

It's About Ability!

Summer 2017

A Lasting Tribute for Robin Shaw

Monica Carter was watching TV with her son Robin when a news story came on about a child receiving a specialized bike.

"He quietly asked me if he could have something like that," Monica remembers. "Inside, I was screaming 'Yes! Yes! Yes!' because he had quite literally never asked for anything before."

She restrained her excitement, not wanting to get Robin's hopes up. Robin lived with chronic lung disease and needed a bike that would support his ventilator, oxygen, emergency bag and suction machine.

It wasn't long after speaking to Robin's physiotherapist at the Rehabilitation Centre for Children (RCC) that the family found out the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation (CRF) would be giving him the bike he had asked for. The bike was funded by a donation from the



Monica Carter with a 2007 newspaper article about her son Robin and his specialized bike. Monica is fundraising to purchase a bike for another child in Robin's memory.

Manitoba Street Rod Association.

"He could be in charge of propelling himself (with a little help from myself, a nurse or a sibling) wherever we were going, which could be Dairy Queen, the library, or just around the neighbourhood."

Robin and the family also made sure to take an annual bike ride down Wellington Crescent for the foundation's RBC Cruisin' Down the Crescent fundraiser.

"When he could do something that would benefit others by his experiences, he was more than willing to help," says Monica.

Shortly before his high school graduation, Robin started having serious lung issues.

"It was at this time that he found out that his diagnosis was now end-stage lung disease."

Continue reading on page 2...

...Continued from page 1

Still, Robin went on to complete his first year at the University of Winnipeg, studying criminal justice while beginning the process of lung transplant assessment.

“On August 2, 2016, our lives changed irrevocably when Robin collapsed at home and began what would be his final hospitalization.”

Robin passed away in the early morning of October 16, 2016.

“Planning a celebration of life was about the last thing on my mind at the time. Although, we did know, as a family,

that we wanted to do something tangible to honour his memory.”

And so a GoFundMe campaign was started. “We decided to do

something that celebrated Robin as a member of the community,” Monica says about the online fundraising campaign, which she hopes will



Robin Shaw (left) with his twin brother Logan Shaw (right) in 2007, shortly after receiving his specialized bike from the Children’s Rehabilitation Foundation.

raise enough money to purchase a specialized bike for another child.

“That was really who he was and we thought that by funding a bike

we would be giving some of that same ability to be out and part of their community,” she says. “CRF and RCC were fundamental in helping Robin to have some wonderful community involvement and we hope this will happen for the recipient of the new bike.”

The family’s GoFundMe campaign, which they’ve called *A Lasting Tribute to Robin K. Shaw*, is just over halfway to the \$5,000 goal.

“The most important thing I want to say about Robin is that he loved life. He did not spend time bemoaning his diagnosis, he just wanted to get out there and live,” Monica says. “Robin felt

that no one should be defined by their disability. I think if he were here he would say ‘just be a good person and do good things.’”

Volunteer Profile: Heather Martin-Brown

As a physiotherapist with the Rehabilitation Centre for Children (RCC) and SMD Outreach Therapy Program, Heather Martin-Brown sees firsthand how beneficial Children’s Rehabilitation Foundation (CRF) is to the children and families she works with.

That’s why she decided to take on her first volunteer role with the foundation at 2016’s RBC Cruisin’ Down the Crescent.

“My favourite part of volunteering is seeing the children and families that I have worked with in the past riding their bikes at RBC Cruisin’ Down

the Crescent,” she says. “It brings back memories of when they first sat on their bike funded by CRF!”

Martin-Brown enjoys volunteering alongside her family. This past year her 16-year-old daughter’s volunteering role evolved into her first summer job as a camp counselor at CRF’s Sun and Fun Summer Camp.

Her advice for those who are thinking about volunteering for the first time?

“Just do it once, and you will be hooked,” she says.” As therapists, volunteering makes writing funding applications for equipment even more meaningful.”



CRF volunteer Heather Martin-Brown (right) with her husband Doug Brown (middle) and her dad Jack Martin (left) at RBC Cruisin’ Down the Crescent June 11, 2017.

If you’re interested in volunteering for CRF, please call (204) 258-6707.

Upcoming Events

RBC Cruisin' Down the Crescent Raises \$175,000!

On Sunday, June 11, close to one thousand community members came out to support the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation at its 21st annual RBC Cruisin' Down the Crescent.

Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers and everyone who fundraised for the event! You are helping us make a difference in childrens' lives.



2017 Parade Marshall, Tihuk, and his family lead the way down Wellington Crescent.



(Left) Participants walked, jogged and biked the four kilometre Wellington Crescent route.



(Right) The 2017 RBC Cruisin' Down the Crescent Organizing Committee along with the 2017 Parade Marshall family.

Photos by Ebonie Klassen Photography

ROAD TO REHAB CYCLE TOUR AUGUST 12, 2017

Get your bikes ready! Road to Rehab is back! This pledge-based fundraiser has raised more than \$200,000 for the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation. Call our office at (204) 258-6701 for more information!

Ride starts at One Great City Brew Co,

FABULOUS 50S SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2017

The Manitoba Ford Club of Manitoba presents its 23rd annual Fabulous 50s Flashback Weekend. The weekend includes live music, a cruise night and free car show. Look out for our volunteers selling 50/50 tickets! For more information visit fabulous50sford.com.

Garden City Shopping Centre

TIM HORTONS SMILE COOKIE WEEK SEPT 11-17, 2017

Make sure to stop by any Winnipeg Tim Hortons location and purchase a smile cookie! Your full \$1 will come to CRF.

MSRA TOY RUN SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

The Manitoba Street Rod Association (MSRA) presents the 25th Annual Toy Run in support of CRF. Bring a new, unwrapped toy for entry and check out some cool cars!

*Canada Revenue Agency
66 Stapon Road Winnipeg, MB*

FOR FULL DETAILS ON OUR
UPCOMING EVENTS VISIT
CRF.MB.CA

Thoughtful Thank You

Thank you so much for the generous gift of funding my speech generating device. This device enables me to communicate my wants, needs and feelings with my friends, teachers and any other people I am with. My device also assists me with my schoolwork and core skill building. Without this device I am not able to let others know what I want to say. You have helped me have a "voice!"

- Timothy

On June 21st, the Manitoba Hotel Association held their annual golf tournament at Bel Acres Golf and Country Club. An amazing \$2,880 was raised for the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation. Thank you for your incredibly generous support!



A Caring
Community

Run for
Wishes!

Shanon and Alayna, along with their families, received their brand new custom bikes at the Headingly Fire Department's Run for Wishes on May 27th. Thank you to the organizers and everyone who attended.



 **Children's Rehabilitation Foundation™**

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