

STOLLERY



Kids



Spring 2023 Vol. 6

Your Gifts at Work

"JUST BE A KID"

Holidays are usually a time of pure joy for children — full of presents and parties, and games and treats.

But on Christmas Day 2014, two-year-old Morgan endured 28 seizures in a 24-hour period.

The seizures first began when Morgan was two months old. She was rushed to the Stollery Children's Hospital, where Morgan was diagnosed with a form of epilepsy called cortical dysplasia.

Medication helped control her seizures for the first two years, but from November 2014 to January 2015 Morgan had almost 900 seizures. Averaging 15-20 seizures a day.

The Stollery neurology team ran Morgan through a bunch of testing, including a full neuro-psychology assessment, seizure mapping, a PET scan and detailed MRI of her brain. They were determined to solve the puzzle of Morgan's seizures and free her from this exhausting condition.

When Morgan was seven, Stollery neurologists recommended brain surgery to remove part of her frontal lobe — about the size of a small package of Post-it notes.

After the four-hour surgery, Morgan was seizure-free for the longest period of her life — 628 days (nearly 1 year and 9 months)!

Nine days post-surgery, she went back to school!

As her brain grows, there are obstacles to overcome, but Morgan and her parents know that her Stollery family will be with her every step of the way.

"Everyone goes to the Stollery. If you haven't been there yourself, you know somebody who's been

Morgan in the hospital



Morgan today

to the Stollery," says Morgan's dad.

Morgan recently had a brain scan, which revealed that her focal cortical dysplasia has healed and is no longer causing seizure activity. However, she is now presenting with generalized epilepsy. This form of epilepsy presents at the beginning of puberty and most children (70%) do not carry it forward into adulthood. Morgan's parents are confident that with the help of the Stollery, Morgan will again overcome this challenge.

How's Morgan doing now? *"She loves to dance, to colour, and to do crafts — and just to be a kid."*

In a loving nutshell, that's the goal of every doctor, nurse and member of staff at the Stollery. And it's the vision of our Foundation supporters and donors, too. We do everything we can to give all kids the best chance to live a long and healthy life. And to let them...

"just be a kid."

YOU'RE HELPING THE STOLLERY TRANSPORT TEAM SAVE LIVES

The Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton is Western Canada's referral centre for children experiencing serious heart and lung failure. When these babies and children need help, they need help urgently.

With the generous support of our donors, the transport team at the Stollery now has a specialized, dedicated, "ready to go" stretcher — with everything needed to safely transport a pediatric patient by ambulance, plane or helicopter.

They can get children back to the Stollery faster — at a time when every single second counts.

ECMO (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation) targets the heart and lungs and is the most advanced form of life support available to Stollery patients.

The ECMO team is a skilled group of Registered Nurses, respiratory therapists and physicians who work alongside the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) transport team. They have all received



ECLS core team with new ECMO transport stretcher

extensive training in providing air and ground support to critically ill children.

With a highly-trained transport team, and this specialized ECMO transport stretcher, the Stollery gives "another chance" to children across Western Canada in severe distress, who may otherwise not make it.

This is what supporters like you do — with each donation, you help fund the vital equipment that saves lives, each and every day.

"To our family, the Stollery means hope. A second chance at life, even if the outcome looks grim."



Madison Jamie Photography

Amélie received life-saving care at the Stollery. Read more at stollerykids.com

– Leslie, Amélie's mom



STOLLERY
STORY
SQUAD

Have a Stollery story you'd like to share?

Learn more and join today at

StolleryKids.com/StorySquad



FOR THE LOVE OF KIDS

For Jonathon Hlus, supporting the Stollery Children's Hospital has been a lifelong commitment.

When he was just 8 years old, he attended the Stollery telethon and Snowflake Gala with his parents.

Years later, Jonathon and his wife, Nicole, both worked on a research project at the Stollery NICU. They were so moved by the outstanding care they witnessed, that they decided to collect money for the Stollery at their wedding — through a "Kissing Fund!"

And they've continued their support each year through the Mighty Millions Lottery.

Jonathon and Nicole have had friends whose children have been cared for at the Stollery — as well as many others who work there as nurses.

That's one of the reasons that the couple decided to join the Bear Hug Club by becoming monthly donors — knowing that this easy way of giving provides funding for the Hospital throughout the year.

"We want to give back to our community. We have an energetic little two-year-old, and while we hope never to need the Stollery, we are incredibly happy that a children's hospital like the Stollery is here in our community.

It's a place you never really want to go — but we are so fortunate that it's here when you need it.

The care that the Stollery provides is such a blessing — and we are proud to continue supporting it.

We know our monthly gifts will go towards the future of the Stollery and towards the little ones who need its help right now."

Monthly giving is a great way of making a big impact with a manageable monthly donation — withdrawn automatically from either your bank account or credit card each month. It's easy to set up and easy to change.

If you would like more information about becoming a **Bear Hug Club member**, please **contact Ally McLean** at **780-431-8901**.



Jonathon with his son and wife, Nicole

BECAUSE YOU CARE

Nearly all of the modern, specialized equipment medical teams at the Stollery Children's Hospital use to care for children is funded by compassionate donors like you.

During the pandemic and most recently with a surge in pediatric respiratory illnesses, the need for ventilators has become greater than it's ever been.

When we turned to you in our holiday appeal asking for your help to purchase new ventilators, you opened your hearts — and we're delighted to report that we've been able to fund these life-saving machines.

Right now, the ventilators you helped purchase are helping little ones to breathe.

Along with their families, we couldn't be more grateful.

Babylog VN500 Ventilator



It's time to **build a new** Stollery Children's Hospital.

Lend your voice.

StolleryTomorrowAndToday.com



THANK YOU FOR CARING ABOUT OUR STOLLERY FAMILIES

Surgery can be stressful for everyone — including the families of our young patients.

Did you know that on average, surgeons at the Stollery perform more than 12,000 surgeries each year? That's 33 surgeries each day!

Now donors like you are making families a bit more comfortable — by helping us revamp our waiting room.

We have TVs and interactive wall displays to occupy kids while they wait. There's more space for pre-op families and for patients waiting to go into the OR. And now there are lockers, a reception desk, a children's play space, and barrier-free washrooms, too.

Dr. Peter Metcalfe, head of surgery at the Stollery, has this to say:

"The renovations have allowed for a more relaxed setting to mitigate the stress of the entire family while waiting for surgery. It is bright and comfortable, which helps foster a positive environment."

Supporters like you understand that caring for the whole family helps us care for the child. Thank you for helping us care even more for families during their time at the Stollery.



Introducing our new surgical short stay waiting room

Photo credit: Mathew Martin



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