



“How do you prepare yourself to be told that your little miss bossy pants has liver cancer?”

— Stephen, Séanne's dad

As I write, I have been at my daughter's bedside at the Children's for 96 days now. Looking out the window, my six-year-old wished upon a star that her disease goes away, and that the IV line and the feeding tube stop hurting.

For the 96th time, my heart sank. As the dad of a very sick child, I've been feeling powerless for the past three months.

When Séanne first complained of pain in her “tummy”, we attempted to see her pediatrician but the appointments got cancelled due to COVID-19. A week later, Séanne complained again. It really seemed to hurt.

It was on July 5th. That day, our lives came to a complete stop. Within minutes of bringing my daughter to the Montreal Children's Hospital, they ran a scan. I expected them to tell me she was constipated and leave with some sort of medication. Instead, they asked me to call mom...

How do you prepare yourself to being told that your little miss bossy pants has liver cancer? And, as if it wasn't bad enough, that the cancer is Stage 4 because it has spread to her lungs?

Within two days of her admission, they had to rush Séanne to the ICU. She couldn't breathe anymore, the tumor was compressing her lungs. They started emergency radiotherapy to reduce its

size. It worked, but not enough yet to consider a liver transplant. Throughout this storm, all you can do is rely on the experts, and on donor support.

Your donations go way beyond allowing the Children's staff to purchase top-notch equipment like the one that helped them catch Séanne's cancer in time. They also cover the smaller things that make a huge difference in our disrupted lives.

Like Child Life specialist Sabrina who, after overhearing Séanne begging me to stop her hair from falling out, took the initiative to show us a bald Barbie™ with her bandannas and wigs, which convinced my daughter to have her hair shaved off.

Thanks to you, I get to see my kid be her mischievous self for a while because donors like you support services like Child Life.

As we head into the Holiday season, your generosity can provide the relief families like mine need, and help bring back the little brat that lives inside each sick child.

Sincerely,

Stephen
Séanne's dad

At the Children's Foundation, we like little brats...

...because a bratty kid is a healthy kid. And even though they can sometimes make life hard for their parents, their mischievousness is a sign of good health and vitality.

In November, the Children's Foundation launched its Long Live Little Brats campaign as part of its major \$200-million pediatric fundraising initiative, the most ambitious goal in Quebec history. The objective? To remind Quebecers that the Children's is intent on helping sick children get back on their feet and occasionally causing just a bit of mayhem.



Lights, camera, action!

With TV and radio ads, and an online video, our new ad campaign promotes bringing sick kids back to health by celebrating their rambunctious side. Thanks to generous donors like you, the Children's offers world-class care so that our young patients can be their energetic selves again. This bold campaign has taken the province by storm.



An exciting new poster campaign

Long live little brats! This rallying cry celebrating the mischievous, feisty, loud, and strong willed side of our children can be seen all over the Greater Montreal. Our campaign is calling on generous Quebecers like you to help the Children's find unexpected ways to heal and give kids back their fighting spirit.



The Campaign Cabinet plays the part

The Foundation is privileged to count on a Campaign Cabinet that brings together 41 of the most influential philanthropists and business leaders in Quebec and Canada. Some of them owe their success in part to their rebellious nature. Some could even be described as... well little brats. They gave us an exclusive look at their rarely seen mischievous side in entertaining short videos.

Go to fondationduchildren.com/en to learn more about the campaign and discover how your invaluable contribution allows the Children's to maintain its international reputation for excellence.

A message of hope for Liam

No parent wants to imagine what it is like to be told their child has an incurable disease. For Liam's family this is their reality.

When their son was only five, their world was turned upside down. In June 2019, Liam was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder called mitochondrial disease that affects multiple organs, motor function, and the nervous system. Liam can hardly walk due to balance and gross motor skills issues, and also suffers from autism and epilepsy.

"There is no cure. Life expectancy is short. When I first heard these words, I was shocked, confused and became angry," says Kevin, Liam's father. "I wondered how long we would have with him." When they learned of their son's condition, Liam's parents' priorities shifted dramatically. They sought advice from medical professionals from all over, looking for answers. It became increasingly apparent

that only research could save Liam's life. And it could take years. But thanks to you, parents of children like Liam can still have hope.

Even in the face of their challenges and the ones brought by COVID-19, this family continues their efforts to help find a cure.

"Every day that Liam is alive with us is a good day for our family," says Kevin.

This summer, Liam's dad participated in the Radiothon, expressing his gratitude to the Children's and donors like you. In the midst of a worldwide pandemic, this event raised \$1,212,562 for the Hospital's young patients and their families.

"The Children's nurses and doctors have been incredibly supportive and caring for our family during our son's many hospitalizations, and they couldn't have done it without donors' generosity," explains Kevin.

Thanks to you, the Children's can provide the best care possible for Liam and other sick children, and pursue essential research that saves lives. Now more than ever, your support gives hope to this family, and to many others.



What you've helped accomplish

In these challenging times, the impact of your generous support is immeasurable. By choosing to help the Children's, you are ensuring that each patient receives the care they need and deserve.

Masks for patients and families

When the Hospital re-opened some of its clinics after the first wave of COVID-19, it was clear that free masks for both children and adults had to be made available for everyone's safety. In just a few months, our loyal donors answered the call so that everyone who walks through the Hospital's doors receives a Quebec made high quality, reusable mask.

Thanks to you, life at the Children's has returned to a 'new normal', with every precaution in place.

Child Life Services

Staying in the hospital for any amount of time is no fun. For sick kids at the Children's right now, a hospital stay is more isolating than ever.

Enter the unsung heroes of the healthcare team: our Child Life specialists. Their sole mission is to make the hospital less scary, provide distraction and give young minds and souls an outlet for self-expression. From birthday celebrations, to virtual bingo with superheroes and princesses, socially distanced playroom activities, and our much-loved music therapy program, child life activities are more important now than ever.

Thank you for supporting their efforts and understanding the importance of finding unexpected ways to heal.



Changing the game together

I am beyond proud that, since 2015, the P.K. Subban Foundation and I have helped close to 30,000 patients and families at the Montreal Children's Hospital.

The importance of this support struck me even more this year when the pandemic changed everything overnight. The free premium television and internet for patients admitted on the surgical and medical inpatient units has become a lifeline for kids confined to their rooms because of safety measures. P.K.'s Helping Hand provides direct assistance

to families financially devastated by both their child's illness and the impact of COVID-19 - when they need it most. Thanks to the dedication of the Children's staff, Books for Babies on the NICU and the LirelImagineRead program continue to offer free books despite the challenges of the pandemic.

To all of the donors who have joined me on this journey, thank you from the bottom of my heart. Together we are making a real difference in the lives of sick children and their families every single day. But the job is not done yet! The needs continue to grow and the Hospital is turning to us.

This December we can continue what we've started through the P.K. Match, which will essentially double your gift - if you make it by December 31st*. Let's not miss this chance to show the Children's that now, more than ever, we are there to help them find unexpected ways to heal.



*Wishing you all
happy holidays!*

P.K.

* MAKE A DONATION ONLINE TODAY AT [CHILDRENFUNDATION.COM/PKDOUBLE](https://www.childrensfoundation.com/pkdouble) OR USE THE REPLY COUPON.

COVID-19: Newborns in Good Hands

An interview with Sharon Taylor-Ducharme, nurse manager of the Children's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), where over 900 newborns per year receive ultra-specialized care.



How has COVID-19 affected the NICU?

Since March, we've seen a higher number of admissions and a slight increase in premature babies. Staff members have to wear more personal protective equipment (PPE), and we monitor and test parents and babies for COVID-19 - when we feel it's necessary - upon their admission to the NICU.

We've already seen instances where some parents were not able to visit because they tested positive for COVID-19 or were in contact with someone who tested positive. To support these families, our nurses ensure the babies receive the stimulation they need in the absence of their parents. This extra attention by our staff makes all the difference, especially during the holidays.

How else has life on the unit changed?

I miss seeing our staff smile, because everyone is wearing a mask, and they also miss seeing the parents smile. It definitely affects us. The babies can't even see our smiles, which is frustrating.

But I have to raise my hat to our team. They are incredibly resilient and were able to adapt with incredible speed to the major, sudden changes we had to make.

How have donors helped the NICU handle the COVID-19 pandemic?

We're very lucky to have the support of the Children's generous donors, which helps us manage the COVID-19 pandemic and enforce the highest standards of infection control. Among other things, we received funds to buy 10 ultra-modern Giraffe incubators, scales, IV pumps and 52 breast pumps so patients would not have to share equipment, reducing the risk of spreading infections.

Donor support helps us meet the challenges we're currently facing and will continue to make a real difference in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our patients. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart!

