



# A MIGHTY THANK YOU

PRESENTED TO  
**Auxiliary to**  
**BC Children's Hospital**

JUNE 2023





**“I am deeply grateful for all that your commitment and compassion continues to make possible. Thank you for being with us every step of the way, ensuring that BC Children's is a place where children find warmth, understanding, and support. I am proud to have the Auxiliary as a partner in giving kids and their families truly the best care.”**

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

Every week, kids and their families send notes and drawings thanking the child life specialists, therapeutic clowns, social workers, clinicians and other care teams at BC Children's for all they do. For over 40 years, the Auxiliary to BC Children's Hospital has played a crucial role in making the extraordinary care these people give kids possible. Thank you.



# PROVIDING SMILES THERAPEUTIC CLOWNING AT BC CHILDREN'S

The BC Children's Hospital corridors always seem brighter when therapeutic clowns Fizzie, McFluff, and Cosmo appear, pushing their trolley full of card tricks, banjos and laughs. Smiles on and red noses polished, the MIRTH (Medicine Incorporating Remedies that Tickle the Heart) Unit made over 1,890 bedside visits to young patients over the last year, offering silliness, relief and distraction wherever they went.

The clowning trio also collaborated with child life specialists, music therapists, and volunteers for the Pet Therapy Program presented by PetSmart Charities of Canada™, making sure that, even through COVID restrictions, children across BC Children's still benefited from a chuckle.

**“Thank you for making her smile. She hasn't smiled since she got here”**

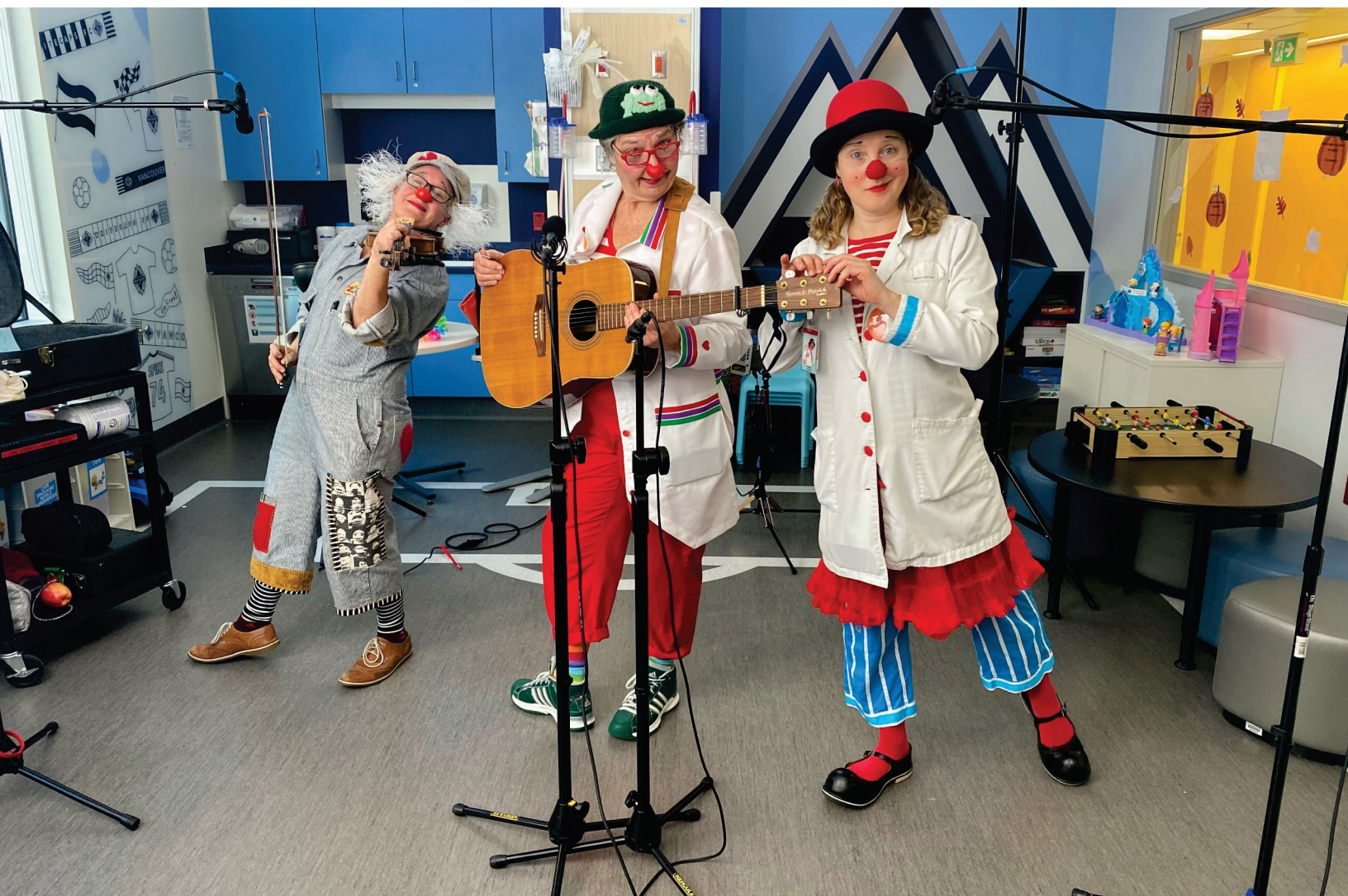
- PARENT OF BC CHILDREN'S PATIENT

**“We loved them. They made our day!”**

- PARENT OF BC CHILDREN'S PATIENT

**“These lovely two helped my daughter smile and feel brave enough to later take her first bite of food a week after a terrible mouth injury that had her admitted to BC Children’s. I am so thankful for this hospital and everything it has offered my kids.”**

**- PARENT OF BC CHILDREN'S PATIENT**



# PROVIDING MUSICAL MOMENTS MUSIC THERAPY AT BC CHILDREN'S

Through singing along to a familiar song, playing and learning an instrument, or composing a new piece of music, kids and teens have been able to express themselves, refocus their attention and find treasured moments of connection at BC Children's.

**"We are so lucky to have an amazing music therapist like you for the past weeks. Thank you so much for helping our family through this difficult time!"**

- PARENT OF BC CHILDREN'S PATIENT



The dedicated music therapy team sees 40 children a week, including kids receiving care at the oncology outpatient clinic, the Burn Program, Sunny Hill Health Centre and the Hudson Family Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). That's 2,080 kids per year exploring the healing power of music. Thank you for your continued support.

BC Children's music studio space, with access to a full-size piano, drum kit and recording equipment, is bringing joy to many kids at BC Children's. Lily, whose story follows, is just one example.

**“Thank you for playing music for me and singing to me in your lovely voice! You’re a really sweet person. My brother really loved playing and singing with you. Keep doing the great work!”**

- SIBLING OF BC CHILDREN'S PATIENT



# LILY'S STORY

“She is a tiny little peanut,” says Melissa, Lily’s mom. “She’s just a sweetheart. Lily loves school, playing the piano, swimming, dancing—she is a little social butterfly.”

Lily was 6 years old when the family optometrist noticed that her optic nerve looked swollen. After further tests, doctors at her community hospital found a large tumour in Lily’s head. “It was absolutely the worst news you could ever hear.” Melissa says. “They told me they contacted the neurosurgery department at BC Children’s and a helicopter was on its way.”

While Lily was waiting for her surgeries as an inpatient at BC Children’s, the music therapists worked their magic to help Lily feel more relaxed, safe, and cared for.

“Our music therapist, Carol, was wonderful. Finding out Lily plays the piano, she brought in a keyboard which she played happily. A few days later, we went to the music studio, where Lily was able to try her hand at playing the drums. Having this at the hospital was just phenomenal. I don’t have words for what a difference that made for Lily.”

Lily is now back at school and has been able to go back to her swimming and dance activities, much to her delight. Looking back at how kindly Lily was treated at BC Children’s, Melissa is full of thanks to the music therapy program that gave Lily so much warmth and joy. “We are just so grateful for how BC Children’s went above and beyond: the music, the support—I have nothing but incredible things to say about our experience.”



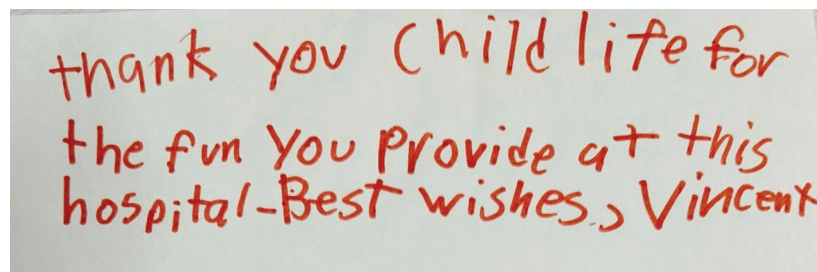


believe in

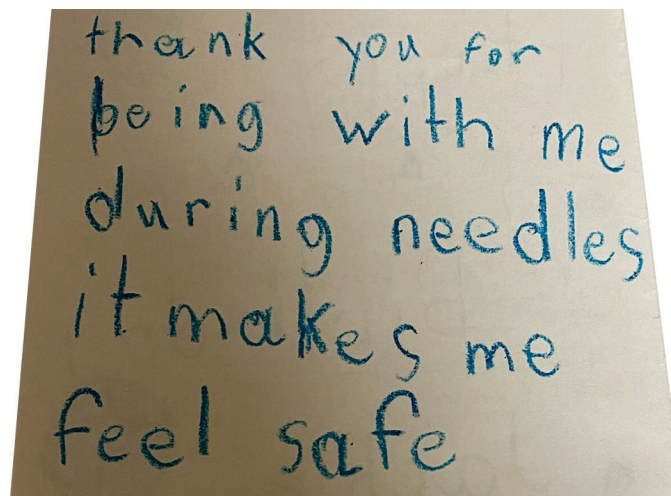
YAMAHA

# PROVIDING ENJOYMENT CHILD LIFE

Over 20 child life specialists (CLS) at BC Children's do everything possible to help calm, connect with and entertain children of all ages. Using evidence-based therapeutic play, preparation and education, they provide developmental, educational and therapeutic interventions that support children and families coping with their hospital experience. Last year, CLS provided more than 32,000 connections with patients and families. A child's need for this connection and play is not limited to a regular working week, but it is just as crucial over a weekend, and this is why weekend programs like those you are supporting are so important.



thank you child life for  
the fun you provide at this  
hospital - Best wishes, Vincent



thank you for  
being with me  
during needles  
it makes me  
feel safe

# PROVIDING COMPASSION MENTAL HEALTH

Thank you for helping children, youth and families know they are not alone. An estimated 95,000 children and youth in BC experience mental health issues at any given time, and only about 40 per cent of kids receive services for their condition. It is critical to support programs that offer guidance and specialist mental health care to those in need.

Over the last year, mental health programs at BC Children's have cared approximately 3,000 children and youth. Your support of these critical programs has been crucial, especially in helping remove financial obstacles that may stop a family from visiting the hospital. Cynara Radley, program director of child and adolescent psychiatry, explains this best:

**"We have families who are worried about coming to the Healthy Minds Centre because of food insecurity or because of an inability to travel. With your help, we have been able to provide grocery cards and travel support to these families, meaning they can receive the support they need."**

Your generosity is also helping to support all kinds of therapeutic experiences for kids, from sensory tools to gardening groups, to something seemingly simple, yet so important, as a walk to a café for a treat. Every moment of kindness and understanding adds to a child's sense of security and well-being, and BC Children's Auxiliary is making this possible.

The BC Provincial Specialized Eating Disorders Program team is grateful to you for having helped support staff training for the newly re-opened Day Treatment Program. This program is offered to youth in BC and the Yukon and uses a dialectical behavioral treatment (DBT) informed approach, where young people learn practical life skills to help develop self-confidence and a renewed interest for life. Over two days, all staff received training from a DBT and eating disorders expert clinician, followed by several consultation sessions. The Auxiliary's generosity has been instrumental in bringing this treatment approach to the eating disorders program.

**“On behalf of the children and families we serve, I want to share our sincere thanks for your generosity. Hearing from parents and caregivers, we know that the programs we offer help families feel less alone. Please accept our sincere appreciation for your support.”**

- MARIA SPANO, CLINIC HEAD, INFANT  
PSYCHIATRY CLINIC - OUTPATIENT PSYCHIATRY,  
BC CHILDREN'S AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL



# PROVIDING KNOWLEDGE FAMILY SUPPORT AND RESOURCE CENTRE

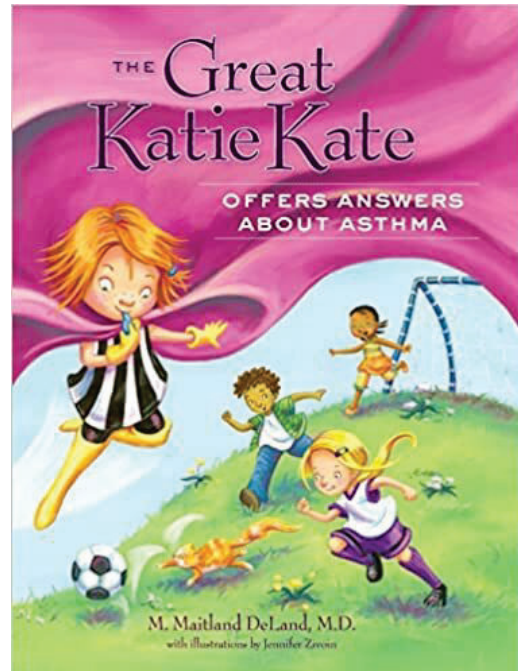
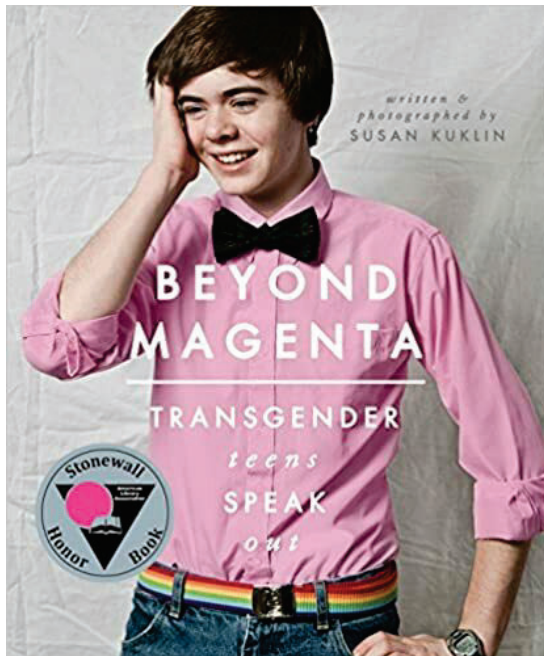
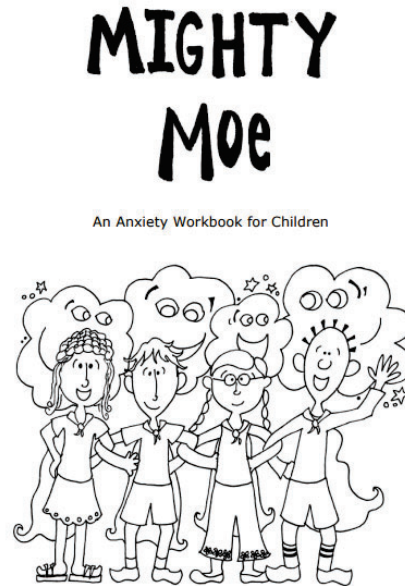
Thank you for helping empower families to best care for their kids with trusted, research-led information. When a family is first learning about their child's condition, it's important for them to have access to resources that are vetted, evidence-based and free. The Family Support and Resource Centre offers this to families at BC Children's. The Centre is also a space where families can spend time between appointments, use computer kiosks or printers, charge phones and devices, as well as talk with a librarian about finding reliable health information on hard-to-find topics.

With your support, the Family Support and Resource Centre is able to offer families information on a wide range of conditions and topics, including asthma, diabetes, pregnancy and sexual health. The Centre also distributes books, eBooks, games and other resources to people throughout BC and the Yukon, and over the past year has loaned more than 1,060 resources to grateful families.

In collaboration with staff from Sunny Hill Health Centre, the Family Support and Resource Centre also updated their materials on sexuality and abuse-prevention for children and youth with disabilities, as well as expanded their resources for siblings of kids receiving medical care. The Centre also grew its collection of titles celebrating neurodiversity, including more information for families on autism, dyspraxia, ADHD and dyslexia. All that the Centre is doing to educate and support kids and families in BC and the Yukon is possible because of your help.

**I encourage parents who are seeking information to reach out to the Centre, and I am so grateful for the excellent service it has provided my family!"**

- PARENT OF BC CHILDREN'S PATIENT



An example of the books and resources offered by the Family Support and Resource Centre

# PROVIDING COMFORT SIBLING SUPPORT CENTRE



From the very beginning, the Auxiliary has been at the heart of the Sibling Support Centre; conceiving the idea, supporting its initial development and being there during its first years through the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to your vision, support and dedication the Sibling Support Centre is thriving.



Based on the knowledge that one child's illness affects all children in a family, the Sibling Support Centre offers a space filled with games, arts and crafts and quiet spaces, providing a safe setting for the siblings of kids receiving treatment at BC Children's.

Through 2022, more than 650 visits were booked at the Centre. For the first time, this year the Centre offered movie nights, where kids could sit, eat popcorn and make crafts together as they watched a fun film. The Centre also piloted a new program for siblings under 3 years old allowing for more families to find comfort and support when they need it most. As the Sibling Support Centre continues to grow and succeed, its volunteers know they have your compassion and support to thank.

**“Thank you for taking care of Sydney allowing her big brother a few hours of quiet time while undergoing chemo treatment.”**

- PARENT OF CHILD CARED FOR AT SIBLING SUPPORT CENTRE

**“I could cry! So helpful to us!”**

- PARENT OF CHILD CARED FOR AT SIBLING SUPPORT CENTRE

# ENDOWMENTS

Thank you for establishing a lasting legacy through the Auxiliary to BC Children's Hospital Endowment for Education and the Judi Bowden Memorial Endowment for Pediatric Asthma Research. These thoughtful gifts provide ongoing support that encourage volunteers and non-physician health care staff to pursue educational opportunities, and to support research in pediatric asthma. The 2022/23 financial reports will be provided to you separately.



# ALWAYS THERE FOR KIDS

**“Thank you so much for your support during our recovery. We are very fortunate to have health care professionals who are so passionate about providing comfort and happiness to every child and family who visits the hospital.”**

- PARENT OF BC CHILDREN'S PATIENT

The lasting dedication and support of the Auxiliary has made BC Children's what it is—a place where kids and families can find exceptional care, comfort, understanding and expertise during some of the most stressful times of their lives. Thanks to your help, health care teams and volunteers bring laughter, music, specialized child health care and trusted resources to kids and families here at BC Children's, across the province and the Yukon. Thank you for making BC Children's Hospital mighty.

**Rita Thodos**

Vice President, Philanthropy, Corporate & Community Giving  
BC Children's Hospital Foundation

P: 604.335.4988

C: 604.970.1245

rthodos@bcCHF.ca



**[bcchf.ca](http://bcchf.ca)**

938 West 28th Avenue,  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4H4

t: 778.655.9858

