

Planning for Kids

SickKids Gift Planning Newsletter

SickKids[®]

New beginnings

This September, Georgia will begin a new chapter in her life as a university student. It is a chapter that she didn't think she would get to experience, and she says that she has SickKids to thank for that.

Georgia became a SickKids patient at the age of 13 when she began experiencing joint pain, unexplained fevers, mouth sores and nodules after a bout with the flu. When her local hospital was unable to diagnose her, she was referred to the Rheumatology Clinic at SickKids.

After a biopsy was performed, Georgia was diagnosed with vasculitis, which is an inflammation of the blood vessels. Georgia's condition is a challenging and complex one and involves the care of a variety of clinics from which she receives treatment every month.

"My illness would be a lot harder to manage if it weren't for my team at SickKids," said Georgia. "Dr. Laxer and his team have gone the extra mile for me. They have never given up on me and have left no stone unturned when it comes to treating me."

Georgia's illness provided many bumps in the road and took away a sense of normalcy for her. Appointments, procedures and hospital stays disrupted her school routine and she had to stop playing sports, which had been a huge part of her life before she got sick.

"The past few years have been far from easy," Georgia said. "If it weren't for the wonderful treatment I've received, I can confidently say that



"Dr. Laxer and his team have gone the extra mile for me. They have never given up on me and have left no stone unturned when it comes to treating me." – Georgia

I wouldn't have had the chance to graduate from high school with the rest of my class.

It is through her experience at SickKids that Georgia's ambition to become a nurse was sparked. "I began interacting with nurses all the time at SickKids. It made me realize just how much of an impact a nurse can have on a hospital experience."

"My nurses became part of my family," said Georgia. "They not only took interest in me medically, but also as a whole person. They have taught me a lot of valuable lessons about how to be a good self-advocate and be pro-active about my medical care. My dream is to one day work as a nurse at SickKids, so that I can give other children like me the chance to experience the care and compassion I have received."

Cracking the Autism Code

Scientists have long believed that genetic research holds the key to understanding autism, which affects 1 out of every 120 children in Canada. By identifying which gene mutations are shared by people with the disorder, researchers can isolate the genetic causes and design more personalized treatment. But this is easier said than done. The genetic underpinnings of autism are incredibly diverse.

Fortunately, SickKids is home to some of the world's foremost experts in autism care and research. These individuals are not only helping children and families cope with the disorder today, they are deepening our knowledge of the causes of autism, making more effective diagnosis and better treatments possible tomorrow.

In the past few years, a revolutionary technology called whole genome sequencing (WGS) has emerged to tackle the challenge of autism's diversity, and SickKids, in an historic partnership with Autism Speaks and Google, is leading the world in using it to unlock the disorder's remaining mysteries.

The international initiative named MSSNG – pronounced missing – is the biggest WGS project in the world. SickKids will sequence the complete genomes of 10,000 individuals with autism and their families, and make the information available to researchers worldwide.

According to SickKids Scientist and MSSNG Project Director, Dr. Stephen Scherer, such a monumental undertaking could only happen at SickKids, thanks in large part to the state-of-the-art facilities and reputation of its world-class



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researchers.

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With 4,000 genomes sequenced so far, Scherer marvels at the progress of MSSNG in such an important endeavour. “I can’t imagine this happening anywhere else so fast. Everyone else is trying to catch up.”

It is because of the generous support of donors that SickKids remains at the forefront of innovation, so we can deliver better care and improve the lives of children.

J.P. Bickell Society Luncheon

Join us Thursday, October 29th as we honour those who have made a future gift to SickKids and whose generosity will change the future of children's health for decades into the future.

When: Tuesday, October 29, 2015

12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Luncheon

2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - Tour of Research Tower - Optional

Where: The Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning
686 Bay Street, Toronto, ON, Gallery, 2nd Floor

RSVP by October 23rd to: Brittany Allen at 416-813-8271 or Brittany.Allen@sickkidsfoundation.com

Guest Speakers:

- Dr. Mike Apkon, SickKids President and CEO
- Christine Bear, PhD, Senior Scientist, Molecular Structure & Function

Paying it forward

Joan has been a part of the SickKids family since 1973. Her son, David, fell off of the examination table at his doctor's office at just four months. Although he appeared unharmed, the doctor insisted that she take him to SickKids where he stayed under 24 hour observation.

While at SickKids, Joan was in awe of the staff and care her family received, especially from Dr. Bernard Laski, Senior Physician at SickKids. "The staff were amazing and showed genuine compassion and caring for the well-being of each and every child and family who relied on them."



"My husband and I decided to include SickKids in our will because we want to give back to an institution that provides exceptional family-centred care and because we believe that one of our greatest priorities is The Hospital for Sick Children."

– Joan Stevenson

Luckily, David had no serious injuries. But Joan knows that not all families are as fortunate as hers. She realized how many children and families rely on SickKids, and she felt comforted to have this hospital so close to home.

Today, Joan's relationship with SickKids is one of giving back. "My husband and I decided to include SickKids in our will because we want to give back to an institution that provides exceptional family-centred care and because we believe that one of our greatest priorities is The Hospital for Sick Children."

Joan hopes that by sharing her story, others will be inspired to donate to SickKids, making everyone a winner.

"If you are as fortunate as we have been, you will be lessening the burden of so many young people and contributing to a hospital which provides excellent care for children not only in Canada but all over the world."

Choosing your executor

You've worked hard and saved, and now you want to protect your loved ones, financial assets and property. If you haven't already done so, it's time to make sure you have a proper plan in place; which includes creating your will and naming an executor.

Picking an executor is a very important part of estate planning since this person is responsible for carrying out the directions set out in your will once you are gone. Most people choose a family member or close friend. If your estate is large or complicated, you may consider appointing a trust company, lawyer, accountant or other professional to act as your executor. You can choose one or more people to act together or decide to have a relative or friend act jointly with a professional. You should also appoint an alternate to replace your executor in case your first choice is unwilling or unable to act as executor upon your passing.

Some key responsibilities your executor(s) will need to perform include:

- making a list of all the estate assets
- applying for probate
- collecting and arranging for payment of debts on your estate
- disbursing your property according to your wishes set out in your will
- filing all of the necessary forms and making sure tax payments to Canada Revenue Agency are made

There is a great deal of responsibility involved in acting as an executor so you should choose someone who is willing and able to carry out those responsibilities. It is important to discuss the role with the person in advance so that they understand what is involved and what your final wishes are.

Happy 140th anniversary to SickKids

It's hard to believe that SickKids began in 1875 with just six cots in a rented 11-room house. Now, 140 years later, SickKids is one of the world's largest and most respected child-health centres, serving as a place of hope and healing to children and their families.

Below are some figures that show why SickKids is a world-class institution that continuously pushes to provide the best possible care and outcomes for all patients.

- More than 100,000 children relied on the lifesaving care provided at SickKids last year.
- There were 65,705 emergency room visits last year.
- SickKids sees, on average, 285 patients a day.
- The average length of a patient's stay is 6.7 days.
- A child is registered in the ER every 9 minutes.
- Last year, 1,883 residents, fellows & students received training at SickKids.

None of this would be possible without the generous support from the community. Future gifts will allow SickKids to continue to provide the best care to sick children and their families, and to recruit the best and brightest clinicians, scientists and educators from around the world.

We are profoundly grateful for your support.



Catherine Denise Malalm Brittany 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! 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.

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.

About the cover photo

Charlize, 1, was diagnosed with a rare heart condition at birth. Having undergone multiple surgeries, she is now back at home, regularly returning to SickKids for monitoring.

