



IWK Foundation

# THE SUPPORTER

A Newsletter for IWK Donors 2023

## GIVING BACK THROUGH MONTHLY GIVING



The MacPherson's never realized just how important the IWK would become to their family. As an infant, Ryan and Jennifer's now four-year-old daughter, Ella, was diagnosed with osteopetrosis—a rare condition affecting the formation of her bones. The only cure was a bone marrow transplant, which Ella received three years ago in Toronto.

Today, Ella is thriving, but she continues to be followed closely by many care teams at the IWK.

The MacPherson's, from Sydney, Nova Scotia, wanted to do something to give back to those who continue to take care of Ella and their family. That's why they decided to become IWK monthly donors.

"We know firsthand the importance of community support for the IWK, and we wanted to be there for other patient families like ours," shares Jennifer. "If we can give just a little bit, we know it helps in a big way."

Thanks to our ongoing monthly donors who provide reliable and consistent funding, the IWK can quickly respond to its most urgent priorities. These could include buying updated equipment and advanced technology, like new smart beds, supporting innovation in research, like Translating Research into Care (TRIC) grants or upgrading aging facilities like repairs to the helideck.

"You never know when you'll need the IWK," says Ryan. "But when you do, you become part of a bigger community taking care of each other."

## Become A Monthly Donor

Join our community of IWK monthly donors who are making a difference in the lives of families like the MacPhersons.

Visit [www.iwkfoundation.org/monthly](http://www.iwkfoundation.org/monthly) to become an ongoing monthly donor today.

## FROM BABIES TO BREAST HEALTH

### Your Support Matters for Maritime Women Like Kaylee

Last year, Kaylee Giffin-Logan, 31, found a lump in her left breast while doing a self-exam. Although she wasn't overly concerned, she shared her discovery with her family doctor, who referred her to the IWK's Breast Health Centre.

This clinic provides centralized care for those who need to access breast health services (e.g., screening or diagnostic tools) or undergo breast cancer surgery. The Breast Health Centre performs approximately 500 breast surgeries annually and has about 3,000 visits.

At the IWK, Kaylee had two breast ultrasounds and a core biopsy (a procedure to remove breast tissue from the body) in the early fall because her breast ultrasound results were abnormal. "There were a few days where I cried a lot because my mind went straight to the worst-case scenario," shares Kaylee.

Thankfully, Kaylee's core biopsy results determined that her lump was not cancerous. For Kaylee, it was joyous news. "Both my husband and I started crying."

Kaylee, who also gave birth to her two children at the IWK, is so grateful for the level of care she received at the IWK. "It was wonderful," she says. "I felt my care team's empathy and knowledge each time I've been there."

When you support the IWK Foundation, you support Maritime women like Kaylee and ensure they have access to the best possible care.



## STRONGER, HEALTHIER AND TOGETHER WITH OUR COMMUNITY



The redevelopment of IWK Health's new pediatric emergency department (ED) is officially underway.

The team at the IWK, with input and consultation from the families and communities they serve, has considered every step of the patient's journey in the new ED, including reduced wait times, advancements in technology and efficiencies in care, enhanced privacy, confidentiality, infection prevention and control and even lighting, colour and sound. Creating a calmer, more comfortable environment that can inspire hope and distract from fear and pain in a child's frightened moments are the goal of this redeveloped emergency department.

The IWK Foundation is privileged to work in partnership with IWK Health, the Province of Nova Scotia and our community of donors on this essential redevelopment. The IWK Foundation's goal is to raise \$26.5 million to support the purchase of specialized equipment, as well as specific facility upgrades, enhancements and research.

We are proud that donors will play an integral role in the creation of this new emergency department. Together, we can ensure world-class emergency care for children and families from across the region and beyond.

Visit [iwkfoundation.org/emerge](https://iwkfoundation.org/emerge) to stay up to date on this exciting project.

## WE ASKED, YOU ANSWERED:

### An Update on New CO2 Monitors for the IWK

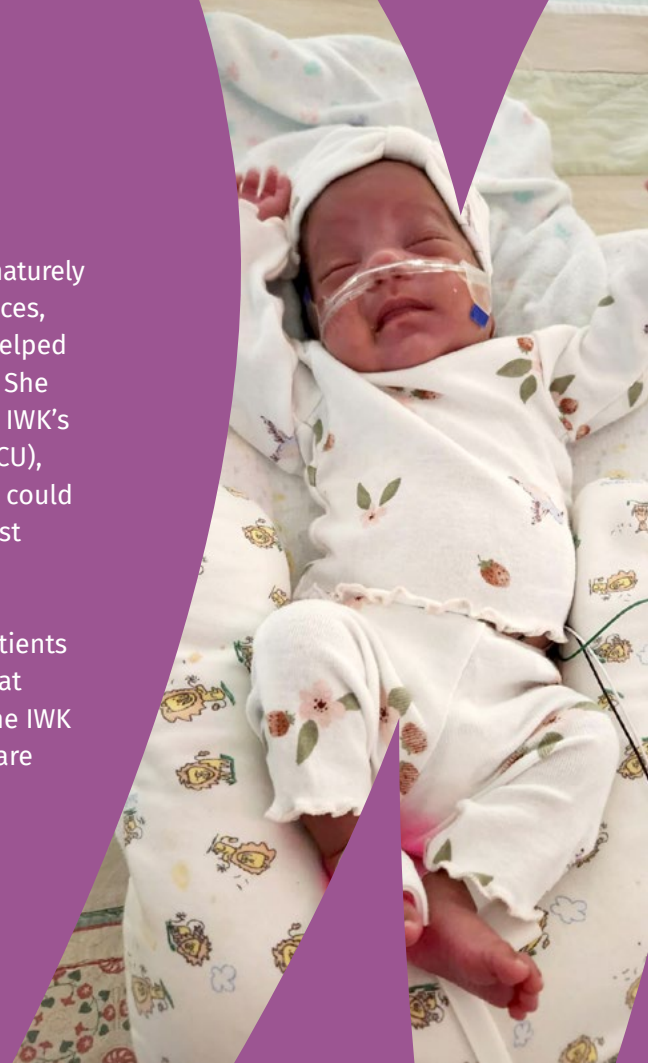
At the end of 2022, we asked our generous supporters to urgently help the IWK buy new CO2 (carbon dioxide) monitors, and we're proud to share that you answered our call.

CO2 monitors are an essential piece of equipment when caring for sick babies. They provide vital information about the CO2 (carbon dioxide) levels in their blood in a painless way because it's done through the skin and doesn't require a blood sample. It also continuously and accurately measures CO2 levels to help determine the ideal level of ventilation for babies who need breathing support.

Precious baby Methuli, born prematurely and weighing just 1 pound 9 ounces, relied on a CO2 monitor, which helped her in her fight to grow stronger. She spent almost four months in the IWK's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), receiving critical care before she could go home – just in time for her first holiday season.

Thank you for being there for patients like Methuli. You are ensuring that families who need and rely on the IWK can access the highest level of care that all Maritimers deserve.

Visit [iwkfoundation.org/methuli](https://iwkfoundation.org/methuli) today to read Methuli's story.



## COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING IS THE HEART OF THE IWK



When the pandemic paused in-person learning in schools on Prince Edward Island, best friends and Eliot River Elementary students Mya Beaton and Paisley Fletcher used this time to safely fundraise for the IWK.

Through various creative fundraising ideas, including the sale of handmade bracelets, they raised more than \$1,000! They chose the IWK because they wanted to help Maritime kids who are cared for by the IWK. But they were especially inspired by Paisley's twin brothers, Duncan and Sullivan. They were the first patients who moved into the IWK's world-class Neonatal Intensive Care Unit when it opened in 2018.

Community fundraisers are the heart of the IWK. Whether it be youth donors, like Mya and Paisley making and selling bracelets, a school organizing an art sale, a community group selling raffle tickets or an organization hosting a golf tournament, these grassroots initiatives are the foundation of support for the IWK.

For more information on fundraising for the IWK Foundation, please contact Katherine Thomas, Coordinator, Community & Corporate Giving, at [katherine.thomas@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:katherine.thomas@iwk.nshealth.ca) or by calling 1-800-595-2266.



## YOUR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT MAKES OUTSTANDING CARE POSSIBLE

There are no words to express how grateful we are for donors like you who have continued to be there for the women, children and families at the IWK. Never underestimate the difference you make for patients receiving life-saving care at the IWK every single day.

Every so often, I'm asked why we do what we do. The answer is simple: We do it for every patient who braves one more treatment or procedure and every family member who faces each new challenge with hope and optimism. They drive us to continue to work harder and dream bigger.

We are so thankful for your generosity. When it comes to supporting the IWK and ensuring the very best care for all Maritime patients, we can't do it alone. Your donations are a lifeline for those who need the specialized care only the IWK can provide in our region. But don't take our word for it. The stories in this newsletter and on our website represent the people you help. We hope you find inspiration from them because your support is an integral part of their journeys.

Donors like you are the backbone of the IWK community. Our shared goal, no matter what obstacles we face, is that everyone who needs the IWK will receive exceptional care.

I am truly humbled by your commitment to the IWK and will be forever grateful for donors like you who continue to make the IWK a special place.

For children. For women. For the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jennifer Gillivan".

Jennifer Gillivan, ICD.D  
President & CEO  
IWK Foundation

## WHERE YOUR DONATIONS GO

The generosity of our donors is what sets the IWK apart, makes it better and enables it to take quick action.

That's why your support of the IWK's Urgent Priorities Fund is so important. It provides the flexibility to respond to urgent needs at the IWK.

Through your support, the Maritime women, children and families who rely on the IWK's specialized care will continue to have access to the very best when they need it most.

Please visit [iwkfoundation.org/impact](https://iwkfoundation.org/impact) to learn more about where your donations go and how you're making a real difference at the IWK every day.

## Visit us online for news and updates!

@IWKFoundation

Visit: [iwkfoundation.org](https://iwkfoundation.org)

## We'd love to hear from you!

Please contact us if you have an IWK story to share or if you have questions about donating, tax receipts or fundraising.

You can reach us at:

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