

# SICKKIDS LEGACIES



**SICKKIDS GIFT PLANNING NEWSLETTER**  
**FALL/WINTER 2017 ISSUE 37**

## LIVING THEIR LEGACY

Jordan and Lisa Gnat first came to SickKids as 'kids'. That's the word Jordan uses to describe who he and his wife Lisa were when their first child, Emily, needed SickKids. "We were two 26 year-old kids with a kid," says Jordan. "When Emmy was six weeks old, she was having trouble breathing. So we took her to her family doctor, who immediately sent us to SickKids ER. When Dr. Blake Papsin (now SickKids Chief of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery) saw her, he quickly determined that her airway was more than 80% blocked, and that immediate surgery was required."

The blockage — a tumour in Emily's airway — was benign, but it kept growing back. In total, she underwent five surgeries. A new treatment significantly slowed the growth of the tumour, and by the time she was 10 months old, she had successfully outgrown it.

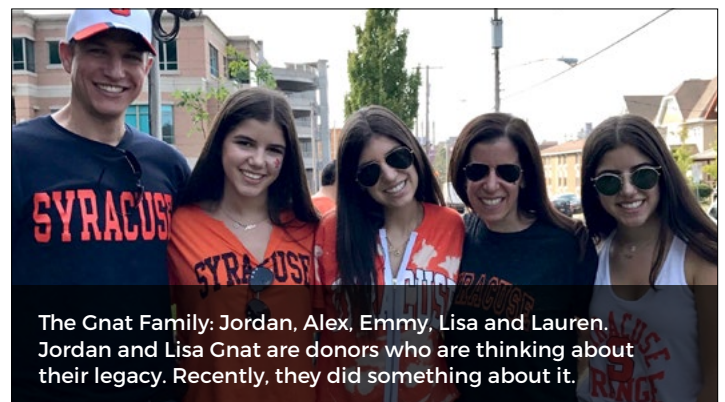
This experience began her parents' growth as SickKids donors. Dr. Papsin observes, "They have evolved as philanthropists — at first donating to support tangibles like equipment, to now supporting research that will lead to transformative change in child health."

For Jordan and Lisa, evolving how they fund the fight at SickKids is the best way to live their commitment. "We got involved with SickKids for the same reason most parents get involved — we had an experience there. I would describe SickKids as the greatest place you never want to go. But you know, if you live here, in Toronto, and you have a child who's sick, you can go to the greatest children's hospital in the world," says Jordan.

Today, research has discovered that an off-the-shelf blood pressure drug can be used to shrink tumours like Emily's, sparing kids the laser surgeries she had, and the invasive tracheotomies that were another option. As Jordan says, "That only comes through research and discovery. And that's why we think long-term in our planning for the hospital."

Part of Jordan and Lisa's long-term thinking is their recent gift of a life insurance policy to the SickKids VS Limits Campaign (which follows the Gnats' decision to endow a Chair in Otolaryngology). Jordan encourages others to think about this kind of legacy: "It was another opportunity to give, and to again think long-term."

Today, Emmy is healthy, 19, and a university student. Whatever her future holds, philanthropy will be part of it. Growing up in the Gnat family means that giving back to others is embedded in her DNA.



The Gnat Family: Jordan, Alex, Emmy, Lisa and Lauren. Jordan and Lisa Gnat are donors who are thinking about their legacy. Recently, they did something about it.

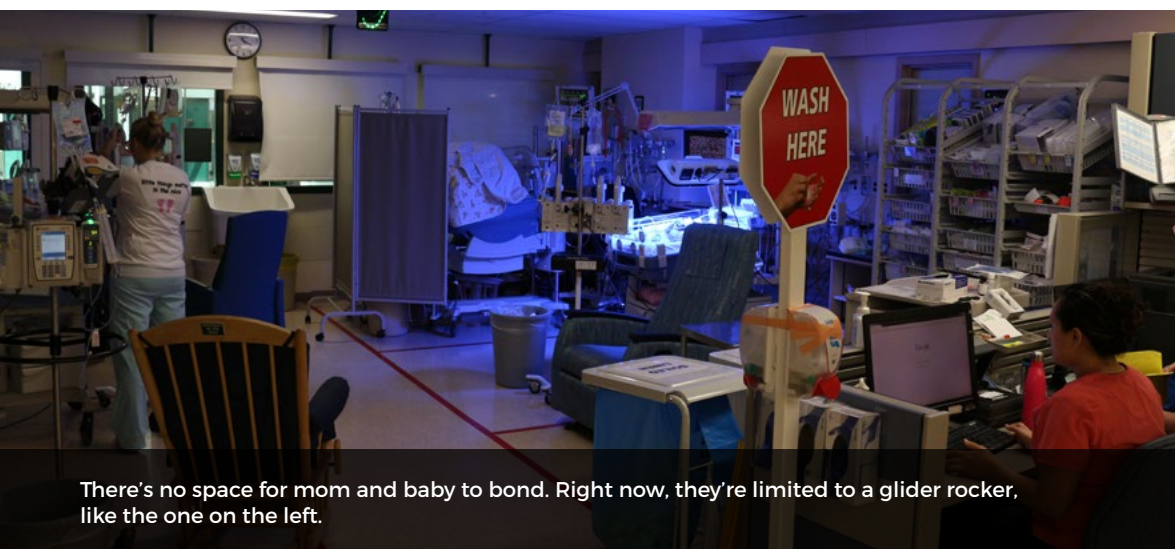
# A NEW NICU

A family with a premature and/or critically ill new baby needs three things: the best medical care; physical separation from other families to prevent infection; and private space where they can bond, and parents can sleep. SickKids' current Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) can only provide the first one.

Our NICU was state-of-the-art when it opened — a generation ago. But in the intervening 24 years, we've developed new capabilities, and furthered our understanding of caring for very vulnerable, often premature infants. In a new NICU, we can put our new knowledge into practice.

Imagine you're a mom who comes here. You've just had a baby, you're recovering yourself — often from surgery — and the best the current NICU can offer you is a chair in a taped-off zone around your baby's bedside. The critical one-on-one contact you need with your newborn is difficult to achieve in this cramped, uncomfortable environment.

As part of the SickKids VS Limits campaign, our campaign to rebuild the hospital, the NICU will be completely reimaged. It will have single-child rooms, places for parents to sleep, and the quiet calm premature brains need to develop.



There's no space for mom and baby to bond. Right now, they're limited to a glider rocker, like the one on the left.

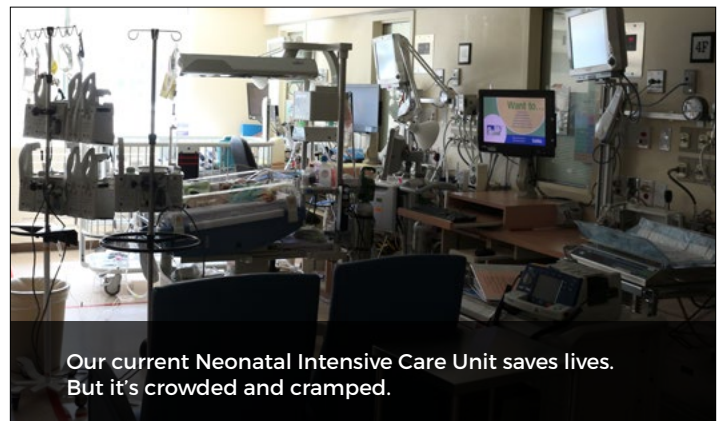
“THERE'S NO SPACE FOR THE EQUIPMENT, THERE'S NO SPACE FOR THE FAMILIES... THERE'S JUST NOWHERE TO BREATHE.”

Nearly 600 very tiny patients a year arrive in SickKids NICU — the sickest of the sick. So everything about how our NICU operates needs to be the best it can be. Right now, as many as six isolettes (the specialized beds these babies use), are crowded into a room, each surrounded by a thicket of monitors, which makes the spread of infection a constant concern. Infant brains thrive best in a quiet environment, but here, noise is hard to control. Natural light is cut off by blinds, to avoid overheating — temperature is critical to these kids.

“There's no space for the equipment, there's no space for the families,” says Dr. Estelle Gauda, head of SickKids neonatology division. “There's just nowhere to breathe.” But beyond functional problems, the biggest issue is privacy.

In the privacy of these rooms, the risk of infection is reduced, children can heal, and families can form.

You can give SickKids the ability to offer the most advanced care — like the care we'll be able to give in the new NICU — through a planned gift in your will. Every child who comes here is, literally, the future. So your gift to SickKids is a gift to the future.



Our current Neonatal Intensive Care Unit saves lives. But it's crowded and cramped.



# AN ANGEL. AND A HANDFUL.

New Year's Eve, 2012, was not a night to celebrate for Susanne and Michael, Frankie's parents.

Frankie, then two, had been very lethargic Christmas Eve. Says his mom, "He wasn't interested in anything; he just wanted to be cuddled." Multiple paediatrician visits steered Susanne and Michael to SickKids on New Year's Eve, where tests produced a diagnosis: acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL). Says Susanne, "Everything just blurred. In my head, I'm going, 'Leukemia? It can't be leukemia.'"

It was. For the first three weeks at SickKids, his parents alternated — one sleeping on the bed holding Frankie, one on the cot. Their whole cancer journey was hard for the family: a toddler diagnosed with cancer; three-and-a-half years of chemo; missing milestones because of Frankie's hospitalization, like Frankie's older sister Madalynn's birthday.

Frankie finished treatment in May 2016. Today, Susanne says, "He's in great health."

SickKids doctors took on Frankie's cancer, and won. But what got Frankie and his family through their experience were the dimensions of SickKids that Susanne describes as "over and above." She continues: "These kids are in a situation they don't understand. They need that stuff (outside their medical situation) that they enjoy. Video games, for one."

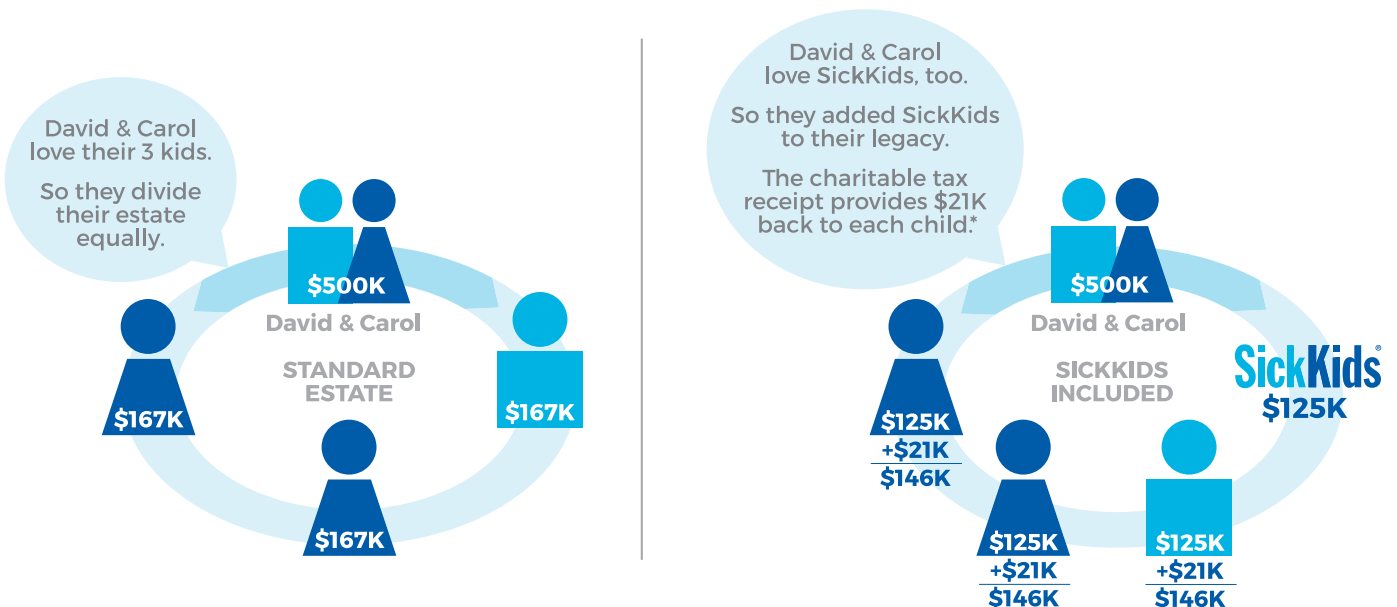
She also singles out SickKids nurses. "Kids don't understand why they're getting IV'd, why they're being poked — but the nurses have this ability to come down to a kid's level. It's as simple as doing blood pressure with a cuff, and saying, 'Oh, we're going to give your arm a hug.' That's the kind of stuff that makes the kids shine on."

Your legacy can help SickKids shine on for families like Frankie's. Today, Susanne doesn't have one healthy son on her hands. She has two. At school, "He's an angel. At home," she says, laughing, "he's a handful."



SickKids patient and cancer-free kid Frankie today.

## A LEGACY THAT BENEFITS YOU, YOUR FAMILY—AND SICKKIDS



*\*This illustration should not be construed as tax or legal advice. Please consult your financial and legal advisors to discuss tax-effective ways to make a charity part of your estate plan.*

# FROM THE TEAM

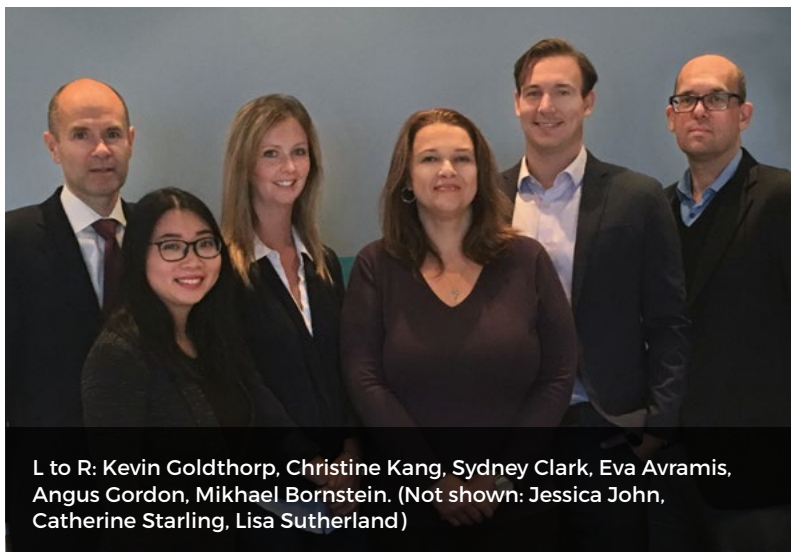
Welcome, readers. You may have noticed a change. This is the first issue of our Gift and Estate Planning newsletter under its new title: 'SickKids Legacies'. We think this title better captures the essence of what you do when you make a bequest to SickKids. You're creating a legacy of living, breathing kids. Kids whom you may not meet, but in whose lives you'll have made a huge difference.

Making SickKids part of your legacy means that you not only see a better future for kids facing the toughest health challenges, but that you want to be part of it. By believing in SickKids, you're advancing medical treatment. The future is children going through cancer treatment without long term side-effects, and kids with heart defects healed by their own stem cells. And it's coming, soon.

We'll be better able to fight cancers like Frankie's. We'll be better able to save the most vulnerable babies, with new facilities, like a new NICU. We'll be able to do it all because of donors focussed on leaving a legacy that matters, like Jordan and Lisa Gnat.

And you.

Yours sincerely,  
The Gift and Estate Planning Team



L to R: Kevin Goldthorp, Christine Kang, Sydney Clark, Eva Avramis, Angus Gordon, Mikhael Bornstein. (Not shown: Jessica John, Catherine Starling, Lisa Sutherland)



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## BEQUEST INFORMATION

If you plan to make a bequest, the name you should include in your will is: 'The Hospital for Sick Children Foundation'. SickKids Foundation is the hospital's parallel charity, raising money, performing estate administration, and managing endowments on behalf of The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids). If your estate plans include SickKids Foundation, we want to know, so we can thank you. Donors who wish to be thanked are honoured at our J.P. Bickell Society's annual luncheon, with their names placed on our Donor Wall of Honour.

## PRIVACY

SickKids Foundation respects the privacy of its donors. Our full privacy policy is at [www.sickkidsfoundation.com](http://www.sickkidsfoundation.com).

## ABOUT SICKKIDS LEGACIES

SickKids Legacies is a charitable gift planning newsletter. The information provided is not intended to be a substitute for professional legal and financial planning advice. We encourage donors who are planning a significant donation to seek such advice.

## SHARE WITH US

If you have an idea for a story, or would like to make a suggestion about the contents of the newsletter, please call 416-813-8271 or email [gift.planning@sickkidsfoundation.com](mailto:gift.planning@sickkidsfoundation.com).