

IT'S ABOUT ABILITY!

 Children's Rehabilitation Foundation
2017/2018 ANNUAL REPORT



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REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF COLLECTIVE CARING & COMPASSION

I firmly believe that the strength of a community is dependent on the ability of its members to care. That is a broad statement and one that I admittedly will indicate is not backed up by formal training in the field of human psychology. Rather it is an observation that came to mind when I prepared this annual statement.

Peter Garagan
Chair, Board of Directors
Children's Rehabilitation Foundation

This is my first year as the President/Chair of the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation. A volunteer position that if you asked me seven years ago was not part of my life plan. What was part of my life seven years ago and from my earliest memories was my ability to care about others. I suppose the correct word is compassion. I was born as I believe we all are with the ability to exhibit compassion for others. I have confidence that it is an instinct that in a perfect world we all would robustly exhibit...in a perfect world. Fortunately, even in our imperfect world, compassion thrives.

Eight years ago I was asked by Tom Hainey, the coach of my daughters' local swim club, to assist in a fundraiser for the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation. I figured I should help out the club if I could so I said yes. Little did I know that saying yes to that request would change my path in life. Unbeknownst to me was the fact that Tom Hainey was actually a former Paralympian with several gold and silver medals to his credit who had also been a client of the Rehabilitation Centre for Children when he was a young. Tom's desire was to give back to the centre by creating a fundraising event in support of

Children's Rehabilitation Foundation. Working together with Christine Schollenberg, the Executive Director of the foundation, we managed to put together a fun event. The event not only raised money for the foundation, it also awoke the sense of caring for others that I had inadvertently tucked away. I was redefined by the moment.

As a result of my involvement with Chris, Tom and the foundation I became a member of Children's Rehabilitation Foundation's Board of Directors in 2011. This in turn started a seven-year journey of learning about the efforts exhibited by those associated with Children's Rehabilitation Foundation and the Rehabilitation Centre for Children. I would be the first to admit that I knew little of these efforts before 2011. However, over the past seven years of observing those efforts it has brought me to the realization that caring and compassion comes in many forms.

Caring comes in the form of our volunteer Board of Directors that work hard year round to find ways to increase awareness of the foundation and to garner support for its mandate. Caring comes in the form of the staff of the foundation that under the guidance of our Executive Director, Chris Schollenberg, work diligently to satisfy the growing needs of the Rehabilitation Centre for Children and

its clients, increase awareness of the foundation and develop and maintain our donor relationships. Caring comes in the form of our donors large and small. Donors that daily show through their support that caring is not lost, that it is instinctual and that everyone can make a difference. Caring comes in the form of our volunteers that give of their time without hesitation so that those events and fundraisers that make up the backbone of the foundation's efforts are successful. Last and certainly most importantly caring comes in the smiles, laughter, words and actions of the children that The Children's Rehabilitation Foundation help support. They prove to us each day that caring and compassion is not only instinctual but is also fulfilling, rewarding and necessary.

I would like to close on this last point. The Children's Rehabilitation Foundation's vision is for all children to have the support required to realize their abilities. Through our collective caring and compassion we can provide this necessary support for the many that require our assistance. With that in mind I ask on behalf of the Board of Directors that we all continue to unleash the caring and compassion within and go forth and motivate others to unleash their inner compassion. In the end it will make us all stronger.

OUR IMPACT

THE CHILDREN'S REHABILITATION FOUNDATION IS A MANITOBA CHARITY DEDICATED TO GIVING CHILDREN & YOUTH LIVING WITH DISABILITIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN, PLAY AND REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

OUR MISSION

The Children's Rehabilitation Foundation raises funds to improve the lives of children who access services provided by the Rehabilitation Centre for Children and SSCY Centre.

OUR VISION

For all children to have the support required to realize their abilities.

OUR FOCUS

The life-changing programs and equipment we funded by the foundation gives children and youth the opportunity to enjoy the freedom of childhood—to play outside with their friends, participate alongside their peers in the classroom, and strengthen relationships with their family.





149 bikes were designed and modified inside the Rehabilitation Centre for Children's W.A. Laddie Hutchinson Bike Clinic in 2017/18.

OUR IMPACT

YOUR GENEROSITY IN ACTION

WITH YOUR SUPPORT IN 2017/18 WE FUNDED:

220 Pieces of Equipment

Specialized Bikes • Communication iPads • Chill-Out Chairs • Walkers
Lightweight Wheelchairs • Sports Wheelchairs • Adapted Shoes

LIFE Programs

Cooking Clubs • Summer Camp • Swimming Days
Boccia Ball • Music Therapy • Fall Festival • Modified Yoga
Bike Days • Saturday Night for Teens
Gardening and Compost Program • Sport Development Program

Support for Clinical Services at Rehabilitation Centre for Children

Feeding Clinic • Prosthetics and Orthotics • Assistive Technology Clinic

W.A. Laddie Hutchison Bike Clinic

Specialized Communication Resources for Children Department

Adapted Books Library • Communication Equipment • Programs and Services

Research

A part-time research coordinator position, focused on enhancing care and evaluating barriers that restrict inclusion of children living with disabilities



Five-year-old Tihuk Kimanivong tests out his new “Wild Thing” at A Night of Miracles gala. The custom-built car, created at the Rehabilitation Centre for Children, is the first of its kind in Manitoba and is critical for early childhood development, social interaction and participation.

OUR IMPACT

TIHUK'S STORY

A FAMILY GAINS INDEPENDENCE THROUGH SPECIALIZED SERVICES AND CUSTOM EQUIPMENT

Written by Sumi Kimanivong

Mom of 2017 Children's Rehabilitation Foundation Child Ambassador, Tihuk

The best way for me to illustrate what the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation and the Rehabilitation Centre for Children have done for our family is to give you a little glimpse into what it's like for Tihuk (Huk) to visit the centre:

“Mom is driving my younger sister Suzu and I to another appointment. This one is at a place I don't mind going to. As we're turning into the parking lot I see the building where I love to play and visit friends! I start dancing in my seat. I'm so excited! Suzu yells out “There's Chris! There's Chris!”

Chris is the executive director of the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation. Mom opens the window and Suzu is screaming “Chris! Chris!” She almost drops her coffee she's so startled! Mom and I can't stop laughing. Chris comes over and she says we just made her morning. I start to blush.

We park right up front and go into the centre. Right away I see my pictures on the huge TVs on the wall. I make sure to show mom. She is so proud of me and takes ANOTHER

picture. When we go upstairs and tell the nice ladies at the front desk that we're here, I see my photo up on their wall and it makes me smile.

Today I'm seeing Julie and Matt in the Mechanical Design and Services department. The team has been working on something really special for me: A car called the “Wild Thing” that I can drive! I've never had the chance before. I am really excited to drive it. They bring it out, strap me in and off I go! I drive around the waiting room, open the door, drive down the ramp, into a couple walls and to the offices. I like to show off my new wheels. This is a really fun morning. I can't wait to

“The equipment we've received made what we thought was impossible, possible.”

come back.”

As you can see, going to the centre isn't like any other appointment. Rather than some of our other appointments—where it can be more of a struggle and almost always draining—it feels like we're going to see our friends and we all leave feeling good. Huk always enjoys going there. We all like going there, including his little sister Suzu. It makes life a lot

easier and nicer for the whole family.

Looking back from our first visit, I can't even count the number of pieces of equipment the foundation has provided for Huk. Every day we use a handful of pieces of equipment that help Huk with his mobility, strength and independence.

It changes how we tackle each day. The equipment we've received made what we thought was impossible, possible! Thanks to his pediatric wheelchair, I can walk him to school comfortably and safely. Thanks to his walker, Huk can walk from his homeroom to music class. Thanks to his specialized bike, we can go for rides and he can proudly show off his wheels and ring his bell for smiles.

We take the small things for granted because they aren't tremendous challenges to most of us. Having a child with a disability brings everything in your world into question and uncertainty. We would be at a loss as where to start if we didn't have the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation and the Rehabilitation Centre for Children in our lives to help us.

OUR IMPACT

FORGING FRIENDSHIPS

SATURDAY NIGHT FOR TEENS PROVIDES A FUN AND INCLUSIVE SPACE FOR YOUTH TO MAKE MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS

It's Saturday night at the Rehabilitation Centre for Children—clinics are closed and offices are completely still. But one corner of the building is buzzing, and the excitement can be heard ringing throughout the hallways.

A group of about a dozen teens are busy prepping ingredients to make homemade pizzas, while another handful sit around a nearby table crafting colourful key chains.

"It gets loud sometimes, but that's okay," says 13-year-old Ellie Boggs.

She is talking about Saturday Night for Teens, a program run at the Rehabilitation Centre for Children.

The program is best described as a fun hang-out with friends. A group of about 15 youth meet every month at the centre where they cook dinner, play cards, do crafts, and a whole variety of other activities.

"Out of 500 students at Ellie's middle school, she is only one of two kids who use a wheelchair," explains Ellie's mom, Chrystie Kroeker Boggs. "While this isn't normally a big deal,

"It is comforting for her to hang out with peers who understand some of the unique struggles she has because of her disability"

and she has great friends who include her in every activity, Ellie also really appreciates the times when she can hang out with kids who are like her. It is comforting for her to hang out with peers who understand some of the unique struggles she has because of her disability. These Saturday nights are the time when no one even notices her wheelchair."

Saturday Night for Teens is part of the Rehabilitation Centre for Children's LIFE (Leisure in Fun Environments) program, which is entirely funded by the Children's

Rehabilitation Foundation. The LIFE program provides a wide-range of activities, from cooking clubs to music therapy classes, everything is focused on inclusion and ability.

"For parents raising children with special needs, these opportunities can be hard to find," says Carol Kehler, a physiotherapist with the Rehabilitation Centre for Children. "Many of the youth who attend Saturday Night for Teens are not able to go out on their own or make plans with their friends. We are able to provide a parent-free zone, where teens can be teens and hang out in a fun and supportive environment."

Your donations made it possible for 60 teenagers to attend Saturday Night for Teens and make meaningful friendships this past year.

"I have lots of friends here. It's a lot of fun," Ellie says. And if the noise ringing through the hallway is any indication, there's lots of that happening here.



Ellie Boggs (left) and Recreation Therapist, Maya Kirstein, at Saturday Night for Teens. Your generosity made it possible for 60 youth to attend the program in 2017/18.

RESEARCH

Research and evaluation at the Rehabilitation Centre for Children supports clinicians in providing the best possible care for our children, youth, and families. The Research Development Coordinator—a position entirely funded by Children’s Rehabilitation Foundation—collaborates with clinicians to evaluate their programs, design and conduct research, and supports the development of knowledge translation resources. All of this would not be possible if it were not for the generous support of donors like you.

Jessie Shea
Research Development Coordinator
Rehabilitation Centre for Children

Evaluating the Rehabilitation Centre for Children’s programs and services helps clinicians and managers learn what is working well and what can be improved, in order to best meet the needs of our clients and families. For example, the Neuromuscular Clinic was evaluated to assess how the reorganization of the Clinic as part of the move to SSCY Centre in 2016 has impacted service. Results showed there has been an increase in the number of clients being followed by both Cardiology and Respiriology in accordance with the Muscular Dystrophy International Care Guidelines. The Clinic is using these results and suggestions provided in the evaluation to further improve services provided.

By helping clinicians design and conduct research that is specific to services they provide, and that addresses a need they see for their clients, Rehabilitation Centre for Children programs are better able to deliver improved services and new technologies. For example, a team led by the Director of Prosthetics & Orthotics received funding from the Children’s Rehabilitation Foundation’s Leslie Barker Research Fund to develop and test a new prosthetic wrist unit. This new device will provide a greater range of motion, be stronger during use by children, and be easier to use than currently available commercial wrist units. This new device will

lead to increased function, activity participation, and quality of life for our clients who use upper extremity prostheses.

Research also includes learning more about the children and youth we serve, and how to better meet their needs. One such project currently underway is a chart review to determine the prevalence of Cerebral Palsy in Manitoba and to assess how the population is changing over time. The Director of Rehabilitation Services and the Research Coordinator received funding from the Cerebral Palsy Association of Manitoba Research Fund to conduct this project. Results will be used to help ensure children and youth are able to receive all the appropriate services that are available.

Another intersection of research and clinical practice is evaluating and using best clinical evidence to ensure the Rehabilitation Centre for Children clinicians are providing care that is proven to be effective and safe. The Research Coordinator is part of an interdisciplinary working group developing an Evidence Based Care Guideline for the Provision of Orthotics for Children with Hypotonia. This Guideline will provide a protocol for the prescription of orthotics for children with low muscle tone to assist with foot positioning, pain, movement, walking, and function. Having this Guideline will ensure all eligible clients receive the same standard of care that is based on current clinical research evidence.

Throughout the year, the Research Coordinator helps clinicians develop resources such as handouts, posters, and presentations, to share clinical evidence, clinician advice, and research results with clients, families, and other clinicians. Providing information in an accessible way promotes communication between clinicians and families. As a SSCY Centre-wide knowledge translation project, the coordinator facilitated a new monthly learning series called Breakfast at SSCY. These open sessions are providing an opportunity to learn about a variety of topics relevant to SSCY Network programs.

The Research Coordinator also acts as the SSCY Centre Research Coordinator, which involves supporting the SSCY Centre Research & Evaluation Committee and reviewing applications for research access at SSCY Centre. Six projects have been approved for research access in the past year. These projects are from both SSCY Centre clinicians and external researchers, and are looking into a variety of clinical topics.

These are just some highlights from projects over the past year. Although every project is different, the Research Coordinator is always working toward helping clinicians learn more about issues important to our clients and families, improve our programs and services, and provide the best care possible, in order to increase quality of life for our children, youth and families.

FUNDRAISING

From the local chef who donated proceeds from her cookbook, to the siblings who sold pumpkins grown on their grandparents' farm, to a group of university students who pushed a bed 221 kilometres across Manitoba, we are blown away by the support and dedication of our community.



WE WERE AWARDED \$ 191,340 IN GRANTS FROM 16 LOCAL AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, PARTNERED WITH 30 COMMUNITY-ORGANIZED FUNDRAISERS, AND HELD SOME OF OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL EVENTS TO HELP US SURPASS \$1.5-MILLION IN REVENUE
HERE ARE SOME OF OUR FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

\$280,000 Major Gift from W.A. Laddie Hutchinson
This year the foundation received its largest single donation. W.A. Laddie Hutchinson's generosity will allow technicians at Rehabilitation Centre for Children to design, modify and build hundreds of bikes for years to come for children living with disabilities.

\$124,130 A Night of Miracles Gala
Presented by Guardian and I.D.A
Independently Owned & Operated Pharmacies
More than 500 guests packed into RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg for our annual gala. Through our silent and live auction, we were able to raise funds to purchase some of our most-requested pieces of specialized equipment for children.

\$123,860 RBC Cruisin'
Down the Crescent
On Sunday, June 11, over one thousand community members walked, biked and jogged down Wellington Crescent in support of CRF. Many of the participants were families who received bikes and other specialized equipment from the foundation.

\$117,000 Tim Hortons
Smile Cookie Week
From September 11 to 17, every dollar from cookie sales at select Winnipeg Tim Hortons was donated to the foundation.

\$98,320 One Child's Dream
Our annual holiday mail-out campaign, which shared the story of our 2017 Child Ambassador Tihuk, was sent out to over four thousand homes and businesses.

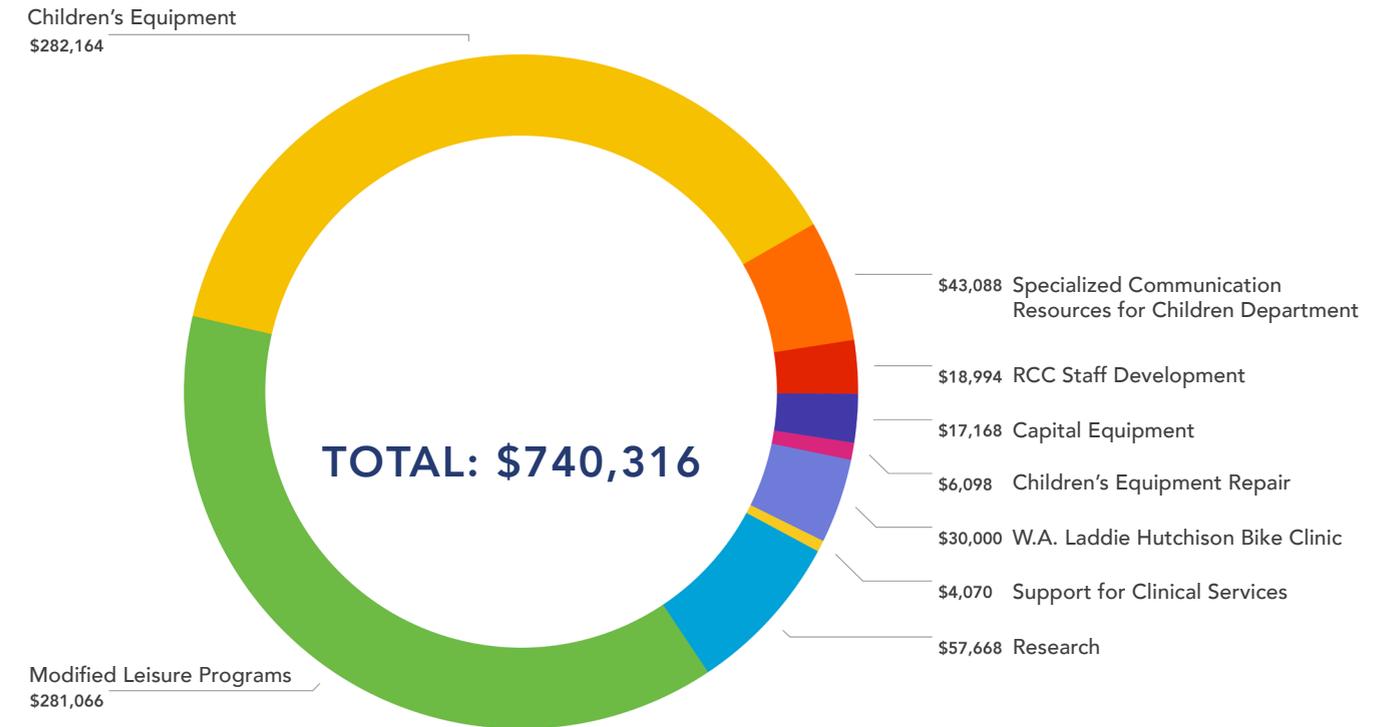
\$90,940 Canadian Tire Regent
Starkids Golf Tournament
Our 19th annual tournament was our most successful to date, allowing us to continue to fund the Rehabilitation Centre for Children's Specialized Communication Resources for Children department.

\$29,150 Ride for Children's
Rehabilitation Foundation
This February the annual snowmobile adventure was held in Kenora, Ontario. Where riders hit the trails and surpassed the \$1-million raised for the foundation.

These numbers are after expenses and reflect the total amount of money spent towards supporting the foundation's mission

ALLOCATIONS

Through your generosity in 2017/18 we were able to allocate more than \$740,000 towards specialized equipment, modified leisure programs, staff education and research. Every dollar spent gives children the opportunity to reach their full potential!



Dr. Archie Cooper
 Allocations Committee Chair
 Children's Rehabilitation Foundation

The Allocations Committee receives, reviews and recommends to the Board of Directors requests for funding for research, programs, education, and assistive technology. The Allocations Committee goals for 2017/18 were:

- learn more about the areas/ programs that receive funding from the foundation

- continue to refine the policy and procedures for iPads
- set a policy for additions and/ or repairs to wheelchairs
- review annual request for funding made to the foundation by the Rehabilitation Centre for Children
- continue to provide advice on out-of-the-ordinary requests to

the foundation for funding

- review letters of intent for submission of research projects to the Leslie Barker Fund

The 2017/18 Allocations Committee included Barb Borton, Ruby Duxbury, Julie Huish, Dave Reader, Tracy Sachvie, Chris Schollenberg (ex officio) and Archie Cooper (Chair).

"LIKE BRANCHES ON A TREE
WE ALL GROW IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS
YET OUR ROOTS REMAIN AS ONE"

I often struggle as to what to write and how to write what I feel, but when I read the above quote an "aha!" moment came to me. Children's Rehabilitation Foundation is very much like the branches on the tree. Our team is about the growth on the branches and how we move in many different directions; however, we remain as one.

Christine Schollenberg
Executive Director
Children's Rehabilitation Foundation

How did this all start? By planting the seed! This is very common term in stewardship and fundraising. We talk about planting the seed and we watch it grow and flourish into a beautiful tree with many strong branches.

Often times it takes a little bit for the seed to nurture, and other times it starts to seed right away. You watch it develop from a seed to a small trunk on the tree, and the branches forming. Beautiful to watch and you have the opportunity to feel the excitement, and you are a part of this growth and evolution of the roots.

With the abundance of the rich soil your seeds grow and form the colorful branches vibrant with volunteers, bountiful board members, gracious grantors, fabulous funders, all with a common goal to assist in the growth of the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation. None of this happens

with ease. Relationships must be nourished, process must be managed, and all the gardeners must have the same goal.

As the Executive Director of the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation it is my responsibility to find ways to help our tree grow and prosper, and to watch the branches take shape.

Over the past eight years as executive director I have seen much growth in the foundation. This past year our branches had strong growth, we watched our events blossom, new events were grown, and community-organized fundraisers were added onto the branches. However, we always need help in planting of the seeds.

We see strength in our branches, with our vibrant volunteers supporting the events. Growth came in many ways this past year: babies were born and new staff was hired. Growth put our specialized equipment requests at an all-time high. Our LIFE programs continue to be ever popular with our clients, and have

seen much growth with increased numbers in attendance.

In order to have growth you need the strong roots. These are our staff. They work passionately to nurture, and grow the events and keep our awareness level thriving.

2018-2019 will be about growth and lively new branches with are volunteers, funders, and grantors. We have to remember to keep watering the tree, so our roots remain as one!

Now a thought occurred to me, how wonderful it would be to have a surplus of branches flourishing in many directions that you never need to worry about your roots, as they will always be looked after. When someone chooses to donate to the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation to assist with the growth of our trees we are eternally grateful, for their commitment of our mission so we can flourish and multiply.

After all my grandmother always told me "things grow better with love!"



THANK YOU

TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING DAYS BRIGHTER
FOR CHILDREN LIVING WITH DISABILITIES



Children's
Rehabilitation
Foundation™