

Care FOR Kids

*your
impact*



SPRING 2020

Catch up with our 2019 ambassador, Lilly

Content

Message from Rosie	2
Catch up with Lilly	3
Sepsis research that aims to save lives	4
Specialist equipment providing critical care	5
Telethon is back	6
Sick kids meet their heroes	7
Ron is a Wonder Worker	8

Message from Rosie

I've been honoured to see the kindness and generosity of our supporters through the uncertain and challenging time of the COVID-19 pandemic. You are truly remarkable.

Thank you so much for working wonders for sick kids when they really need it. I hope these stories show you just a little of what you're helping to achieve every day.

A little while ago we introduced you to Lilly, who started her medical journey when she was just ten days old. Lilly is now six and I'm so pleased to tell you how well she is doing and what a difference our patient and family support services have made to her and her family. These services are made possible by you.

You have also helped to invest in life changing equipment and ground-breaking research, including Australia's first paediatric sepsis study. Sepsis is a leading cause of death and disability in children, and this study aims to reduce the time it takes to diagnose sepsis, which means children can be treated more quickly.



This year has seen extra tough times for sick kids in hospital due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with reduced entertainment services and strict visitor restrictions. We've had to quickly find new ways to deliver vital services and keep working wonders. Through it all, you've been there with us, helping to keep kids smiling.

As you read this report, I hope it inspires you like it inspired me, to see how much we can achieve together for sick kids.

Rosie Simpson
Chief Executive Officer
Children's Hospital Foundation

Lilly's smile brightens the darkest day!

You may remember lovely little Lilly, who has a passion for singing and dancing, and has faced more medical procedures in her six years than most adults ever have. And yet her smile still brightens the darkest day.

Thanks to your amazing support, Lilly has made fantastic progress in the past 12 months. With intensive therapy she has learned to swim more independently, she is learning to write her name and she has made some special friends at school. Lilly's mum, Kimberley is so pleased with each new milestone, because just a few years ago she was worried that Lilly might not live to reach them.

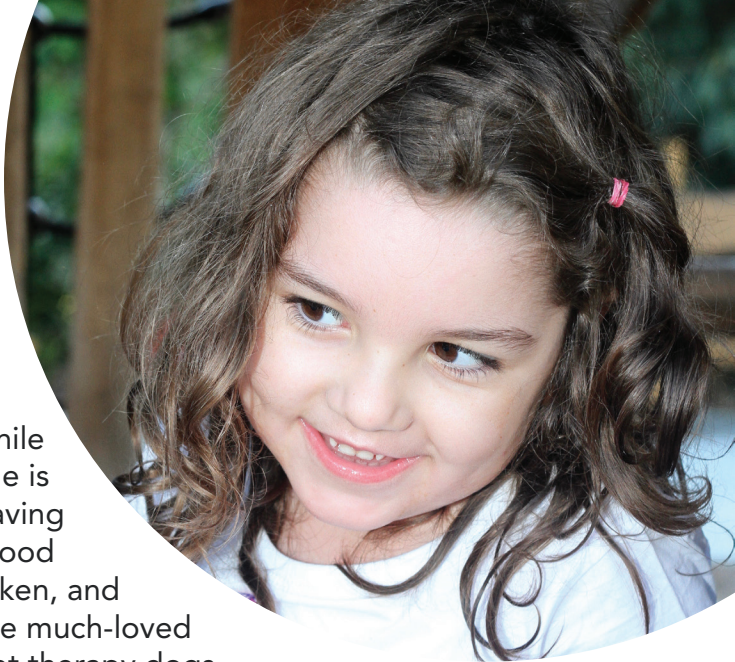
At just 10 days old Lilly became unsettled and stopped feeding, so her concerned mum took her to the local hospital. Lilly had a seizure and just 30 mins later, she was fighting for her life.

"When she needed to be resuscitated and placed on life support, time just froze. I didn't feel anything, I didn't know what was going to happen."

Kimberley

Lilly was diagnosed with a rare auto-immune disease, epilepsy, severe anxiety, bronchiectasis and parechovirus.

Six years and many hospital visits later, Lilly still bursts through the doors of Queensland Children's Hospital with a smile on her face. Kimberley puts this down to the support they've received from the Children's Hospital Foundation. Our cheerful volunteers bring reassurance and break up dull days with games and activities. Then there's the services supported by the Foundation – music therapists sing to Lilly



while she is having blood taken, and the much-loved pet therapy dogs come by, especially when she is in an isolation room and can't play with other kids.

"The Foundation staff have been our support since the beginning, especially during the very hard times."

"The events at the hospital have all created very special memories for us and are a safe environment for children with a weak immune system. The staff go to amazing lengths organising food, special guests and animals, activities and entertainment" added Kimberley.

"We are also immensely grateful to the Foundation for funding research into new ways of diagnosing and treating parechovirus. Parechovirus has not been widely researched, it is extremely rare and sadly at the moment there is no cure" said Kimberley.

Your support means we can keep providing the distraction and support services that mean so much to Lilly and Kimberley. Thank you for giving hope that one day researchers will find treatments or even cures for conditions which devastate young lives.

*Photo
Lilly, 6 years, parechovirus*

Exciting research into sepsis aims to save lives

You're helping to fund urgently needed research into paediatric sepsis, which aims to save lives.

Sepsis is a leading cause of death and disability in children. It occurs when the body's response to infection becomes so severe that organs start shutting down. The recognition of sepsis can be challenging and there is an urgent need for improved diagnostic tests.



This three-year study led by Dr Luregn Schlapbach will investigate how different genes in the body are activated or deactivated

during a sepsis infection. The goal is to reduce the time it takes to diagnose the life-threatening condition. Paediatric intensive care teams from across Australia are invited to participate.

This paediatric sepsis study is the first of its kind in Australia and could make a huge difference for kids like William.

Baby William was having trouble breathing and had to be airlifted from Toowoomba to Brisbane. William developed sepsis and his condition deteriorated very fast. The family were informed that he would need to be placed on an ECMO machine for three days. The ECMO machine kept him alive by helping his little heart and lungs to work. William stayed in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at the Queensland Children's Hospital for three weeks.



Before William developed sepsis, his family knew very little about the condition. Sepsis is fast to develop and difficult to diagnose so this makes the ordeal terrifying. They said it was a hard-hitting reality to be faced with.

"This research will help so many families like ours and hopefully save lives. "

Brianna, William's mum

Brianna says, "I have read many stories about families not realising what sepsis is, and how fast it can take hold. I think anything that helps spread awareness and works towards a cure can only be a good thing."

By helping to fund this vital research, you're working wonders for sick kids like William - and their families.

Please [click here](#) to watch Dr Luregn Schlapbach talk about the sepsis research.

Photo

Left Dr Luregn Schlapbach

Above William, 1 year, sepsis

Specialist equipment YOU helped to fund provides critical support for kids like Kaia

Your wonderful support funds life-saving equipment like the Spectra Optia machine, which allows more children with chronic illnesses to receive therapeutic plasma exchange (TPE) treatment.

This life-saving treatment involves the removal of a patient's own plasma and replacing it with either donated plasma or a plasma protein solution.

Thanks to you, the machine is providing critical support for sick kids like Kaia.

Kaia was diagnosed with focal segmental glomerulosclerosis at the age of three. It's a rare disease that causes scar tissue to develop in the kidneys, preventing them from filtering waste out of the blood.

To improve her kidney function, Kaia underwent plasma exchange treatment three times each week using the apheresis machine which you helped to fund.



Kaia finished her TPE treatment and has been attending monthly check-ups. We're pleased to say that she is currently in remission.

Thank you for working wonders for sick kids like Kaia.

*Photo
Kaia, 15 years, kidney disorder*



Telethon's back!

Get ready to tune in to Nine Telethon on Saturday 14 November at 5pm!

The Nine Telethon is now in its seventh year and it's calling on kind-hearted people like you to make a massive impact on the lives of sick kids and their families.

Every dollar raised will fund life-saving medical research, vital new equipment, and entertainment and support programs that help sick kids get better and go home sooner.

Tune in to a night full of powerful stories from extraordinary kids and lots of entertainment. All from the comfort of your armchair.



Here's how you can donate

Visit **9telethon.com.au**

Call **1800 909 900**

Photos

Above Nine Telethon 2019 at Sunsuper

Bottom Ruby and Bridget at Queensland Children's Hospital Telethon 2019

A huge thank you to our partners





Sick kids meet their heroes

Our little superheros have been meeting their superheros thanks to your generosity and Juiced TV.

The Children's Hospital Foundation is a founding partner of Juiced TV, the show made by the kids in hospital, for the kids in hospital. Juiced TV is a fun activity for patients and their siblings to participate in. It also helps sick kids in hospital to feel less lonely as they see stories of other kids sharing similar experiences.

Juiced TV, like many of our entertainment services, had to innovate when the COVID-19 restrictions were implemented. The result was a whole new way to bring smiles to kids in hospital each week - with Juiced TV LIVE.

The new format features special guests who 'virtually visit' the Queensland Children's Hospital, with each show streaming live across Facebook and on the patient bedside entertainment systems.

Excited inpatients and outpatients have been able to interact, ask questions and even challenge their movie and music idols, bringing so many smiles to so many faces. To date guests have included high profile celebrities including Chris Hemsworth, Margot Robbie, Johnny Depp and Dean Lewis.

You make these wonder moments possible.

Your support funds entertainment programs like Juiced TV that truly work wonders for sick kids.

*Photo
Chris Hemsworth on JuicedTV*

Ron, working wonders since 2008

Our Wonder Workers are a very special group of people who make a profound impact on the lives of sick kids. Wonder Workers choose to make a monthly donation providing reliable and sustainable funding for long-term research and services.

Ron has donated to the Children's Hospital since 2008 but decided to give a monthly donation to the Children's Hospital Foundation following the opening of the Queensland Children's Hospital in 2015. He said seeing the sick children made him sad and he knew then he wanted to make a difference.

Ron who is an amazing 92 years young, grew up in Chermside with his five siblings. He married his lovely wife Nancy in 1956 and has enjoyed a happy, healthy life.

Ron has had a variety of jobs including a wards man at the Royal Brisbane Hospital, a delivery man for Simpson washing machines, a handyman in a shopping centre and a groundsman at a nearby church. He said with a good job and no children of their own, he felt he was able to help others who did not have the same chances in life.

Sadly, Nancy has passed away but together they made the generous



decision to leave the Foundation a Gift in their Will to ensure they can continue to work wonders for sick kids long into the future.

We are so grateful to Ron, his wife Nancy and all our Wonder Workers for their ongoing support and generosity. Together we can give sick and injured kids the best care, treatments and outcomes available.

To find out more about becoming a Wonder Worker :

🌐 childrens.org.au/wonderworker
📞 1300 742 554
✉ info@childrens.org.au