

planning *for* KIDS

A Charitable Gift Planning Newsletter for SickKids Donors

HEALTHIER CHILDREN. YOUR LEGACY FOR A BETTER WORLD.



Phyllis Norton: A Nurse with a Plan

When Phyllis Adelyn Norton graduated from The Hospital for Sick Children's School of Nursing in 1938, she was like so many other young women of her time who wanted to make a difference.

This desire to make a difference shaped all of Ms Norton's decisions as she worked first in the operating rooms at SickKids, moved to the Christie Street Military Hospital, and eventually returned to SickKids as Central Supply Supervisor. It was in this last role that she made her first legacy gift to SickKids. As Supervisor of Central Supply, Ms Norton used new assembly line practices to create a globally renowned model for ensuring that hospitals had ample and ready supplies of sterilized equipment.

An intelligent, business-minded woman, Ms Norton applied her nursing training in order to innovate. She assisted in the commercial development of a new tape for sterilized surgical bundles. Prior to her work on this tape, pinning and tying – both cumbersome – were required. This new colour-changing tape indicated that the package had been sterilized, and in turn revolutionized the packaging process.

Even early on, Phyllis Norton was a woman with a plan. She embraced medicine in the best ways available to her – becoming a skilled and knowledgeable nurse, applying her passion to establishing a new supply system that remains relevant today, and taking management training to ensure that her knowledge would be shared. Making a difference did not end with her death: she left part of her estate to SickKids.



SICKKIDS PERFORMS PAEDIATRIC WORLD-FIRST

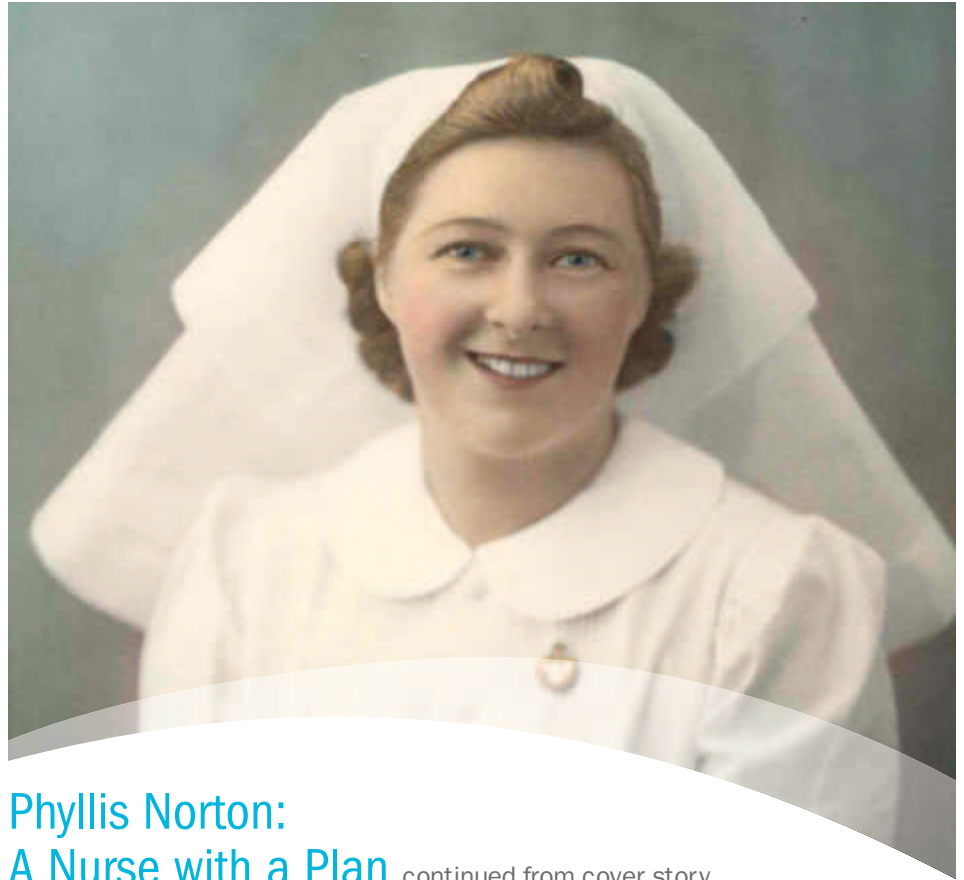
Doctors at SickKids saved the life of a teenage girl awaiting a lung transplant by using an external artificial lung to keep her alive until new donor lungs were available. This device – the Interventional Lung Assist Device – not only provided time to wait for donor lungs, it also gave the patient’s heart a chance to get strong enough to survive the transplant operation.

RESEARCH NARROWS IN ON CAUSE OF CHILDHOOD BRAIN CANCER

SickKids scientists discovered a family of genes that are mutated in patients with medulloblastoma – the most common childhood brain cancer.

Brain tumours represent the leading cause of childhood cancer-related deaths, and even survivors are left with serious physical and neurological disabilities.

The researchers hope to develop new therapies that will result in a higher survival rate and improved outcomes.



Phyllis Norton: A Nurse with a Plan

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In her Will, Ms Norton first provided for her friends and left the residual interest to SickKids. In this way, the wonderful woman who gave love, kindness, and care to so many sick children in the latter half of the last century can continue to do so long into the future.

Phyllis Norton spent her entire life giving to children and to SickKids and she was rich for it. Now SickKids is giving back to her the best way it knows how – by ensuring that the legacy she created of caring for children lives on.

A Legacy of Nursing at SickKids

At its very heart, SickKids cares for children, their well-being, and their happiness. It is too easy to lose sight of this when there is so much discussion about world-leading outcomes, amazing research breakthroughs, and medical innovation. And yet, looking back at SickKids’ history, it becomes equally difficult to forget.

Started in 1875 by Elizabeth McMaster, The Hospital for Sick Children provided basic care to children. In its first few years, SickKids offered little medical treatment, but its female volunteers gave the best they could: food, clothes, a clean environment, safety, and comfort. In many ways, these women were SickKids’ first “nurses”, although the first trained nurse would not start for over a decade.

To this day nurses are the very lifeblood of the Hospital; after all, SickKids’ President and CEO Mary Jo Haddad has a nursing background.

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In fact, looking back at major changes to patient life over the years, nurses can be found at the centre of most of those decisions. The biggest of these focused on involving families in patient care: until Nurse Lucy Ashton (graduate class of 1935) moved to liberalize visiting hours in the 1960s, parents and families were only allowed into the hospital for two hours each week to see their children! Now families are at the centre of a patient's hospital experience.

“It is so important that we in the present and those who follow us in the future have a strong connection to the incredible history of this organization. SickKids has a culture that is unlike anywhere else,” says Margaret Keatings, Chief Interprofessional Practice and Chief Nurse Executive at SickKids.

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Margaret Keatings

Chief Interprofessional Practice and Chief Nurse Executive

Truly, nurses are more important than ever for ensuring that patients have the best chance to get better. They conduct research to minimize pain; introduce systems that are more patient friendly; make critical decisions in Hospital governance and perhaps most importantly, they look after patient health, happiness, and well-being.



Frances Armstrong was never a SickKids nurse, but that has not stopped her from leaving a bequest in her Will to honour the two SickKids nurses in her life. Frances has left two generous bequests in memory of her sister, Winifred Armstrong Pentland (left) who graduated in 1934, and of her mother, Millie Murchison Armstrong (née Mary Amelia Murchison)(right) who graduated in 1912.

THE LEGACY BUILDS

Julie McLean-Squires, graduate of 1967 and the current president of the Alumnae Association of The School of Nursing, The Hospital for Sick Children is a strong believer in the power nurses have to enhance patient care. As President representing approximately 1,235 women who studied, trained, and graduated as nurses at SickKids, she knows that nurses are key members of a child's care team. More importantly, good nurses often mean the difference between a negative experience and a positive one for sick children.

“Our vision is to promote the spirit, vigor and pride of SickKids grads. Our mission is to enhance communication among SickKids grads and foster excellence in paediatric nursing while honouring the history of nursing at SickKids,” she says.

The alumnae are currently involved in the selection process for identifying nursing excellence in Family Centred care by awarding the Ruth Duncan McCamus Award each year at the Nursing Excellence Awards in May. Each fall, three bursaries are awarded to SickKids nurses and/or alumnae members who are advancing their education. Many graduates – including Phyllis Norton, Ruth Duncan McCamus, Maria Kluge, Frances Armstrong and Hilda Rolstin, through planned gifts, and existing alumnae through planned and outright gifts – support nursing education and continue to make a difference for patients.

The generous spirit behind their gifts is a rich reminder of how lucky SickKids is to benefit from the contributions of these women.

A message from Malcolm Berry

If you could have one wish, what would it be? Health, happiness and prosperity for your family and loved ones? A world where no child suffers from cancer? Disbursement of your hard-earned assets exactly as you prefer? Whatever your priorities, one of the greatest opportunities you have to ensure your ultimate wishes is through having a current and valid Will. Your Will is the simplest means to create your own legacy, and proper planning allows you to shape the future for the people and causes you care about.

The year 2008 will be remembered for financial turmoil and instability, but most of us will think of our economy in more personal terms. You may be concerned about job security and providing for your family as you try your best to adhere to strict budgets and also prepare for the future. If you had every intention of including a gift to SickKids Foundation in your planning this year, you might be surprised to discover that certain options still make this a great time to ensure the security of SickKids' future as well as your family's. For example, a gift in your Will enables you to set aside assets and manage them until they are gifted to SickKids Foundation. You might also have a life insurance policy that has now outlived its original purpose or retirement plan assets that could be gifted at very little cost to your heirs. These are just two of the simple and effective ways of including SickKids Foundation in your estate plans.

Despite current uncertainties in the economy, it is comforting to know that you do have options available for supporting your favourite causes. Through careful estate planning, you can help to change the future for generations of children! Thank you for your ongoing support, and for committing to a legacy gift today that will benefit an unimaginable number of children long into the future.

Sincerely,

Malcolm Berry
Manager, Gift & Estate Planning

For more information on how you can build your legacy, please contact:



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Do your estate plans include SickKids Foundation? Let us know! If you plan to make a bequest to The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), the name you should include in your Will is "**The Hospital for Sick Children Foundation.**" The Foundation is the Hospital's parallel charity, which raises money, performs estate administration, and manages the endowment on behalf of the Hospital.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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