



For immediate release

SickKids Foundation invests \$64.4 million towards children's health

Largest charitable contribution in children's health care in Canada

TORONTO – September 30, 2009 – Despite an unprecedented turn in the economy, SickKids Foundation made a significant investment in children's health, directly impacting research, education and care across Canada. For the year ending March 31, 2009, \$64.4 million was invested in the critical initiatives of The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) and helped support child health researchers across Canada, necessary in strengthening Canada's knowledge and capacity in responding to children's health challenges and needs.

"With the ups and downs in the economy, the one constant has been the generosity of our donors," said Patsy Anderson, Chair, SickKids Foundation Board of Directors.

Importance of donations to the success of SickKids

A direct result of community support, this year's grant included \$60.4 million to The Hospital for Sick Children, funding infrastructure and supporting physicians, researchers and scientists who compete for national and international research grants. Each year donations enable the hospital to identify priorities that require attention including clinical and capital projects like the much-needed revitalization of the Emergency Department at SickKids, and provide funding for approximately 25 endowed chair positions along with a specified list of medical equipment that without donor support would not be funded.

The \$60.4 million to SickKids included such things as:

- \$34.6 million to the SickKids Research Institute
- \$8.6 million for capital equipment and projects at the hospital
- \$2.1 million to clinical and research equipment
- \$3.9 million to training and education for SickKids fellows, professorships, students, bursaries, conference attendance, lectureships, staff recognition and awards
- \$434,351 to patient amenities in order to help SickKids patients and their families with expenses not covered by insurance including parking, an overnight stay or essential drugs
- \$1.9 million to Safe Kids Canada, the national injury prevention program for SickKids; About Kids Health, a family resource centre; and other health promotion initiatives

- \$1.6 million to special programs throughout the hospital including:
 - Art therapy
 - Adolescent medicine
 - Bereavement
 - Sending patients to cardiac camp
 - The eating disorders program
 - The international patient program
 - Reading room
 - SCAN
 - Seizure dog response program
 - Starlight Room
 - Substance abuse
 - Chaplaincy
 - Beanstalk program
- \$519,000 to HealthyKids International, an initiative that supports the international projects of The Hospital for Sick Children

Philanthropy's impact on child health research

SickKids Foundation provides base funding for the SickKids Research Institute. This year the Foundation provided \$34.6 million, 24 per cent of the \$143.2 million it takes to run the Research Institute each year, making SickKids Foundation the largest single revenue contributor. In the past year, a number of critical research discoveries were announced including:

- In August 2008, the work of SickKids scientists Dr. Cheryle Séguin and Dr. Janet Rossant helped uncover the key to controlling how stem cells develop.
- In October 2008, an international team of volunteer researchers led by Dr. Bibudhendra (Amu) Sarkar, a senior scientist at SickKids, developed a practical strategy to ensure safe drinking water in Bangladesh, a country with 156 million people.
- In March 2009, Dr. Michael Taylor led a team of SickKids researchers that discovered a family of eight genes that are mutated in patients with medulloblastoma – the most common childhood brain cancer.

National Initiatives

In addition to the support of The Hospital for Sick Children, SickKids Foundation is the only hospital foundation with a mandate to build Canada's capacity and knowledge to meet future challenges in child health. Through its national initiatives, SickKids Foundation invested \$2.5 million across Canada this year. This included grants to researchers at the critical early stage of their careers, grants for paediatric research in areas where there are gaps in knowledge, and grants for operating support to leading national paediatric organizations and networks.

About SickKids Foundation

Established in 1972, SickKids Foundation is the fundraising organization for The Hospital for Sick Children - Canada's most research-intensive hospital and the largest centre dedicated to improving children's health in the country.

The Foundation's fundraising is driven by the belief that improving the health and wellbeing of children is one of the most powerful ways to improve society.

HealthyKids International, an initiative that supports the international projects of The Hospital for Sick Children, is an investment in the future health of children around the world. It is steeped in the belief that children need home-grown medical practitioners who understand their countries' social and cultural contexts.

The shared vision of SickKids Foundation, HealthyKids International and The Hospital for Sick Children is "Healthier Children. A Better World."TM