

# BREAKTHROUGH

FALL 2016 NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 4

VS  
SickKids

We've just launched our new VS brand platform. It is bold, it is exciting, and it will transform the way people think about SickKids. The campaign is intended to jolt those on the sidelines into joining donors like you on the front lines.

This is vital. As you know, the last 10 years have seen quantum advances in fields like genetics, robotics, and medical imaging. This kind of medical progress opens up tremendous possibilities in children's health. Our challenge is making sure the funding and the infrastructure to pursue these possibilities at SickKids is in place.

As leading donors, you're already committed to the fight to make every kid a healthy kid, and we are immensely grateful to you for your commitment. The following stories celebrate the donors who join us in taking on the greatest challenges in child health.

Sincerely,



Ted Garrard,  
Chief Executive Officer  
SickKids Foundation

## “IF I DON'T DO IT, WHO WILL?” BUILDING CAPACITY IN THE CARIBBEAN



Photo: Samuel Lehner

[SickKids Foundation Board Member Wes Hall knows firsthand why the SickKids-Caribbean Initiative matters.](#)

Wes Hall calls his grandmother the most successful person he's ever known. Not because of success measured in dollars, but because of her success raising him and 14 half-brothers and sisters. He recognizes how fortunate he was to leave extreme poverty in Jamaica and “achieve the Canadian dream”.

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There's a picture of his grandmother and the tin shack where she lived and died on his office wall. For Wes, it's a reminder "that I didn't achieve success quickly enough to get her out of that tin shack. It reminds me to never rest, but to take advantage of every opportunity that comes my way."

Today, among many achievements, Wes is Chief Executive Officer of Kingsdale Shareholder Services. "Giving back to the community to me is paramount," is what he says. And what he does. Each \$1 million dollar donor to the SickKids Caribbean Initiative has the opportunity to be the lead donor for a specific country. Wes chose to be the \$1 million donor for Jamaica.

The current objective of the SickKids-Caribbean Initiative is building capacity in paediatric cancer and blood disorders there, and in five other countries. Wes Hall knows how necessary this is. The difference in outcomes for a Canadian child with cancer compared to a child in the Caribbean is stark: it's estimated that the survival rate for Canadian children with cancer is over 80%, while in the Caribbean overall (it varies by country), it's about 50%. Narrowing that gap by training the Caribbean's medical professionals in paediatric cancer and blood disorders is the aim of Wes's philanthropy – a philanthropy he wants to instil in his children.

## “Philanthropy is in our family DNA.”

“Philanthropy is in our family DNA,” he says. “It started with my grandmother looking after her grandchildren and great-grandchildren for most of her adult life. When my wife and I are no longer living, I want my children to remember the less fortunate among us and know that they have an obligation to help in whatever way they can.”

Wes looks forward to a second phase of the SickKids Caribbean Initiative (we'll be sharing more on this in the near future), but for now cancer and blood disorders are his focus. His vision of the future is clear. It's one where “Jamaican children will be treated by Caribbean-trained doctors in a state of the art Jamaican-domiciled medical facility. And where we are known worldwide for not only our dominance in track and field, but our contribution to health care.”

# PATIENT SAFETY: ELIMINATING PREVENTABLE HARM



“We’re seizing the opportunity to make care even safer,” says Dr. Mike Apkon, President & CEO, SickKids

15,000 children admitted; close to 400 beds; 300,000 visits to more than 100 clinics; 13,000 operations performed; more than 50,000 children treated in the ER. That's a snapshot of a year at Canada's largest children's hospital. And a clear indication of why patient safety is a priority of Dr. Mike Apkon, SickKids President & CEO. Thanks to donors like Wendy and John Crean, and The Kavelman-Fonn Foundation, SickKids Caring Safely program recently launched. Our aims include reducing hospital-acquired infections and reducing 'serious safety events' – instances when the complex interplay of systems, equipment and staff fails. We're measuring our success, and we'll be reporting back soon.

# \$334,745 IN DONATIONS, AND CLIMBING

## RICK MCGRAW SUMMITS MT. KILIMANJARO FOR SICKKIDS

Officially, Toronto businessman Rick McGraw is 'semi-retired'. But the emphasis is firmly on 'semi'. At 72, Rick is a busy man. He decided he was going to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak, as a personal challenge.

A friend's suggestion upped the ante: "C'mon, Rick, why don't you raise some money?" An incredibly short time later, Rick was watching the most beautiful crescent 'orangey-green' moon he'd ever seen at Kilimanjaro's summit. He and his wife, Gayle McGraw, raised \$334,745 – matching their donors dollar for dollar – for a Magnetic Resonance Guided Laser Interstitial Thermal Therapy (MRgLITT) system for SickKids. As his long-time assistant and friend (and current SickKids staff member) Sharon Younker says, Rick is a "just go for it" guy.

The MRgLITT system makes brain tumour and epilepsy surgery less invasive, and far more precise. Patients



"There's no better feeling than making a difference," says Rick McGraw

can leave hospital the next day. Thanks to Rick's generosity, SickKids will be the first children's hospital in Canada to be equipped with an MRgLITT system. Rick's achievement is impressive, but what's most important to him is encouraging others: "People don't understand how capable they are at raising money. Your job is to communicate, energize, and get them to reach into their wallet."

## DID YOU KNOW?

There are many ways you can give to SickKids and help fund the fight against the greatest challenges in child health. .



Leave a gift in your will



Make a cash donation



Donate life insurance



Donate Stocks

Join us. [sickkidsfoundation.com/invest](http://sickkidsfoundation.com/invest)

## PATIENT UPDATE

# SICKKIDS VS BROKEN HEARTS: PEYTON'S STORY



This is Peyton today. What she loves to do most is go fishing.

Peyton has come a long way in her SickKids journey. Literally – she was airlifted here from her Northern Ontario home – and medically: myocarditis, a severe inflammation of the heart, almost took her life.

An active lover of the outdoors – Peyton likes fishing – she was five when she started to feel sick. In March, 2015, she was taken to hospital in Winnipeg, where

she was diagnosed with myocarditis. She was treated, and sent home on medication. But in February, 2016, what at first appeared to be the flu turned much more serious: she became extremely weak, unable to walk or stand. Her cardiology team wanted her to be assessed by staff in the Labatt Family Heart Centre at SickKids. Airlifted here, she was taken directly to the Cardiac Critical Care Unit (CCCU).

The generosity of donors like you make the care at SickKids world-class. And that's what made the difference for Peyton. Hours after arriving, Peyton suffered a cardiac arrest, and a stroke. The CCCU staff rallied around Peyton, fighting to save her life.

ECMO (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation) with a heart-lung bypass machine was followed by a Berlin heart – a blood-pumping device worn externally that keeps patients mobile, so they can stay strong through rehab and physiotherapy in preparation for a heart transplant.

Those who observed Peyton in physio say she was fighting just as hard as her medical team – always pushing the limit of what she could do. A donor organ became available, and Peyton received a new heart. Two-and-a-half weeks later, she was healthy enough to be transferred to Holland Bloorview for rehabilitation.

And soon after that, she received a four day pass to go home to see her siblings. Today, Peyton is walking and talking proof that your donations transform lives.

## OUR TEAM:



SickKids Foundation Major Gifts Team  
(from left to right):

Back Row:  
Kevin Goldthorpe, Angela Murphy, Jennifer Ashcroft, Colin Hennigar, Rebecca Page, Malcolm Berry

Front Row:  
Ayala Beck, Anne-Marie Newton, Denise Higashi, Nancy Horvath, Katie Graham, Alicia Leon

# SickKids®

For more information, please visit  
[www.sickkidsfoundation.com](http://www.sickkidsfoundation.com).