THANK YOU FOR HELPING KIDS SHINE

YEAR AT A GLANCE
2017/18

WE ARE BUILT TO
TREAT KIDS AS KIDS
PREVENT ILLNESS & INJURY
CONQUER CHILDHOOD DISEASES
2017/18 was an unbelievable year.

After a decade in the making, the world-class Teck Acute Care Centre opened its doors. So did the first pediatric in-hospital immunization clinic in Canada. Our researchers got a huge boost to advance personalized medicine projects—ones that could transform cancer treatment, give hope to kids with rare diseases, and even prevent asthma for future generations.

We also helped fill the hospital with the most advanced equipment available so that our kids have the best health outcomes.

You, our amazing donors, are the reason we’ve been able to make all of this progress. Thank you for helping us aim higher and dream even bigger for our kids.
KIDS AREN’T JUST SMALL ADULTS—AND THEY NEED CARE THAT’S TAILORED TO THEIR NEEDS. BY SUPPORTING INNOVATIVE EQUIPMENT, PRACTICES AND SPACES BUILT SPECIFICALLY FOR KIDS, YOU’RE HELPING ENSURE THEY HAVE THE BEST OUTCOMES POSSIBLE.

TREAT KIDS AS KIDS
THE TECK ACUTE CARE CENTRE
We helped launch a new era of children’s health care

Treating kids and youth means going beyond the physical—and caring for their emotional and developmental needs, because their early-life experiences shape them. With the opening of the Teck Acute Care Centre on October 29, their needs have been prioritized in ways never before possible.

“All a child wants is to play and to be loved. We’ve seen that by taking some stresses away—by giving parents access to laundry spaces to cook, the ability to have a break—they can just do what they need to do to love that child.”
—Shelley Kellner, Clinical Resource Nurse

SURGERIES. Surgeries can be scary. Before last year, anxious kids and families would have to wait in a busy room filled with other anxious kids and families. Now, they’re brought to their own private room as soon as they check in—which parents have told us has made a meaningful difference for the stressful hour or two while they wait. To date, that’s had an impact on over 4,500 surgeries.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT. Emergency department visits are particularly stressful for kids and families. The new Ledcor Children’s Emergency—with art on the walls and ceilings, single rooms, and a Clinical Decision Unit for prolonged observations—has given kids and families a much more therapeutic space.

INTENSIVE CARE. The new Hudson Family Pediatric Intensive Care Unit is now double the space of the old unit and, for the first time, has all private patient rooms. The team told us that families are now consistently staying by their child’s side through the night—something they couldn’t do before with its open-concept, crowded space.

THE COMFORTS OF HOME. The new medical and surgical inpatient units provide small comforts that have made a big difference. Families have enjoyed meals with loved ones in the kitchen, being able to easily use the laundry rooms, and getting their own private room with a TV, sofa bed, fridge and bathroom.

SINCE IT OPENED…

*FROM OCTOBER 29, 2017 TO MARCH 31, 2018
CHILDREN’S HEALING EXPERIENCE PROJECT

Taking the healing power of purposeful art to new heights

Last year, we were able to witness the tremendous impact that the Children’s Healing Experience Project had on kids, families and health care professionals alike. And, it’s surpassed expectations. With over 400 pieces of artwork created by more than 65 artists—made possible through the generosity of donors like you—kids and families are engaged, distracted and inspired like never before in a hospital in Canada.

A growing body of research shows that purposeful art like this can lead to measurable health outcomes—like less anxiety, perception of pain and need for sedation. And so far, that’s exactly what we’ve seen.

220 VIRTUAL AQUARIUM
A ONE-OF-A-KIND DISTRACTION FOR THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT
100+ LED TWINKLING LIGHTS RECREATE THE NIGHT SKY TO CALM DURING PAINFUL PROCEDURES
6 COMMUNITY PARTNERS
BC’s most iconic institutions created exhibits to bring their experiences inside the hospital
2 SPORTS-THEMED ROOMS

“Addison was so enthralled by it that when she couldn’t remember much about the recovery room’s artwork (due to the anesthetic), there were some tears. That was until the amazing nurses said it was okay for her to take a peek before she left.”
— Jenn
Addison’s Mom

“‘The trip from the pre-op area to the operating room is probably one of the scariest a family experiences. The artwork and the murals and the ability to use that to distract the child has made the experience so much less frightening.’
— Trish Page
Program Manager, Procedure Services

“The brightness and artwork along the walls and in each room have provided a calm healing space when it’s needed most.”
— Christy Hay
Program Manager, Emergency Department

“My favourite part was the blinking lights and how they were not too big or too small. It really felt like you were laying down in a space pod looking out at the stars in space.”
— Addison
Oncology Patient
EQUIPMENT

Last year, donors who gave to critical needs at the hospital helped fill it with advanced equipment built for growing bodies. Here are a few pieces supported through your generous donations.

TRANSPORT MONITORS
When a critically-ill child needs to be transported, it’s essential to accurately and continuously monitor their condition. These monitors let nurses and doctors observe oxygen levels of kids with breathing difficulties, as well as heart rhythms and rates, for intensive care patients. Each one is also equipped with an alarm that sounds changes in a child’s condition so teams can quickly respond.

VITAL SIGNS MONITORS
Checking vital signs like body temperature, pulse, breathing rate and blood pressure are a critical part of patient care. Last year, we were able to add a new fleet of vital signs monitors to the hospital so that health care providers can observe some of the most vulnerable kids for drastic health changes. The monitors are also built to accommodate the range in sizes of patients.

PEDIATRIC STANDING FRAME
Many kids with cerebral palsy are unable to stand or walk on their own. Used at Sunny Hill, this frame gives kids the ability to stand upright or lie face up or down. It can bring a host of benefits, including increased strength, improved circulation and reduced muscle spasms. It can also promote a child’s psychological well-being by enabling them to interact with their peers at eye level.

ELECTRORETINOGRAM (ERG) SYSTEM
To diagnose a range of eye disorders and injuries, doctors look at the function of the retina with what’s called an ERG test. Since BC Children’s is the only facility in the province capable of providing this test on kids, over 1,000 come from across the province each year to have it. Last year, we were able to acquire a second system so that kids can be seen sooner and get faster diagnoses and treatments.
BC CHILDREN’S DOESN’T JUST TREAT KIDS WHEN THEY ARE SICK. THEY ARE ALSO WORKING TO PREVENT KIDS FROM GETTING HURT OR SICK IN THE FIRST PLACE. LAST YEAR, SEVERAL BIG STEPS FORWARD WERE TAKEN TO DO JUST THAT.
Asthma affects 2.4 million Canadians. That’s a massive number. And it’s one that’s continually been rising, with rates tripling in just one generation. Kids with the disease suffer from flare-ups that can be disruptive, life-threatening, and a constant source of worry for families.

A few years ago, researchers here made a breakthrough that could change that—finding that babies with the highest risk of developing asthma are missing four common types of gut bacteria, which can be detected as early as three months of age.

In 2018, Dr. Stuart Turvey and his team received a large grant to advance this transformative work. Using genomic sequencing, they will now work to examine the entire community of microbes in diapers from some 3,500 babies. With that, they hope to do two things. The first goal is to develop a test that will predict which kids have a higher risk of getting asthma. The ultimate goal, however, is to develop a replacement of those bacteria to give kids to prevent asthma in the first place.

For decades, the percentage of kids under the age of two who aren’t up to date on their vaccinations has hovered around 33%. That’s especially alarming in a hospital, since kids with complex medical issues are at a higher risk of severe infections and diseases. Experts at BC Children’s made it their mission to do something about that—and last October, their dream became a reality with the opening of Canada’s first pediatric storefront immunization clinic.

The clinic provides all publicly funded immunizations to patients, families and friends at no charge. They can either make an appointment or drop in when they’re at the hospital.

Since it opened, over 2,000 patients and family members have been vaccinated—with more flu shots given to patients than in any previous year. The clinic is part of a larger immunization project that includes working to expand its outreach across the province, train the next generation of experts, and provide immunization counselling to kids and families with complex conditions.

The clinic, part of a five-part immunization project, was made possible thanks to a $15 million gift from lead benefactor Save-On-Foods. The gift also included funding for urgently-needed hospital equipment.
BC CHILDREN’S IS SO MUCH MORE THAN A HOSPITAL. IT’S ALSO A WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH INSTITUTE AFFILIATED WITH OVER 1,000 OF THE BRIGHTEST MINDS IN SCIENCE—WHO WORK TIRELESSLY TO DISCOVER NEW, BETTER TREATMENTS AND CURES.
Catalyst grants are the key to getting bigger grants—and that’s exactly what happened with several exciting projects. Dr. William Gibson and his team used a recent catalyst grant to pursue research focused on pediatric-onset lupus, a chronic inflammatory disease. That led them to discover what they believe is a new “lupus gene”—which was quickly followed by a $31,000 grant from Lupus Canada.

In 2017/18, 33 catalyst grants were awarded to researchers at BC Children’s Hospital. These grants are helping researchers understand whether infection could lead to diabetes. They are supporting research that studies the genetic factors that could lead to inflammatory bowel disease. They’re giving the resources to assess the link between immune responses and the development of obsessive compulsive disorder. And helping them look at the efficacy of the rules for evaluating injuries with CT scans to reduce the risk of unnecessary radiation in kids.

Research like this holds a lot of promise—and we can’t wait to report back on its progress.
Huge strides have been made over the years in improving childhood cancer survival rates—which today reach almost 85%. But, another great hurdle remains. The most commonly-used chemotherapy drugs can also bring devastating side effects, including hearing loss and heart failure. Clinicians have long had to rely on a trial-and-error approach to determine which drug to give and at what dose. That’s changing.

Researchers here developed genetic tests that can predict the likelihood of a child developing harmful side effects. So far, over 260 kids undergoing cancer treatment at BC Children’s Hospital have been tested—allowing families and clinicians to make better informed choices that can change the rest of a child’s life.

This research will soon have an even greater impact. Thanks to donor funding and a $10.5 million grant received last year from Genome Canada, Dr. Bruce Carleton and his team are now working to bring this test to 10 children’s hospitals across Canada. They’re also in the process of creating a database of clinical and genomic information for adverse drug reaction research that will be available to investigators around the world to help make drug therapy safer for kids.
Last year, significant steps were taken toward launching the Transplantation & Cell Therapy Program (TRACE)—a first-of-its-kind in Canada that is poised to transform care in two ways.

The first step is to improve outcomes for kids who have had transplants by developing new ways to monitor signs of rejection. As an example, kids who have had kidney transplants are currently monitored by performing multiple biopsies—an invasive procedure that requires deep sedation and a hospital stay. Through TRACE, researchers are developing a simple urine test that’s close to being available for clinical use that can monitor for early signs of rejection.

The second step of the program is aimed at expanding cell therapy capabilities—a process in which a patient’s own cells are removed, genetically manipulated and then used as therapeutic tools. For instance, human cells could soon be used to control life-threatening viral infections. This will open up new, potentially life-saving treatment options for hundreds of kids in the province.

Over the last year, visionary donors, including Mining for Miracles, contributed approximately $3 million toward the $6 million budget for the development of the TRACE program and the establishment of two core facilities for the program. These facilities are required to bring novel cell therapies and diagnostics to BC Children’s Hospital.

In the 2017/18 fiscal year, BC Children’s Hospital Foundation’s total revenues surpassed $100 million for a second straight year.

The generosity of people and companies, like lead fundraiser Costco, raised a record total of over $20.3 million during Miracle Weekend—exceeding the $20 million mark for the second straight year. Meanwhile, continued strength in both annual programs (including our three signature galas) and major gifts enabled the Foundation to exceed $60 million in fundraising revenues. We also sold out both our major lotteries, Dream and Choices—raising more than $8 million for innovative research projects.

Through the strength of the financial markets, we generated over $19 million of realized investment income—the highest in the Foundation’s history.

Thanks to the support of donors like you, we continued to enhance care for kids at BC Children’s Hospital—including its Research Institute, Sunny Hill Health Centre, and Child and Adolescent Mental Health programs—by contributing more than $280 million over the past five years.

More information about the Foundation’s fiscal activity is available online.
In the last five years, students and staff at Shawnigan Lake School have raised nearly $23,000 for BC Children’s Hospital by taking part in Jeans Day. But for them, it’s about more than donning their best denim. As one of the top school fundraisers for over a decade, it’s a chance for student leaders to rally the school together to make a change—they organize dorm challenges, head-to-toe denim contests and assemblies, where a student speaks about the impact BC Children’s has had on them. Last year, they raised a remarkable $6,000.

For the third year running, the entire school at Coyote Creek Elementary in Surrey rallied in support of Wigs for Kids. Through bake sales and other fundraising events, the school raised a grand total of $7,744. That wasn’t all: 10 girls had their hair cut during a school assembly, which was then donated to make a wig for a cancer patient at the hospital.

What would you do if you could be the Principal of your school?

When third grade student Xander McLean won the coveted chance to be Head of School for a day, he knew exactly what he wanted to do. He set out to raise funds in support of BC Children’s Hospital. His fundraisers of choice? Skateboard jousting with pool noodles. Whiteboard doodling. A video dance party. Xander even let his fellow classmates come dressed in casual clothes in exchange for a donation. His efforts raised a whopping $3,000 for the hospital.

Xander’s inspiration is his youngest brother, Sawyer, who has a rare disease and spends a lot of time at BC Children’s Hospital. In fact, fundraising is important to his whole family—who take part in our RBC Race for the Kids every year, raising $33,120 in 2017.
A LASTING LEGACY

At the age of 16, Jane Shin started to have frequent nose bleeds and began to notice small bruises on her body. After a trip to her local emergency department and then a referral to BC Children’s, Jane and her family received the devastating diagnosis—she had leukemia.

“I remember that I was completely healthy, running around, studying—life as usual,” Jane recalled. “One sentence later, I was in a wheelchair.”

Under the care of Dr. Kirk Schultz, Jane immediately began treatment, which included a bone marrow transplant. After several months, she was officially cancer-free.

That was 22 years ago. Jane’s positive memories of the care and treatment she received drove her to be part of the amazing work that happens at the hospital. So last year, she took action and created a new life insurance policy to benefit BC Children’s Hospital Foundation.

“The legacy piece really made sense for me,” Jane said. “You have a lot of people whose hearts are big and they want to give—but our sense of giving has to change because of today’s financial obligations. The life insurance allows me to turn small monthly premiums into a significant gift for the future.”

NO BETTER GIFT

For their wedding last year, Adam and Katelyn Lundin wanted to give back to a cause close to their hearts. So instead of gifts, they requested donations to support new equipment—equipment that helped Katelyn, a former cardiac patient at BC Children’s, a new ECG and two vital signs monitors.

YOUTH HELPING YOUTH

Since it started seven years ago, the Young Ambassadors Program (over 100 youth ranging in age from eight to 21) have hosted countless fundraisers—from garage sales and flower sales to tea parties and charity concerts. And in 2017, they hit a huge milestone: an astounding $1 million raised for BC Children’s Hospital.

OUR WORK ISN’T DONE

Thank you to all our donors—every single one of you—for making all of this year’s extraordinary progress possible. While we’ve taken many big steps forward, there is still so much more to do.

With you by our side, we will help transform child health and ultimately help more kids get back to being kids. We’ll support the relocation of Sunny Hill to a new state-of-the-art environment, while continuing to ensure kids have access to the latest tools and technologies within the hospital. We’ll help advance research aimed at discovering innovative treatments for childhood diseases like diabetes and heart defects—and that can give new hope to kids with rare diseases. And, we will transform mental health care for kids and prevent conditions from escalating through early intervention and treatment.

Our goals are ambitious—but they also hold promise like no other.

TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILT TO HEAL