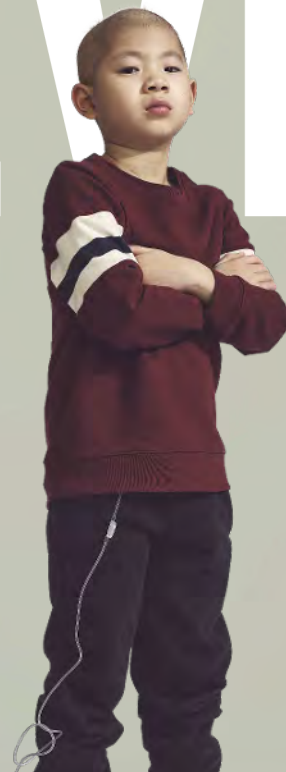
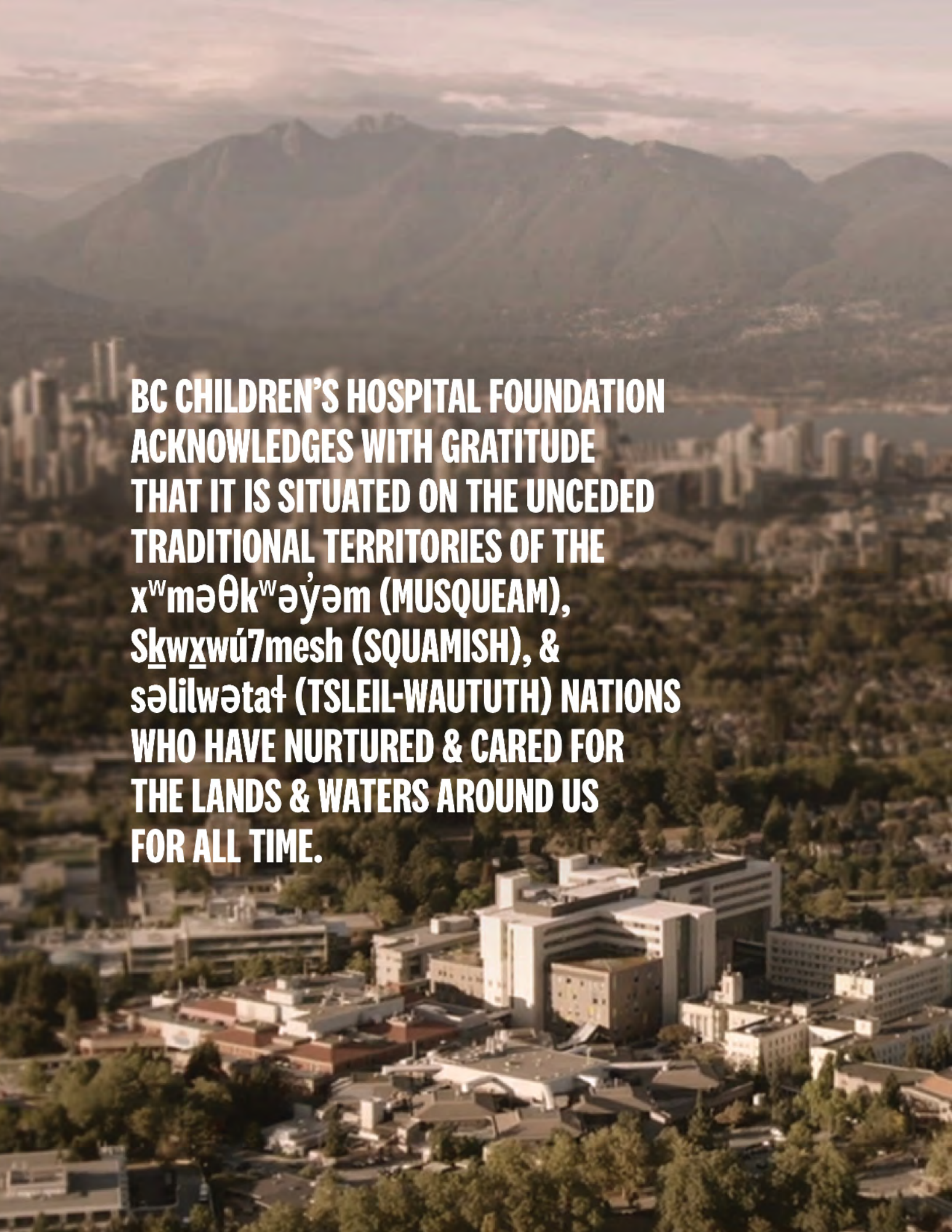


YOU MADE US MIGHTIER THAN EVER

presented to
AUXILIARY TO BC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL





**BC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION
ACKNOWLEDGES WITH GRATITUDE
THAT IT IS SITUATED ON THE UNCEDED
TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE
x^wməθk^wəyəm (MUSQUEAM),
Skwxwú7mesh (SQUAMISH), &
səlilwətał (TSLEIL-WAUTUTH) NATIONS
WHO HAVE NURTURED & CARED FOR
THE LANDS & WATERS AROUND US
FOR ALL TIME.**

A MESSAGE FROM MALCOLM

“Few partners touch our hospital as deeply or as enduringly as you do. For decades, the Auxiliary has been a constant presence—showing up for children, youth, families, and care teams with generosity, compassion, and care.

Your support makes space for medical innovation that improves outcomes and for programs that bring comfort and connection at some of the most vulnerable moments in a family's journey.

The impact of your commitment can be felt across the hospital and across generations. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and for standing beside children and families—year after year, and heart to heart.”

— MALCOLM BERRY, PRESIDENT & CEO, BC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION





AT A GLANCE

Over 40 years of hope and support for the kids of British Columbia and the Yukon.

The positive impact of the Auxiliary for kids at BC Children's Hospital is a legacy that reaches across generations. This report highlights the past year, sharing stories and impact from your generous gifts to areas such as:



THERAPEUTIC CLOWNING



MUSIC THERAPY



WEEKEND CHILD LIFE PROGRAMS



MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS



IMAGING TECHNOLOGY



THE CENTRE FOR HEALTH COMPLEXITY

...AND MORE



Thank you for your ongoing generosity and dedication to our kids. You continue to make a mighty difference to thousands of children and their families.

SAFE, SEEN, AND STRONG—ALWAYS

Your generosity to music therapy, weekend child life programs and therapeutic clowning supports children and their families when they need it most—through play, compassion and connection.

WEEKEND CHILD LIFE PROGRAMS

Each year, child life specialists at BC Children's complete approximately **3,700 visits on weekends**, bringing comfort and care when it matters most. Experiencing a hospital, whether for the first time or the 20th, can feel overwhelming. Imagine being told you might need an operation, bloodwork, or to be hooked up to a machine when you're barely the height of the hospital bed. All you want is to cuddle your caregiver and your favourite stuffed animal.

That's where the child life program at BC Children's comes in. Dedicated to helping infants, children, youth, and families cope, certified child life specialists use clinically informed tools like play therapy to reduce stress, build confidence, and remind everyone that every patient is still a kid.

THERAPEUTIC CLOWNING

Giving smiles and supporting the well-being of children for more than 32 years, the MiRTH (Medicine Incorporating Remedies that Tickle the Heart) Unit is the longest running children's hospital therapeutic clowning program in Canada.

As a program made possible with donor support, thank you for bringing laughter, fun and the talent and expertise of McFluff, Cosmo and others to the kids of BC Children's.

MUSIC THERAPY

BC Children's music therapy program began over 25 years ago, originally supporting oncology patients, and has grown significantly since then. Today, a team of seven music therapists delivers care across the hospital.

Music therapy is a vital part of the holistic care approach at BC Children's, with more than **7,000 connections** to kids made every year. Therapists use music intentionally to help each child reach their individual health goals. Sessions may include improvisation, instrument play, songwriting, or composition, all designed to strengthen connection, support emotional expression, and build motivation, coping skills, and communication.

Carol, a music therapist who has been part of the program for 20 years, shares:

“MUSIC CAN MOTIVATE CHILDREN TO MOVE IN THERAPEUTIC WAYS THAT FEEL LIKE PLAY. THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO GIVE THIS TO CHILDREN.”



SHEPHERD'S STORY

Music therapists at BC Children's Hospital have helped turn difficult days into moments of joy for a young patient named Shepherd—sessions that often include a lot of great dancing.

“SHEPHERD AND HIS BROTHER LOVE DANCING. IT'S ONE OF THEIR FAVORITE THINGS. MUSIC THERAPY HAS BEEN AMAZING FOR THEM.”

At 2 years old, Shepherd was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia—the most common childhood leukemia—but with a rare and aggressive genetic subtype called KMT2A. “They showed us a pie chart,” Shepherd's mom, Karen, shared. “Most of it was standard leukemia with really good outcomes. Then there was this tiny sliver—the one you really don't want. That's what Shepherd has.”

Because of this rare form, Shepherd requires longer phases of chemotherapy, higher-intensity dosing, and close inpatient monitoring. Over time, the hospital has become a place of comfort for Shepherd. “He loves pressing the elevator button at the hospital,” Karen said.

“When asked his favourite number, his answer is immediate: ‘Ocho.’ Eight, the number of the hospital floor where he receives care.”

“WHEN WE FIRST HEARD SHEPHERD CALL BC CHILDREN'S HIS ‘SECOND HOUSE,’ WE CRIED, BUT THEN WE REALIZED SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL. HE ISN'T SCARED OF THE EIGHTH FLOOR. HE'S MADE IT A POSITIVE PLACE.”

Music therapy has helped make BC Children's a place of warmth and comfort for Shepherd.

Thank you.



A Conversation With ASHLEY STATIA

CHILD LIFE SPECIALIST,
BC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN THE ROLE OF CHILD LIFE SPECIALISTS?

My role is to provide support and coping strategies for kids who may have just received a diagnosis, or have to undergo surgery. I help them understand what's going on, and normalize this very abnormal environment they're suddenly in, providing opportunities to support coping and play while they're here.

HOW DO YOU FORM A CONNECTION WITH KIDS?

Understanding each child's diagnosis is important because that's how we're going to tailor our approach.

For example, if I'm working with a 7-year-old who has leukemia, I'm going to look for different opportunities to explain their condition, and find a way that's not frightening but rather palatable and understandable.

DO YOU CONNECT WITH THE FAMILIES AS WELL?

Yes, I try to help focus further ahead into a family's journeys, and reassure them that, while coping might look like this right now, I can assure them that in a few weeks' time, their children are going to make friends with some of these familiar faces, nurses, doctors, specialists.

I tell them they'll be riding their bikes down the hallway, and looking to play with that favourite staff member. I remind them that this is where we are at today, but we are going to support you as a team every step of the way.

HOW DO YOU FEEL COMING TO THE HOSPITAL?

I arrive every day excited to support the kids and their families. It's priceless to play with them and hear them shout, "Ashley!!" from down the hall, because we've got something really awesome planned.

Whether that's painting, artwork - they've drawn something they're excited to show me, they can't wait to tell me about the slime they made last night, or tell me, "I did a really hard thing today." The kids continue to inspire me. Their resilience is incredible.

**"I JOKE THAT I WILL RETIRE HERE
WHEN I'M 95, BECAUSE I THINK IT'S
THE BEST JOB IN THE WORLD, AND
I'M SO HUMBLLED BY THE FAMILIES
AND PATIENTS THAT WE SERVE AND
SUPPORT."**





MAKING A MIGHTY IMPACT

The ongoing, incredible generosity of the Auxiliary touches many areas of the hospital. Here are highlights of the outstanding impact you've made in even more areas across BC Children's.

ACUTE REHAB UNIT (ARU) OUTINGS

Because of you, the ARU was able to provide **138 patient outings** such as visits to the Vancouver Aquarium, mini-golf, bowling, escape rooms, and Grouse Mountain. Some patients also experienced hockey for the first time, playing an adapted version called sled hockey that uses a sled that functions like an ice skate. These experiences make a world of difference to kids and their families who otherwise may not have had the opportunity to try many of these activities.

In addition to that sense of inclusion, as Aquatic and Recreation Therapist Courtney Lofstrom shared, "These outings provide a setting where children can safely challenge themselves beyond the walls of the hospital. Unlike the controlled environment of the rehab unit, the community presents varied terrain, unexpected challenges, and natural distractions that help children build resilience and adaptability."

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

The Auxiliary has continued to provide generous support to three pillars of mental health care at BC Children's that provide children and youth with emotional regulation, coping skills, and practical tools that extend beyond hospital care to home life.

Child Inpatient Psychiatry

Approximately **450 children and families** were supported thanks to your generosity. This included therapeutic groups and basic need supports. A family shared that their child forged such a strong bond to a weighted stuffed animal that it was gifted to them upon discharge for the comfort and regulation it provided.

Outpatient Mental Health Programs

1,050 children and families benefitted from engagement supports (such as snacks and prizes to encourage kids) and clinical supports (such as sensory tools for assessment accuracy) because of you. As staff noted, "Having these sensory tools available during appointments helps our patients stay regulated which allow us to complete more meaningful assessments. They are an important part of how we offer support."

The Provincial Specialized Eating Disorders Program

More than 80 patients accessed activities such as expressive art therapy, outings to restaurants that built confidence around food, and self-care and leisure supports. A patient noted that, "expressive art therapy is good for processing thoughts and emotions about hard things, it is very calming and relaxing."

IMAGE PROCESSING SOFTWARE

Your incredible generosity towards medical imaging will benefit approximately **2,000 children and youth** who come to BC Children's for expert care each year.

Nuclear medicine is a specialized area of radiology that uses a tiny amount of radioactive substance to clearly see how organs and tissues in the body function. Scans such as PET (positron emission tomography) scans are used to examine many parts of the body, such as the

heart, brain and bones, and is often used to diagnose cancers.

As powerful as these scans are, they need an enormous amount of processing power and specialized digital technology to process and analyze images. By supporting new image processing software for nuclear medicine, you are giving medical teams at BC Children's this ability.

"Radiologists will be able to combine different types of scans to have a complete and more detailed view of a patient's health condition," Michelle Spacek, program manager of medical imaging explained. "With greater speed and processing power, our medical experts can analyze scans faster and be able to focus more on patient care."

ENDOWMENTS

Endowments are a powerful expression of care that continue to give, year after year, helping to strengthen the experiences of children and families at BC Children's.

The Auxiliary Endowment for Education supports volunteers and non-physician health care staff in pursuing learning opportunities. The Judi Bowden Memorial Endowment for Pediatric Asthma Research was created in 2010 to honour Judi, who was an outstanding volunteer and Auxiliary board member.

We are deeply grateful for the generosity that sustains these endowments and the lasting impact they make. Updated financial information will be shared separately.

PET THERAPY CALENDAR

Thanks in part to successful sales of the pet therapy calendar through the Auxiliary's gift shop and thrift shop, the pet therapy program continues to thrive, with more than 40 teams of specially-trained pets and their guardians bringing their unique joy to patients and staff throughout the hospital.

From impactful outings to practical resources, thank you for ensuring kids and youth receive the highest quality care at BC Children's when it is needed most.

CENTRE FOR HEALTH COMPLEXITY

Thank you for being part of creating a unique, new facility that will positively impact the lives of kids with health complexity and their families for years to come. This first-of-its-kind centre will improve the quality of life of kids across the province by filling key health system gaps and transforming care delivery.

Becoming a parent is a major life transition—but for parents of children with complex medical needs, the experience can be profoundly challenging. Parents, Erin and Mitch, shared how their uneventful pregnancy became complex. "Everything was unremarkable and smooth, no red flags at all," Erin recalled. But during delivery at their local hospital in Whitehorse, Yukon, their world turned upside down in an instant.

Due to unexplained reasons the baby's heartbeat suddenly dropped during labour. An emergency c-section was performed, and their daughter had to be resuscitated. Soon after, their newborn daughter, Fia, was medically evacuated from the hospital in Whitehorse to the Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton—the nearest neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) with available space. Neither Erin nor her husband, Mitch, were able to hold their baby for the first week of her life.

That was the beginning of Erin and Mitch's introduction to the world of complex pediatric care. "We were terrified," Erin remembered. "We didn't know how much time we had with Fia."

Within days, doctors diagnosed Fia with moderate to severe hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, a type of brain injury caused by a lack of blood and oxygen during birth. "Looking back, although it was absolutely devastating to receive this news, we feel very lucky to have received a diagnosis so quickly," Erin shared. Some families of medically complex children, especially in the rare disease community, can go years without answers or treatment.

Most families with medically complex children have a steep learning curve to acquire the health care knowledge to manage this level of complexity.

Not only were Erin and Mitch navigating life as new parents, but they also became Fia's nurses and advocates. When they returned to Whitehorse after a month in Edmonton, their lives were quickly consumed by around the clock medication schedules, therapies, and learning how to care for their daughter through tube feeding and oral suctioning.

"We had to pace ourselves. Burning out wasn't an option. Erin said. "We realized that Fia was going to need us for the rest of her life, so we needed to care for her and also ourselves. We had to become fierce protectors of our own sanity and balance."



Then Erin and Mitch heard about the plan for the new BC Children's centre for health complexity. They breathed a sigh of relief – more help was coming

“LEARNING THAT THERE WOULD BE A PLACE DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR FAMILIES LIKE OURS—SHAPED BY PEOPLE WHO’VE LIVED IT—WAS INCREDIBLE.”

For Erin, this means having more time to simply be parents. "What makes this centre so special is that it's not just about providing care—it's about building capacity," Erin explains.

"It shows us that we matter and that we can be supported in raising our children at home, spending less time in the hospital. I wish more people understood that health complexity doesn't mean a child is always suffering. Fia is now 6 years old and is joyful, playful, and full of life."

Fia has been attending school since Fall 2025 but can only attend with one on one parent support. Erin and Mitch are currently advocating for Fia to receive nursing supports in school so that she can be with her peers and they can just be her parents. "What health complexity really means is that we need to be more creative to help our kids be kids and we need strong communities to support us. That's what this centre is all about."

Set to open in 2028, the new centre for health complexity will provide services in person and virtually to children with medical complexity, their families, and medical professionals who support the care of these children in communities across BC and the Yukon.





A PLACE FOR QUIET CONNECTION

Tucked away on the second floor of the Ambulatory Care Building is The Family Library, a calm oasis for children and families that reaches far beyond the hospital walls thanks to your support.

The Family Library provides a safe space for families to not only find resources for both parents and kids to understand and learn more about a wide variety of conditions, but also to play games, read fiction, and escape for a moment of normalcy.

Pamela Harrison, health literacy information specialist at the library says that their collection continues to grow and expand in every way imaginable. "A large focus for us right now are simple, yet age appropriate books to help children recovering from brain injuries learn how to read again," she shared, "and we are always adding to our collection of both practical resource pieces and story books to help kids escape while they're here."

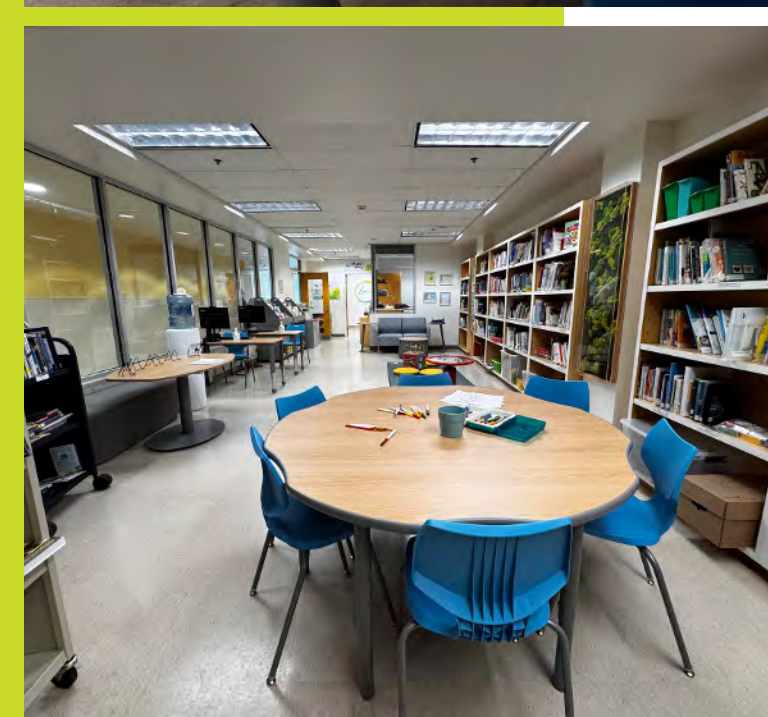
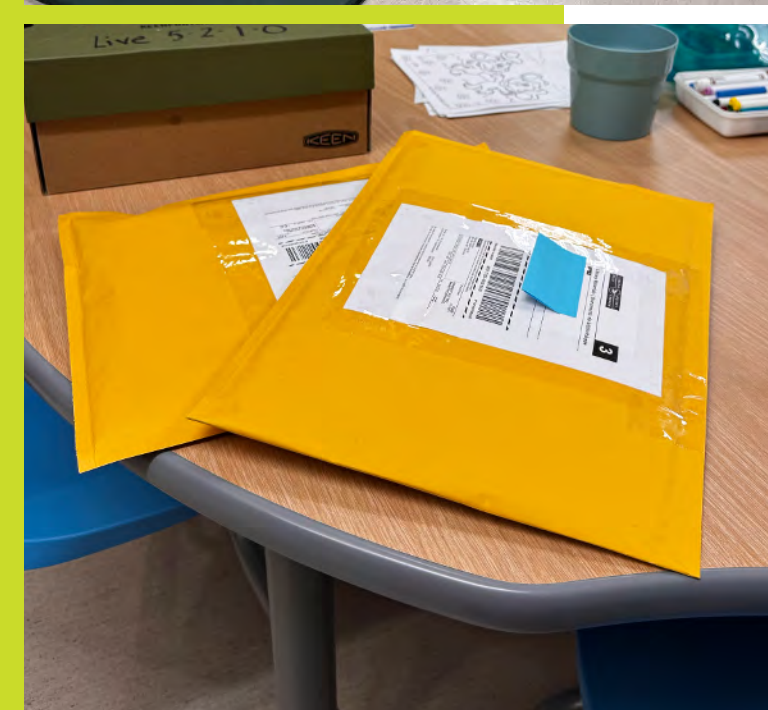
This support is felt deeply by the families who stop by the library. One mother shared, "having the Family Library accessible at BC Children's was an invaluable resource for our family. Being hospitalized for many months brought along behavioural challenges for our son, who was separated from me for weeks at a time."

“BEING ABLE TO ACCESS PARENTING BOOKS FOR ME AND SOCIAL STORIES BOOKS FOR HIM HELPED US NAVIGATE THE DISTANCE. I THINK OUR TIME APART WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH HARDER WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGEABLE SUPPORT OF THE LIBRARY STAFF AND RESOURCES.”

Not only are families who visit the library encouraged to borrow materials, Pamela shared, "families from across the province can have access to our materials thanks to the support from the Auxiliary."

The Auxiliary supports the libraries physical loans of materials throughout the province. "in the last year we processed **998 loans of physical items**," said Pamela.

The generosity of the Auxiliary enables the library to individually mail these items to families, wherever they are located, ensuring the resources found at the hospital reach families across the province.





OUR MIGHTIEST THANK YOU

The Auxiliary continues to be a vital partner in ensuring BC Children's provides world-leading care for kids throughout the province. Thank you for building a legacy of compassion that will continue for generations to come.

RITA THODOS, CFRE
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, PHILANTHROPY
BC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

604.335.4988
RTHODOS@BCCHF.CA

