



**Your  
Generosity  
Changed lives**



**Children's  
Rehabilitation  
Foundation™**

2021-2022 Donor Impact Report



# You continued to be their champion

The phrase “change is the only constant in life” is a very apropos description of the past year. While life has returned to a bit more of pre-pandemic normal, lingering effects of the global health crisis remain. This has been coupled with political and economic issues that have touched us all in various ways.

Throughout all the uncertainty you faced as individuals and organizations, you remained steadfast in your support of children and youth. You gave generously so we could work to rebuild our investment in vital Rehabilitation Centre for Children programming. You donated so we could fund the hundreds of requests we received for specialized equipment and leading-edge technology. You contributed so we could support pediatric rehabilitation research taking place right here in Manitoba. Thanks to you, nearly \$1.3 million was raised for this very worthy cause.

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During the past year, the Foundation has dealt with its own change. As we began this fiscal year, we transitioned Executive Directors. At the end of June, I completed my term as chair. It's been a privilege to lead this organization and to see firsthand the impact of your kindness and generosity.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are pleased to share our Donor Impact Report for the year ending March 31, 2022. We look forward to the organization continuing to thrive and are grateful today and always for you being champions of children.

### **Peter Garagan**

Chair, Board of Directors

### **Jane Kidd-Hantscher**

Executive Director, Children's Rehabilitation Foundation

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# Your contributions helped them move and develop

**Your generosity supported children receiving the adapted equipment they need to help improve their independence and ability to function in their day to day lives.**

Imagine if your child was unable to sit like other children or didn't start moving when their cousins or friends started moving. Your gifts allow for specialized devices and assistive technology, to promote active movement to give children the opportunity to learn new skills and encourage development. It is because of your support they can reach milestones with their peers and interact within their environment.

The Mechanical Design & Services Department of the Rehabilitation Centre for Children designs and builds different types of innovative assistive technology. This includes items such as wheelchairs, standers, walkers, specialized seating and custom devices to promote participation.

The Assistive Technology team is creative and seeks out solutions for youth and their families. The equipment they provide gives the ability to fish with family, bike with friends or open the door to their home. They are able to do so thanks to your investment.

**Your help this past year made the difference between dependence and independence.**



**Technology**

Innovation you support is changing lives and providing independence to children who otherwise would need greater assistance to do everyday things.

Your generosity fostered the opportunity for youth to use new technology advancements.

# Your Gifts Enriched Their Lives

**Your generosity makes the LIFE Program (Leisure in Fun Environments) possible.**

Thanks to your support, LIFE provides opportunities to children and youth with disabilities to engage with friends and learn new life skills. Jacoby and Koby are two grateful program participants.

Jacoby, a delightful ten-year-old, has attended the Rehabilitation Centre for Children since he was two years old. The Centre has been instrumental in increasing his independence over the years in many ways, including providing him with various adapted equipment items.

He was first introduced to the LIFE Program's Fun and Sun Summer camp in 2020. He participates in all the LIFE activities he can. Jacoby loves being with friends and staff while trying new things like Bocce, Zumba and yoga. The adapted activities enable him to participate fully as his abilities allow. **Your investment has contributed to his communication development, using his imagination and independence.**

"Since Jacoby started with the LIFE program, we have seen an increase in his social skills along with the ability to handle situations he hasn't been used to before. He has made new friends and enjoys being around everyone. The program is so valuable and allows him to be like everyone else! LIFE takes the time to schedule events to meet everyone's ABILITIES and we love being a part of this group!"

- Vanessa, mother



Koby is a charming LIFE participant who loves socializing and sharing his passions with his peers. He has been attending programs for several years, prior to and during COVID. His favourite program is Saturday Night for Teens.

Koby can sometimes be reluctant to try new activities. However, when his mom suggested the LIFE program's pumpkin carving and paint nights, he was open to trying it all! **It is because of your support he has these activities as options.**



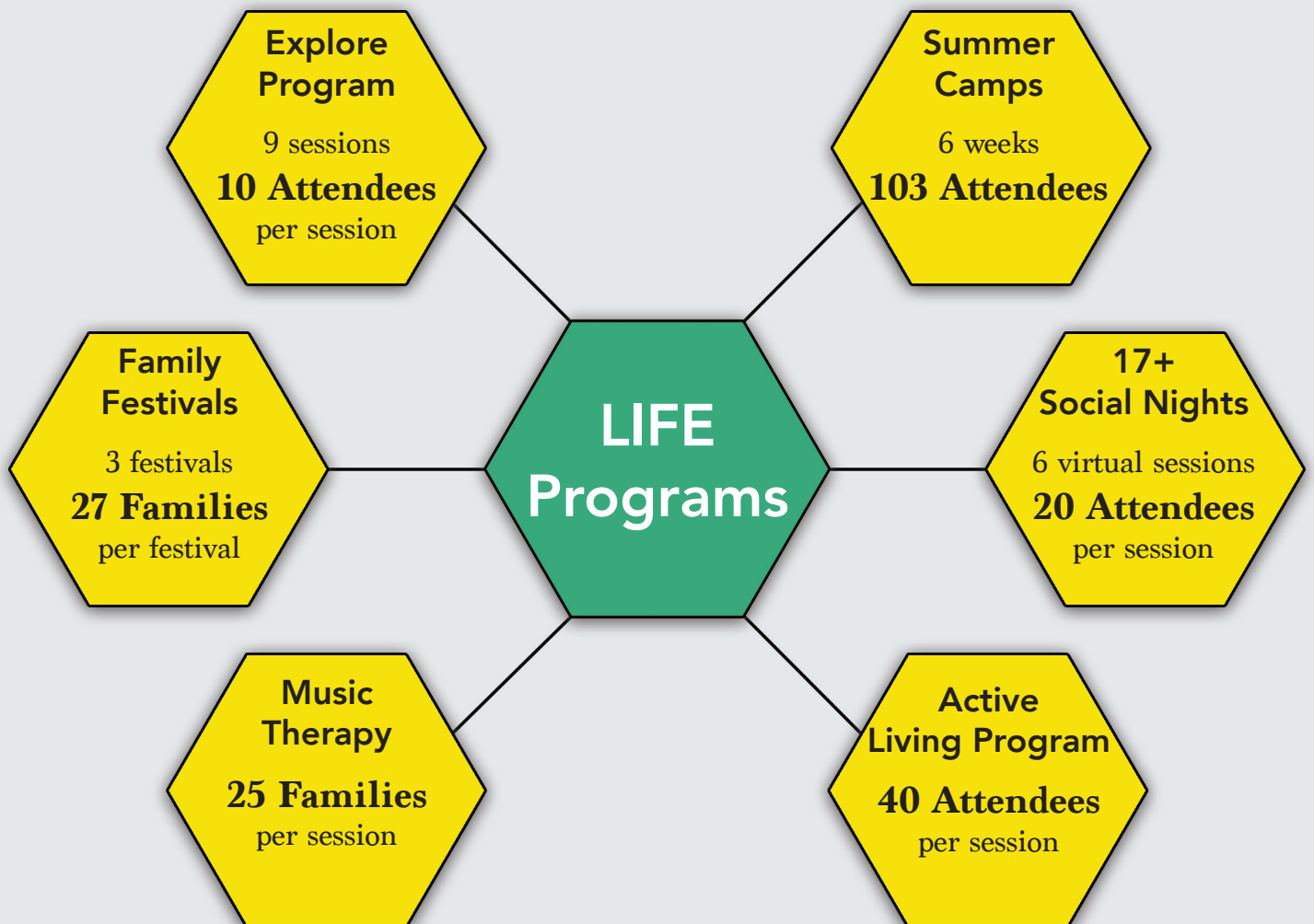
During this past year, LIFE programming was delivered as a hybrid of in-person and virtual. Staying connected with the participants during the pandemic has been very important, particularly given the social isolation they may already have experienced.

Both Koby and Jacoby's families are thankful for your investment in the LIFE Program. It has allowed their boys to make friends in fun and safe environments. Koby is aging out of the program, however the life skills and independence he has gained will be invaluable going forward.

**Thanks to your generous donations, outcomes Jacoby and Koby's families never hoped for are now realities.**



## You fund diverse and valuable programs



# Donors support accessibility and freedom

Braelynn is a vibrant six-year-old with an infectious smile. Born with a condition which impacts her strength and mobility, she requires equipment to assist with accessibility.

Thanks to donor-directed funding, Braelynn received Smart Home technology this past year. This technology



is becoming increasingly prevalent in the general population and children as young as four-years-old can benefit from it. The Smart Home technology assists children with physical disabilities like cerebral palsy, limb difference, muscular dystrophy and conditions that affect children's movement and strength.

"One of our goals since Braelynn's diagnosis has been to make everything for her as accessible as possible so she can be independent, which in turn will help foster her self-confidence as she grows up. With the generous support we have received, we have been able to take another step in making our home accessible. She loves operating the door with our Amazon Alexa, which is so easy for her to use."

-Maylia Bodman, mother

Introducing Smart Home technology early shows children and youth they can do things on their own. This leads to an enhanced quality of life and promotes improved mental health.

## Thank you from the Rehabilitation Centre for Children

As the Executive Director of the Rehabilitation Centre for Children, I am fully committed to our vision that all children and youth will have the opportunity to realize and achieve their full potential.

What really stands out to me is how much your contributions as donors to the Foundation this past year helped kids achieve their potential and allowed them to do so in environments that are life giving and fun.

There is no aspect of the Centre your donations have not touched. From the LIFE Program to play areas to the Family Resource Centre. Sophisticated equipment in rehabilitation engineering to enhance communication, innovative assistive technologies and so much more. **You brighten the days of kids and families who often lead pretty complicated lives.**

Donor dollars dedicated to research, staff education and innovative equipment have helped ensure we are a Centre of Excellence in pediatric rehabilitation, providing children in Manitoba with access to leading-edge advancements in therapy and technologies.

For all your generosity, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation. Please know the legacy you've left here will make life better for children and families in Manitoba for many years to come.

**Cheryl Susinski**

Executive Director, Rehabilitation Centre for Children

# Iyad is so thankful to you

Iyad has new possibilities because you helped. His custom myoelectric hand will allow him to manage everyday tasks previously found difficult. As he becomes more adept at manipulating the grip, it will give him the functionality to pick up a piece of paper, play cards and tie his shoe laces.

Iyad is an outgoing and fun loving 16-year-old who had limited independence and ability to try activities due to being born with a congenital limb difference of his hand.

Through your amazing contributions and support of Giving Tuesday last year, Iyad's journey to greater independence is a reality. As he becomes more and more proficient with his custom designed prosthetic device, the possibilities for Iyad to participate and be included in activities are now limitless.



## Giving youth increased mobility

Thanks to a generous donor dedicated gift, the Prosthetics and Orthotics team now has Dartfish, a video analysis software that allows clinicians to assess and analyze children with amputations.

"The ability for us to show kids the progress they are making is a big motivation for them. Dartfish lets us do that in a very quantitative, tangible way. In the long term, we can see that Dartfish will really help us hone in on specific areas of a treatment plan, in order to help these kids achieve all of their goals."

-Meghan Guglich, MSc., CP(c),  
Certified Prosthetist

Video is taken of children walking before they receive their new prosthetic device and after, as well as at each follow up appointment. The different instances of walking are analyzed and compared, resulting in changes to treatment plans along with accurate and precise adjustments to improve walking. The positive impact for children able to see their own progress is remarkable.



# You gave the gift of independence and voice

Your generous support gave children and youth the tools they need to have fun with their friends, enjoy quality time with family and share their stories with special people in their lives.

They are able to use their imagination to pretend they are on a race track as they speed around on their wheelchairs and bikes. You've given a voice to a child, which means they can share their stories of classroom adventures with their parents. With the adapted books available, parents are able to share classic fun tales that all children enjoy.

**Thank you for your life-altering donations.**



## Communication

Some children with disabilities are non-verbal. Support for them includes augmentative and alternative communication tools.

These tools include iPads with picture-to-speech apps, adapted books and picture-based learning activities.

Last year you gave the gift of voice by helping fund nearly 60 iPads and hundreds of adapted books.



## Mobility

Being able to move and get around on their own improves the quality of life of children and youth through independence, well-being and social interaction.

Your generosity funded 85 specialized bikes and other beneficial mobility equipment including wike trailers and cruisers.



# Your investment in research improves treatment

The Rehabilitation Centre for Children promotes excellence in the field of pediatric rehabilitation through hands-on research focused on enhancing care and evaluating barriers which restrict inclusion of children with disabilities.

Your donations support the talented multi-disciplinary team undertaking this leading-edge research. Your contributions fund research initiatives which help the Centre deliver the best care and assist clients and families in understanding their diagnoses.

Research outcomes provide improved quality of life for children and families requiring pediatric rehabilitation services. Your generosity toward research helps children and youth reach their full potential.

## 2021-2022 research project highlights

### **Addressing indirect and wider health impacts on families of children living with a disability.**

The pandemic has changed how children with disabilities receive care, including a greater focus on the use of virtual care. This research study was undertaken to understand how changing care practices during the pandemic affected families of children with disabilities and to hear from families and service providers what care should look like going forward. Based on the recommendations, a model of care is being developed for current times and future health care crises.

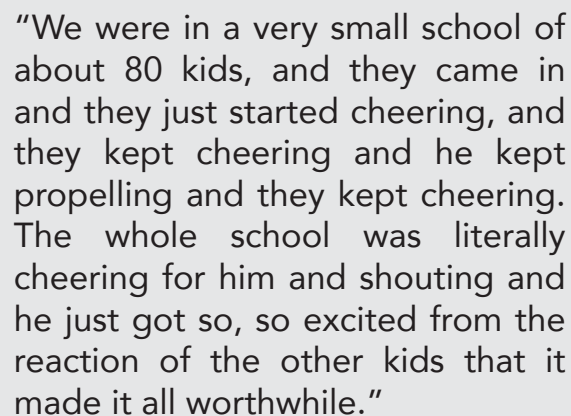
### **Children Using Adaptive Bicycles: Influence on Quality of Life and Social Participation.**

Adapted bicycles provide opportunities for many children with different abilities to ride a bicycle in ways that may not be possible with traditional bikes. The goal of this study is to understand the experiences of children who use adapted bicycles, and the influence adapted cycling has on their social connections and quality of life.

### **Concurrent use of transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) and constraint induced movement therapy in children with unilateral cerebral palsy.**

TMS is a safe non-invasive technique that stimulates the brain using repetitive magnetic pulses to enhance neuroplasticity. This would be the first study to see if children can benefit from combined TMS and constraint therapy in a regular clinical setting and could potentially change the way children with unilateral Cerebral Palsy are medically treated.

Aside from the impact this will have on treatment, this trial is also building collaboration amongst a broad range of clinicians. Rehabilitation Centre for Children therapists, Health Science Centre Neurosurgeons and researchers are broadening their relationship in our community.



“We were in a very small school of about 80 kids, and they came in and they just started cheering, and they kept cheering and he kept propelling and they kept cheering. The whole school was literally cheering for him and shouting and he just got so, so excited from the reaction of the other kids that it made it all worthwhile.”

- Parent of participant

# Your support of events was outstanding

Through the continued challenges and uncertainties of the pandemic, you participated in Foundation events with enthusiasm. Your efforts were tremendous and helped children and youth realize their dreams.



You contributed to the success of our second virtual Cruisin' event held June 2021. Thanks to your spirit, \$100,000 was raised. These funds are integral to children continuing to receive life changing equipment and programming. We are grateful to Presenting Sponsor Fettes Family Foundation and all our supporters for their generosity.



Support for the Starkids golf tournament continued despite not being able to gather in person again last year. An amazing \$75,000 was donated to be invested in the Specialized Communication Resources for Children Program and other Rehabilitation Centre for Children priorities. Children and youth are indebted to the amazing volunteer committee and Presenting Sponsor Canadian Tire.



You joined us as we made the most of the short window of opportunity for in-person social gatherings, holding A Night of Miracles in late October 2021. The magical evening honouring our 2021 Ambassador, Kyrie, raised an incredible \$115,000. Just over 200 guests gathered at Confusion Corner Food & Drink and Gusto North for a unique evening of great food and company, all

in support of children and youth living with disabilities. Our hearts are full reminiscing about your involvement and support.



# Your passion created many smiles

We are so fortunate to have you - amazing community champions - in the corners of the children we support. Through the highs and lows of the past year, your commitment remained and we are so grateful.

## Tim Horton's Smile Cookie Campaign

We are so grateful for our tremendous partnership with Tim Hortons and to be the charity of choice for the Smile Cookie Campaign.

You helped us set a new record for cookie sales in Winnipeg and the surrounding areas! \$203,000... yes, \$203,000 was raised during one week in September. We received 70 per cent of the sales last year, \$142,000.

The impact of these funds on young lives is immeasurable. Thank you to Tim Hortons and all of you for getting behind this cause!



## FWS Employee Giving

Brielle is a bubbly three-year-old who is always ready to give hugs and high-fives. She is developing her language skills with the help of a communication iPad, which was made possible through the FWS Group of Companies workplace giving campaign. Through 50/50 raffles, payroll deductions and matching donations, employees raised over \$31,000.

**“With their support, this added device and tool will now be able to provide an additional resource to continue to help Brielle learn to communicate,”** said her parents.

**Do you want to harness your creativity and passion to give back?  
Contact [monique@crf.mb.ca](mailto:monique@crf.mb.ca) to talk about hosting a community event.**

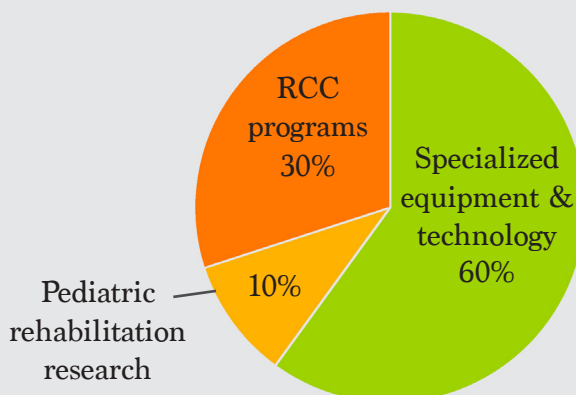
## Kyrie, you are so amazing!

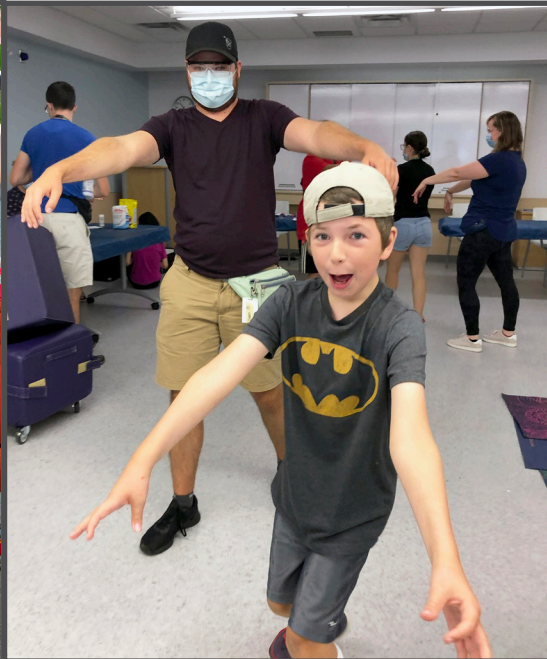
Our heartfelt appreciation to our 2021/2022 ambassador, Kyrie, and her family.

You inspire us!



## Your donor dollars at work





# Thank You!



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