

Never doubt **WHAT SMALL CAN DO**



IT STARTED WITH YOU

When the challenges in front of us seem enormous, the best way to start is small. That might be with one promising idea, one step forward or one single gift.

Collectively, these beginnings create a ripple effect that can unleash massive advances in care. They transform the seed of a belief into breakthroughs. They turn audacious ideas into success stories. They become achievements that don't just change today, but the trajectories of tomorrow as well.

Last year, we saw the many ways that greatness starts small. We hope you're as inspired by these stories as we are—they are a reality because of you.

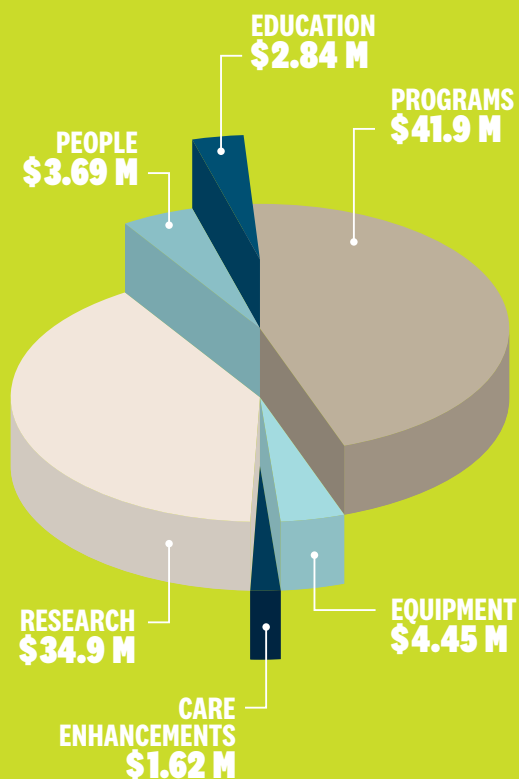
You're pushing the next advances over the finish line

It's remarkable to think how far we've come in our fight against childhood illnesses in the past year. Researchers gave life-changing answers to families who have long been told there are none. Surgeons used pioneering technologies to confront devastating diseases. And experts reimagined what it means to care for the unique needs of kids and teens.

What ties these things together? **You.**

\$89.4 MILLION
provided to the hospital
and research institute
through donor support

130,000+
patients received the
best possible care



LEADING THE CHARGE IN TACKLING PAIN

Kids are wired differently. For example, they can often feel pain more intensely than adults. The challenge is that pain is harder to recognize in young patients, especially if they can't express how they feel.

Fuelled by our community of supporters, BC Children's Hospital has reimagined pain care for kids and youth across the province. That includes everything from helping prepare them for procedures to ease stress, to using mindfulness techniques to manage pain. The ultimate goal? Make sure pain is cared for today, so that it doesn't become lifelong trauma.

In 2023, these efforts were recognized in a big way:

BC Children's became a ChildKind certified hospital.

That makes it one of only three children's hospitals in Canada—and 15 worldwide—to receive the international designation that recognizes pediatric pain care excellence.



**NAVY, AGE 2, DIAGNOSED WITH A
RARE IMMUNE SYSTEM DISORDER**

UNLEASHING THE POWER OF SMALL IN SURGERY

The brain is the most complex organ in the body. When operating on it, every single millimetre matters—which means that precision is paramount. In 2019, generous donor support allowed BC Children's Hospital to receive an advanced surgical robotic system. The impact of this was felt in extraordinary ways last year—proving how gifts can continue to revolutionize care for years to come.

In particular, the technology played a powerful role in tackling hard-to-treat cases of epilepsy. While medication is typically given, it can fail to control seizures in some children. Many continue to experience seizures several times a day, impacting their ability to attend school, play sports and spend time with friends. The next course of action is often surgery. The challenge? Locating the seizure source can be extremely difficult.

By enabling precise minimally invasive placement of electrodes to measure brain wave activity, the technology has allowed neurosurgeons to pinpoint the exact spot that triggers seizures. Once found, they could remove that tissue through surgery. This has stopped seizures entirely in some children—giving them the chance to live full lives.

Surgeons hope to build upon this technology to fight epilepsy in novel ways in the future, including precisely destroying seizure-causing tissue that's too difficult or risky to reach through open surgery.

EMPOWERING EXPERTS TO RISE TO BIG CHALLENGES

4,000+ HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS
ON CAMPUS



1,500 RESEARCHERS
SHAPING THE FUTURE
OF CHILD HEALTH



8 ENDOWED HOSPITAL
CHAIRS CHASING THEIR
BOLDEST IDEAS



120 CLINICAL & SURGICAL FELLOWS
HONING THEIR PEDIATRIC SKILLS



40 NURSE PRACTITIONERS
DELIVERING SPECIALIZED &
ADVANCED PRACTICE CARE



27 CHILD LIFE SPECIALISTS
CREATING BRIGHTER
MOMENTS

Your support allows the best and brightest minds at BC Children's to move forward in overcoming our most pressing health challenges.



ZOE, AGE 11, DIAGNOSED WITH BETHLEM MYOPATHY, A FORM OF MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

FINDING ANSWERS FOR THE UNEXPLAINABLE

The journey to get a diagnosis for rare, unexplained conditions can take years—and answers can be elusive. Children often endure countless tests and specialist appointments, while their families may struggle with an overwhelming sense of helplessness and isolation.

Last year, experts at the Rare Disease Discovery Hub at BC Children's made major breakthroughs: **they discovered two diseases, revealing them to the world for the first time.** This was made possible through donor support of the Hub, which uses cutting-edge genetic sequencing technologies to pinpoint the responsible gene, and advanced molecular biology technologies to fully characterize the disease.

66
TOTAL
FAMILIES
ENROLLED

18
NEW PATIENTS
ENROLLED
LAST YEAR

7
DIAGNOSES
GIVEN IN THE
PAST YEAR

For families who have often endured years facing the unknown, the Hub has provided long-awaited answers—and in some cases, opened new doors to existing drugs that provide a path forward to treatment.

RARE DISEASES AREN'T ACTUALLY THAT RARE. THEY AFFECT ONE IN EVERY 25 CHILDREN IN BC.

A GAME-CHANGING DIABETES TOOL



When a child is diagnosed with diabetes, their life changes in an instant. Immediately, families must become experts in the disease as they monitor a child's health around the clock. The questions quickly follow. What do you do if blood glucose levels suddenly plummet? And what's the proper technique for insulin injections?

To provide accurate information in one single place, BC Children's Hospital launched a first-of-its-kind education tool last year through the generous support of donors—called **LearnDiabetes**. The interactive multimedia platform contains **46 lessons** and **nine learning modules** that provide digestible guidance on how to best manage the lifelong disease. Already, numerous families have gained confidence by having the expertise of BC Children's Hospital right at their fingertips—whenever they need it.

A HIGH-TECH WAY TO COMFORT

Imagine: pet-like robots that quell anxious feelings before surgery, provide companionship during long hospital stays, and comfort kids during their toughest moments. That's no longer a distant reality—because of you.

Your support is allowing researchers to move forward in exploring the potential for using social robots in the hospital. These friendly companions are equipped with cameras in their eyes, a touch-sensitive body and sonar hearing that allow them to interpret kids' facial expressions and body language—and respond accordingly.

Using an interactive game, a team of researchers are working to engage children and families to understand their biggest hopes for the robots. This will provide new insights into the role the technology can play in comforting and distracting kids across many areas of care. There's still plenty more to do, but this work brings us closer to integrating social robots in the hospital.

There is strength in numbers

Last year, you proved just how mighty small can be. So many of you—**88,483, to be exact**—rallied together in inspiring ways to make a real difference in tackling complex health challenges.

You passionately attended our events, raised funds alongside your colleagues, made generous monthly gifts and came up with your own clever ideas for fundraisers.

No matter how you supported us, every single effort has contributed to a greater whole that's propelled our fight against childhood illnesses. We are so grateful to have you standing with us.

SOURCES OF REVENUE

FISCAL YEAR 2022/23

Gross fundraising revenue	\$66.45 M
Net lottery revenue	\$14.11 M
Realized investment income, net of fees	\$17.14 M
Fundraising and administrative expenses	\$23.12 M

You can view our complete set of audited financial statements at bcchf.ca/financial-statements/
For any questions, contact us at info@bcchf.ca

\$20.57 M

from our huge donor community whose generous gifts added up

\$17.99 M

from a small group of visionaries who had an outsized impact

\$14.82 M

from companies that demonstrated what they stand for

\$9.38 M

from donors who left a gift in their will

\$3.69 M

from people who asked their networks to support our cause

Together, we'll show the world: small is mighty

**YOUR SUPPORT LAST YEAR
EMPOWERED US TO MAKE
SOME OF OUR MOST
MEANINGFUL STRIDES YET.**

Thanks to you, experts were able to provide the highest level of care to the one million kids and youth living in BC and the Yukon who depend on it. BC Children's Hospital also reached an extraordinary milestone recognizing this excellence: they were named *one of the top five pediatric hospitals in the world*.

That simply wouldn't have been possible without you.

While this is remarkable, our work isn't done. We're now on the cusp of so many promising advances in children's health care—from unlocking the potential of clinical trials to harnessing digital innovation in ways never before thought possible. With you by our side, we will continue to stay at the forefront of these possibilities.

**THANK YOU FOR
BEING PART OF
OUR JOURNEY.**



**THATCHER, AGE 2, CURRENTLY
UNDERGOING MAINTENANCE
CHEMOTHERAPY FOR STAGE
FOUR NEUROBLASTOMA**