

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING GRIEVING FAMILIES IN NEED. HERE ARE SOME OF THEIR STORIES.

Cancer during COVID-19

A mother and her son were overseas when COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic. The teenage son had been battling cancer for the past few years, and while abroad, his condition began deteriorating rapidly. They needed to get back to Toronto, back to SickKids and their care team. But they had to act quickly before international flights shut down. The stress and unexpected travel costs were overwhelming. As the family's sole income earner, the boy's father had stayed back in Toronto. But in the wake of the new economic reality, his wages and hours were cut drastically. His son made it back to SickKids, but died shortly after arriving. It was a frantic, stressful and unanticipated end to an already awful situation. But they were grateful for the Unforgettables Fund, which supported them when they needed it most.

Barely making ends meet

Following a devastating diagnosis of a high-grade brain tumour, a young girl and her family endured the hope and pitfalls of multiple surgeries, rounds of radiation and chemotherapy before the girl died. They were a single-income household; the father worked construction, and in the winter his hours were reduced and inconsistent. They struggled to make ends meet—they had a hard time covering even transportation to SickKids for treatment visits. And they had exhausted all available financial supports. Unforgettables allowed their child a dignified funeral and relieved an incredible burden. Says the family's social worker: "You have the family and team's utmost thanks."

Words from a social worker in our intensive care unit:

"The Unforgettables Fund has been instrumental in supporting so many of our families in a time of great need. This was clearly demonstrated recently with one family whose child had been in a serious accident, which led to their death. This was a completely unanticipated event that left the family in total shock. They had other children to support and were not in a position to easily cover these unexpected funeral costs. With no extended workplace benefits, the father was required to return to work quickly after his child's death. The Unforgettables Fund provided support to this family during a period of crisis and great sadness for them. The family was very appreciative of this support, which gave them the opportunity to focus on grieving their child."

A traditional ceremony for their girl

During the final six months of their daughter's care for an untreatable brain cancer, a family lived in a children's hospice. Mom had worked at a gas station, but quit soon after her daughter was diagnosed. Dad was already off work, nursing a workplace injury. His meagre compensation was the family's only source of income at the time. Unforgettables covered much of the costs of a small Hindu ceremony and cremation. It saved the family from having to borrow money and offered untold relief.

OACFP HELPED
25 FAMILIES

LAST YEAR,
COVERING
\$44,900

IN FUNERAL-
RELATED
EXPENSES

OACFP TOTAL
GIVING SINCE
2007:

\$392,600

GIFTS PER
FAMILY
RANGED
FROM
\$300
TO
\$3,000

TRUE GIFTS:

**DIGNITY,
PEACE OF
MIND,
RELIEF**

