



OPERATION UPGRADE

MONTHLY DONORS ANSWER THE CALL TO UPGRADE OUR
AGING OPERATING SUITES

No parent wants to be at SickKids. Yet all parents want SickKids to be there.

That's certainly the case for Catherine Paul, who raced to SickKids Emergency Department when her infant had what turned out to be a common case of influenza. While her baby's case didn't require any SickKids specialists or purpose-built facilities, Catherine was impressed with the care that her son and entire family received. To express her appreciation, she has been a generous monthly donor since 2001, giving \$45 each month.

"What has always stayed with us was the reassuring kindness we received at every level," says Catherine. "We knew we were in good hands, and felt safe in a very special environment. They didn't dismiss our anxiety, but looked after our child, as well as my husband and me. As a teacher,

The support and care that SickKids provides are made possible by all levels of generous contributors. And vitally important are our monthly donors like Catherine, who make unrestricted gifts that have a huge impact on SickKids most urgent needs.

One of the Hospital's highest priorities is a major project modernising outdated operating suites.

SickKids performs over 12,000 surgeries annually – more than any other children's hospital in Canada. While numerous children require common operations (like treating a broken leg from a fall), many sophisticated surgical procedures are only available at SickKids, including those for brain, heart, and spinal cord, as well as transplantations and facial reconstructions. And the exciting developments in specialized procedures in areas

and technology are becoming outdated. Some of the latest equipment can't even fit through the old doors, or be supported on the flooring. SickKids surgical capacity urgently needs expansion and modernising in order to accommodate cutting-edge technology and rapidly growing demand.

SickKids patients benefit from the breakthrough discovery and innovation that are revolutionizing paediatric surgery – including advances like minimally invasive surgery and surgical robotics. The new suites will ensure the best possible outcomes in an environment designed for optimal healing, with reduced pain and fewer risks of complications.

The operating suites redevelopment project has engaged thousands of individuals. In December 2016, the "100Today" campaign aimed to sign up 100 new monthly donors each day for 30

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I believe that kids are our future, and continue to give because I am so grateful to have SickKids here for our children. And for parents like me!"

With a deep and ambitious commitment to the well-being of children, SickKids tackles the full continuum of challenges in child health. At one end of the spectrum are patients who come in with typical childhood ailments like treatable influenza, infections, and accidents. At the opposite end of the spectrum, the Hospital treats children with the most complex illnesses, diseases, and injuries from across Ontario, Canada, and the world.

such as infant heart surgery, epilepsy, nerve grafting, and cochlear implantation have resulted in extraordinary outcomes. For example, last year SickKids operated on 30 children with severe limb deformities – and those successful surgical reconstructions literally allowed patients to jump for joy.

Since SickKids is often considered the only option for complicated cases, the pressure for highly specialized treatment and surgical procedures is only increasing. But some of the Hospital's operating suites are 25 years old, and the existing equipment

days to support the upgrade of an operating suite. Rallying the community around a tangible need resulted in a groundswell of support – and grew the donor base. The initiative surpassed its goal, and more than 3,000 new monthly donors proved that every donation counts – because the SickKids continuum of care really counts.

As one donor expressed it: "My daughter is in good health, but her health is always top of mind. Heaven forbid, if she did become ill or needed an operation, I hope SickKids can take care of her just as it has for so many children for so many years."