this without the tremendous support of donors who helped create new patient facilities, as well as the support of the remarkable staff and leadership here in rehabilitation services at the IWK.”

In the short time the new model has been in effect, there has been tremendous enthusiasm and appreciation from patients and their families. Says Works, “This is the first time we've had a physician lead focused specifically on our rehab population. He's enthusiastic and works in collaboration with our interdisciplinary team to meet families where they are now and where they see their priorities in the future.”



“The new model of care in rehabilitation services at the IWK is a leading example across Canada and internationally, of best practice in pediatric rehabilitation. It is something we are really proud of.”

- Dr. Jordan Sheriko



YOU'RE SUPPORTING CRITICAL CARE FOR NICU PATIENTS LIKE BRENNAN AND LIAM

Born at only 28 weeks, twins Brennan and Liam Callaghan are alive thanks to an amazing care team and the access to advanced technology and equipment made possible by tremendous donor support.

At 23 weeks the twins' mom, Kaitlyn, was rushed from their local hospital in Charlottetown, PEI to the IWK via ambulance. Kaitlyn was admitted to the Prenatal Special Care Unit where she and her unborn twins were closely monitored. The twins' dad, Brodie, and older brother, two-year-old Oliver, followed along, and together the family made the IWK their home.

During her stay, doctors spoke to Kaitlyn about the risk of Brennan's umbilical cord prolapsing — a complication during birth that can pose a great danger to the child's well-being. On the morning of August 27, Kaitlyn recognized these symptoms and within 10 minutes Brennan and Liam were delivered via C-section. They were immediately transferred to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) for care.

"I don't think I could have asked for better staff, better nurses or better care. I don't think I would ever want to be anywhere else. The IWK is just amazing," says Kaitlyn Isaacs.

Liam was born weighing 2 pounds, 11 ounces and Brennan at 2 pounds, 6 ounces. With many premature births, there are often respiratory and other

complications for the neonates; Brennan and Liam were no exception. Brennan had significant breathing issues and required intensive care and several machines to help him breathe.

Liam, who was more stable at birth, developed sepsis and meningitis after one week and his liver functions started to worsen. His meningitis subsequently turned into a huge brain abscess. Liam has had multiple aspiration procedures on the brain to remove the abscess, and is currently on long-term antibiotics. It is still unknown what possible long-term effects will result from the sepsis, but he will continue to be closely monitored.

Both Kaitlyn and Brodie are enormously grateful for the care they've received since arriving at the IWK, and recognize the importance of donor support to help fund the life-saving equipment used by the twins including the incubators, patient monitors, and smart pumps.

"To anyone who has given to this great NICU facility, you are directly responsible for my sons being here today," says Brodie. "You saved my children's lives. I can't say thank you enough."

"I don't think I could have asked for better staff, better nurses or better care. I don't think I would ever want to be anywhere else. The IWK is just amazing."

- Kaitlyn Isaacs

Message from the CEO

Together, with you our donor, we are deeply committed to putting the needs of our Maritime patients first. Our mission and mandate to transform care for women, children, youth and families remains paramount - now more than ever. We thank you for your dedication and support as we help purchase specialized equipment and fund research programs and new facilities at the IWK Health Centre. We thank you, our Maritime community, for your support. We couldn't do it without you.

- Jennifer Gillivan, President & CEO, IWK Foundation

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