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Cairns couple's selfless wedding act

A Cairns couple who recently tied the knot asked guests to donate to sick kids through Children's Hospital Foundation in lieu of wedding gifts.

Adam and Tegan Catalano's daughter, Violet Joy, spent the first six weeks of her life in Queensland Children's Hospital in Brisbane after she underwent emergency open-heart surgery.

At Violet's 20-week scan, doctors found she had congenital heart disease (CHD) called Transposition of the Great Arteries (TGA) and would require surgery soon after birth.

The family wanted to show their gratitude for the support they received during this difficult time from the hospital and the Foundation by giving back.

"Even though we knew that Violet would be born with a life-threatening condition, it was still extremely hard for us when the time came for her treatment. There are so many families who don't have any time to prepare for their kid being sick, and it's organisations like Children's Hospital Foundation which provide essential support when families need it the most," Tegan said.

"They also contribute to research into better outcomes for kids with conditions like Violet's. Any research that gives sick kids the best possible chance is so important."

With the help of their family and friends, they raised an amazing \$3000.

"Our guests were so supportive of the cause, and were so generous with their donations," Tegan said.

Violet has recently celebrated her first birthday and one year 'hearteversary' of her open-heart surgery, and the family were told at their recent cardiologist check-up that she is doing amazingly well.

Children's Hospital Foundation Acting CEO, Olivia Jary, said the Catalano's act of kindness was humbling.

"Everything we do for sick and injured kids is made possible in no small part by the generosity of our amazing community, and it's incredible to see the power that people can have when they come together for a good cause," Ms Jary said.

"These funds will help turn research findings into better bedside care, new treatments and ultimately cures for childhood illness for kids just like Violet Joy.

"It's incredible that Adam and Tegan took a day which is meant to be all about them, flipped it on its head and made it all about others, which I am sure is a true testament to their generous and kind-hearted characters. We all wish the newlyweds all the very best in their marriage."

The Children's Hospital Foundation works wonders for sick and injured kids by funding life-saving medical research, investing in vital new equipment, and providing support and entertainment for children and their families.

To help Children's Hospital Foundation fund further research, visit www.childrens.org.au.

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