

TOGETHER, WITH YOU

A newsletter for IWK donors 2020



A NEW HOME FOR OUR SICKEST CHILDREN

With the generous support of donors like you, we built one of the best Neonatal Intensive Care Units in the world. We will be forever grateful for your support. Now it's time for us to build a matching world-class facility for our sickest patients. On October 16, 2019, construction began on the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), the final phase of the \$34.5 million, 100 per cent donor-funded Critical Care Redevelopment project at the IWK.

For Dr. Chris Soder, an intensivist in the PICU, this transformation is an exciting moment that he has been fortunate to experience not once, but twice in his lifetime. Dr. Soder's career with the IWK began in 1981, when he arrived straight from medical school. As a member of the critical care team, he played a key role in the development of the IWK's first ever PICU.



Former PICU space

When it opened in 1992, the PICU was a state-of-the-art open-bay unit, which allowed care teams to see all patients from a central vantage point. "We had what was state-of-the-art at the time," explains Dr. Soder. "That direct visibility was considered critical, because the monitoring technology was still somewhat limited back then—the monitors were great, but you had to be able to see them."

As time went on, the reality of the design was that it lacked privacy for families and overall space for the caregiving team.

Curtains between beds meant that families

could hear and sometimes see what was happening to the families around them. The limited space made it difficult for parents and loved ones to stay at a patient's bedside overnight, during some of the most difficult times in their lives.

With today's advancements in technology, the open bay design is no longer what's needed for patients. The critical care team knew the best care for IWK patients and families would be to transition to a private room unit.

This is where donors like you come in. With you by our side, we will not stop until the very best healing environment is created for the sickest kids. Today, that exciting construction is underway.

The new PICU will feature 10 single, private rooms so families can stay with their children day and night. Surrounded by state of the art equipment, patients in the new PICU will enjoy more comfort, privacy and be more protected from infection and noise exposure. Together, these added features will create better outcomes for patients.

Although he's leaving behind a space he helped to build at the beginning of his career, Dr. Soder is confident the essentials from the old PICU will be in the new. "The team, the people—everything that's important is moving with us."

Donors like you are making this dream PICU into a reality!



Rendering of new PICU space



Caring for Karlee

After their precious six-month-old had a short fall from her car seat, Kara and Jarred Estey of Fredericton, NB discovered a lump on baby Karlee's head. A CT scan revealed that she had a severe brain bleed. Karlee was airlifted to the IWK where she was rushed into a life-saving four-hour neurosurgery.

"The IWK took care of our whole family. Everyone was so patient and made our care experience the best it could possibly be during a very difficult situation."

- Kara, Karlee's mom

After surgery, Karlee was cared for in the PICU on breathing support. The next 24 hours were critical, but thankfully her condition began to improve.

After two long days in PICU, surrounded by donor-funded equipment, Karlee was well enough to have her breathing tube removed. She was transferred to an inpatient unit to continue her recovery. Less than a week later, she returned home with her very relieved parents.

AT THE IWK, A BED ISN'T JUST A BED

When you think about the vital equipment your donations help purchase for the IWK Health Centre, there is one piece of equipment that might not cross your mind right away. It's something that we all use on a daily basis—a bed.

For an IWK patient, their bed is so much more than just a place to sleep—it's their home away from home. It's the place where they receive cuddles and comfort from a loved one, the "theatre" where they watch movies, and the "table" where they eat meals. It is also a life-saving piece of equipment—one of the most vital ones used in patient care.

At more than 14 years old, 95 of the IWK's current fleet of beds are obsolete and some replacement parts are no longer available or are difficult to find. Each bed costs \$15,000. With the support of donors like you, we are on the way to raising the \$1.425 million needed to purchase new smart beds for patients. From children and youth who are battling cancer, recovering from surgery or living with a chronic illness, to women on bed-rest during a pregnancy or recovering from gynecological surgery, thanks to the generosity of donors, like you, smart beds will become the new standard for patients across the Health Centre.

SMARTER THAN YOUR AVERAGE BED

The new smart beds include innovative features like wireless technology and other key features that will improve the quality, comfort and outcomes for patients staying at the IWK.



HEART WARRIOR



When Colton Jacque was born, his parents Brandy and Fred anticipated meeting their happy, healthy baby. But when Colton's care team placed oxygen saturation monitors on his fingers and toes, the results told them something was wrong.

Colton was quickly airlifted from Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL to the Janeway Children's Hospital in St. John's, NL, where he was diagnosed with a congenital heart defect. He needed heart surgery and had to be airlifted to the IWK Health Centre.

In early 2020, the IWK Foundation will share the story of the Jacque family from their admission to the 100 per cent donor-funded Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the IWK, through their journey to Colton's surgery and recovery. Every day moments and milestones will highlight how your support plays a role in the care of patient families.

Keep an eye on your email and our social media channels for more details about the story of Little Colton, Heart Warrior, and how your support helped save his life.

Meet Kiefer

Fifteen-year-old Kiefer Huskins from Brooklyn, NS, knows the importance of a patient bed. It's where he spends most of his time at the IWK. Kiefer is currently receiving treatment for osteosarcoma—the same type of bone cancer Terry Fox battled.

For Kiefer, a bed at the IWK has been everything from a place to rest during his outpatient chemotherapy treatments, to his home on longer stays and his refuge as he recovered from surgery to remove his tumour.



Meet Karolyn

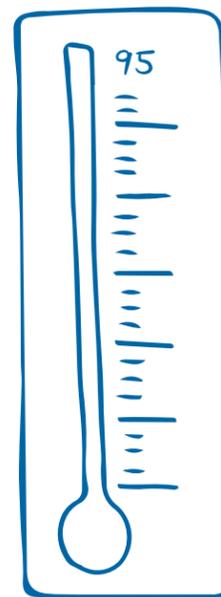
Karolyn Sevcik turned to the IWK's gynecology team when symptoms related to her menstrual cycle became too much to bear. She learned that her discomfort was being caused by fibroids, which are abnormal growths that can develop in a woman's uterus.

Karolyn underwent a total hysterectomy in July, during which her surgeon also discovered endometriosis, a painful condition where tissue that normally lines the inside of the uterus grows outside of it. After surgery, Karolyn spent several days recovering in a patient bed on the IWK's adult surgery floor.

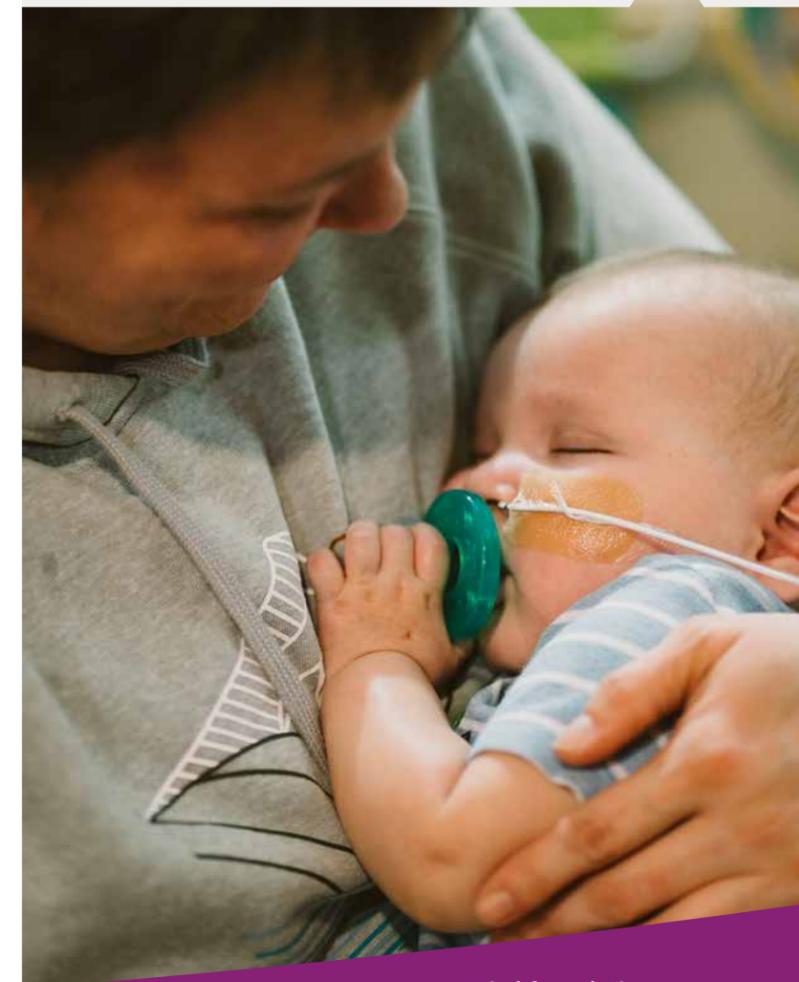
Meet Avery

For the Mittons, life took an unexpected turn when then six-year-old Avery went from fighting cold symptoms to fighting for her life in May 2019. Having Down syndrome, Avery's immune system is compromised, which can lead to challenges fighting off illnesses. A combination of strep/staph infections, a virus and pneumonia proved to be an overwhelming combination for her body to handle.

Avery spent nine weeks at the IWK—six in the PICU fighting for her life and three recovering on the Pediatric Medical Unit (PMU). Avery spent most of that time in a bed. She overcame many odds, underwent countless tests, surgeries and procedures and never once stopped fighting. Today, this energetic, smart and funny girl is back at home sharing her beautiful smile with those who love her most.



It's for patients like these that we are on a mission to replace those **95 beds** with new smart beds over the next three years. Through the support of donors, like you, we are well on our way.



TELETHON 35 - AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS BECAUSE OF YOU!

This past June, we celebrated the 35th anniversary of the IWK Telethon for Children on CTV. Once again, you, our donors from the Maritimes and across the country showed how much you believe in the IWK, raising a record-breaking **\$6,719,186.35**. Thank you to the donors who fundraise year-round and those who tune in over the weekend to make the IWK Telethon a success.

Here is a look at just *some* of the vital pieces of new equipment you helped to fund:

Power Chairs, Outpatient Blood Collection ▶

Purchased: 2

The outpatient blood clinic serves approximately 130-150 patients a day! The high patient volume of means that wear and tear of these chairs can happen quickly. Your generous donations will help to bring two new chairs to the clinic providing comfort to patients as they are treated.



◀ Surgical Telescopes

Purchased: 4

Surgical telescopes connect to a camera allowing the surgeon to see clearly and perform surgery without large invasive incisions. Because of these amazing telescopes, patient recovery is quicker and they can go home faster. Because of you, the IWK will have four new telescopes to help treat patients.



EEG Amplifier ▶

Purchased: 1

An EEG is a vital piece of equipment that monitors and records brain waves in patients to help care teams diagnose, monitor and treat epilepsy. Through your support, the IWK will receive an EEG Amplifier.



These pieces of equipment and the others that you help fund during Telethon will help countless Maritime women, children and youth. Thank you for your outstanding support!

Back with Brooklynn

During Telethon, you met four-year-old Brooklynn Gray. Shortly after turning two, Brooklynn lost her hearing and the ability to walk and talk. She was diagnosed with a rare genetic condition called riboflavin transporter deficiency, a neurodegenerative disease that can affect speech, vocal cords, facial weakness, hearing, and cause weakness in arms and legs. She has had a long journey and is cared for by a team of 13 medical specialists at the IWK.

Since Telethon, Brooklynn has made some monumental advances. She has gained the control to sit unsupported and she has increased some mobility in her arms. She enjoys supported walking and dance, and is eating orally with independence. This summer, Brooklynn and her family enjoyed an activity-packed vacation in Ontario. While at the beach, Brooklynn took a few independent steps. She has a long road ahead but Brooklynn is a determined little girl with a dedicated support system to help her succeed.



A Message from our President & CEO

At the IWK Foundation, we believe that our women and children deserve the best, and nothing less. Through your support, you show us each and every day that you believe the same thing.

Over the last few years, we have shared many successes with you, our donors. Opening the new NICU, celebrating a milestone 35th anniversary of the IWK Telethon with a record-breaking total, and beginning construction on the new PICU are just some of the exciting projects that you have helped to make a reality.

But we can't stop here. The need for the IWK remains strong in our community, and we cannot let Maritime families down. Over the next year, our focus will be on completing the PICU redevelopment, bringing in new smart beds and continuing to fund the urgent need priorities at the Health Centre.

As a loyal donor, I humbly ask you to consider staying on this journey with us to ensure Maritime patients continue to receive the best care possible, here at home.

Together, we will ensure that the IWK supports Maritime women, children and youth, now and for generations to come.

Jennifer Gillivan

President & CEO

