

# Planning for Kids

SickKids Gift Planning Newsletter

**SickKids**<sup>®</sup>

## Christopher lives

‘Tricky leukemia’: that’s what Christopher Brundage called his. It was indeed tricky. It defied chemotherapy. And, despite two bone marrow transplants, it came back. But his family are determined that ‘tricky leukemia’ – in what his mom describes as “Christopher’s immortal words” – will not have the last word.

That’s why his family have created the Christopher Brundage Leukemia Endowment Fund at SickKids, and why his parents (who have two other children) are leaving what they call ‘Christopher’s share’ of their estate to SickKids in their will. It’s also why they continue to share Chris’ story, to encourage others to make a gift in their will.

Christopher had just started school. His family doctor originally put down a persistent sore throat to the new germs of junior kindergarten. Further tests at SickKids led to a more serious diagnosis: acute myeloid leukemia. Unfortunately, chemotherapy didn’t put him into remission. The next step was a bone marrow transplant, which Chris received on Valentine’s Day 2002.

Chris went home with his family. At their cottage in Haliburton, Chris was able to swim, play and just be a five year old boy. But a year later, he relapsed. Another bone marrow transplant seemed to work for a few months, but his family noted he was out of breath going up stairs – a huge red flag for a bundle of energy like Chris. Tests confirmed another relapse.



Christopher Brundage at age 5. Chris’ legacy lives at SickKids.

There were no further treatment options. With the support of the Palliative Care team at SickKids and Mount Sinai Hospital, his parents took Chris home. Chris’ passing was peaceful, surrounded by love. His mother’s last words to him were the ones she’d said on the day he was born. “I told him that the sun shone brighter and the sky was bluer and the world a better place because he was in it.”

Chris told his family he didn’t want anyone else to get his ‘tricky leukemia’. So they requested donations instead of flowers. That initial ask was the beginning of the Christopher Brundage Leukemia Endowment Fund at SickKids, which today stands at \$1.5 million. This is a tribute to the dedication of the Brundage family and their network of friends, and an example of what encouraging gifts in your will can achieve. In this very tangible way, as Kate Brundage says, “Chris lives at SickKids.”



# Mending hearts

A gift to SickKids in your will is always an expression of what matters most to you (and your family). It's a gift from the heart. A planned gift to SickKids is also a gift to the heart, because the hospital is at the forefront of the research and treatment of paediatric heart disease.

Meet Jane. Jane was diagnosed in utero with congenital heart block, but she was born healthy, thanks to the pioneering work of Dr. Edgar Jaeggi and his team.

Jane's parents, Erin and Eric, had previously experienced the devastating loss of their daughter, Kate, in utero, to congenital heart block. Heart block happens when there's interference with the transfer of electrical nerve impulses, and the heart doesn't pump as it should. So when Erin became pregnant with Jane, she was closely monitored. When Jane was diagnosed at week 20, Dr. Jaeggi had a protocol in place.

Erin was treated aggressively with steroids three times per week, and a blood transfusion once a week, all of which passed to Jane. Born on Valentine's Day, 2014, Jane's echocardiograms since have shown normal heart function. Dr. Jaeggi's pioneering treatment worked.

For other young hearts, surgery is the answer. And Dr. Glen Van Arsdell, Head of Cardiovascular Surgery at SickKids is working with SickKids cardiac radiologist Dr. Shi-Joon Yoo (along with MRI technologist Omar Thabit) to revolutionize surgical training – by using 3-D printing



No one knows a child's heart like SickKids. Dr. Edgar Jaeggi's new protocol fixed Jane's heart – in utero.

technology to create soft plastic hearts that model actual complex congenital heart defects.

When 'practice' surgery is performed on a printed heart, "If there's a problem, no problem," says Dr. Van Arsdell, who, with Dr. Yoo, recently welcomed 11 surgeons from across Canada and around the globe to SickKids for a training session.

This kind of training is very new, and it's a world first. It offers clear advantages: competency is accelerated, and, by giving surgeons a 'preview' using a model developed from MRI imagery, children spend less time on the operating table.

Healthy hearts – in happy babies like Jane – is what a gift to SickKids can help us achieve.



In a recent training session, SickKids' surgeons shared their expertise with other surgeons from around the world using 3-D printed models.

# Making a difference, worldwide

Many families in Toronto and throughout Canada know first hand how fortunate we are to have a world-class hospital like SickKids right here. SickKids surgeons have literally saved their kids' lives. But SickKids expertise can't be everywhere. Which is why the Herbie Fund was set up for international patients. It has brought over 765 children from 105 countries to SickKids for life-saving surgical care for over 35 years.

Uyanga and Dolgorjav are both heart patients who were recently brought to SickKids from Mongolia through the Herbie Fund. The fund supports surgical operating costs. SickKids staff donate their time and expertise.



The Herbie Fund brought Mongolian heart patients Uyanga and Dolgorjav to SickKids for surgery.

Uyanga's condition was the most severe form of atrioventricular canal defect – her lungs were filling with blood. Dolgorjav suffered from tetralogy of fallot, a condition involving four defects. Both conditions can be treated with surgery, but without, they are fatal. Dolgarev's parents had to travel 560 km to their county's biggest paediatric hospital, only to be told by the specialist that the expertise to perform her surgery wasn't available in Mongolia. Uyanga's family was told she had three months left. Both families lacked the resources to travel.

Donations to the Herbie Fund made the difference for both of these girls. Both have had surgery and are doing well, in their home country. For families around the world, a gift in your will to the Herbie Fund is the way to bring hope within reach.

## Your community as part of your family

When preparing their will, most people divide their estate among their immediate family because they want to ensure their loved ones are provided for. However, including a charity as a residual beneficiary also could be of real benefit to those who are interested in providing for their loved ones while also making an impact in their community.

A residual gift in your will allows you to continue to support the causes that are important to you during your lifetime. Residual gifts often have the largest impact, by allowing you to gift a portion or percentage of your estate, which is often much higher than would be possible during your lifetime.

At SickKids, residual gifts provide vital, stable support for innovative research; help purchase state-of-the-art equipment specifically designed for our small patients and enable staff to provide best in class patient care.

By placing SickKids in your will, your estate will receive a charitable tax receipt for the gift which will help to offset any taxes and your children will still receive their portion of the estate.

After you have remembered your loved ones, please consider including **The Hospital for Sick Children Foundation** in your will. You have the ability to improve the lives of many children to come, and create a legacy that will last forever.



# SickKids doctor receives Order of Ontario

At SickKids, innovation is one of our core beliefs, and we are so excited that an innovative breakthrough that took place over a decade ago is still having an impact on child health.



We are proud to share that in January of this year, Dr. Stanley Zlotkin, paediatrician and nutritional scientist at The Hospital for Sick Children and the University of Toronto, received the Order of Ontario for his invention Sprinkles.

Dr. Zlotkin created Sprinkles fourteen years ago after he was asked by UNICEF to come up with a solution for iron deficiency, a nutritional problem that affects millions of children worldwide. Today, Sprinkles is distributed all over the world by the United Nations.

Sprinkles is a mixture of nutrients and vitamins that comes in small packets and is sprinkled on top of food given to babies. It provides them with the nutrients they need in order to mentally and physically develop, and prevents malnutrition. It is estimated that millions of children worldwide have received Sprinkles.

“When I was first asked by UNICEF to come up with a solution for iron deficiency, I never imagined it would turn into a project of this size and scope,” said Dr. Zlotkin. “It was when I came up with the idea, that I realized that this project had legs and it had the potential to help children around the world.”

Congratulations to Dr. Zlotkin for advancing healthcare for children all over the world.



*Chinniyaa Catherine Denise Jessica Ola*

## SickKids

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## Bequest Information

SickKids Foundation is the hospital's parallel charity which raises money, performs estate administration and manages endowments on behalf of The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids).

Do your estate plans include SickKids Foundation? Let us know! We are grateful for your gift and would love to say thank you. You may also wish to become part of our J.P. Bickell Society, which honours members at an annual luncheon by placing their names on our Donor Hall of Fame.

If you plan to make a bequest, the name you should include in your will is:

**The Hospital for Sick Children Foundation**

## Privacy

SickKids Foundation respects the privacy of its donors. Please read our full privacy policy at [www.sickkidsfoundation.com](http://www.sickkidsfoundation.com).

## About Planning for Kids

Planning for Kids is a charitable gift planning newsletter published twice a year by SickKids Foundation. The information provided is general in nature and not intended to be a substitute for professional legal and financial planning advice. The Foundation encourages donors who are planning a significant donation to seek legal and financial planning advice.

## Share with us

We invite you to share your comments and ideas with us. If you have an idea for a story or would like to make a general comment or suggestion about the contents of the newsletter, please call 416.813.8271 or send an email to: [gift.planning@sickkidsfoundation.com](mailto:gift.planning@sickkidsfoundation.com).

## About the cover photo

Jane was successfully treated for congenital heart block. Today she's heart block-free, and her mom has an active toddler on her hands.

