

THE BEST OF OUR COMMUNITY

Gratitude Report 2022

Every minute of every day, remarkable stories of courage, strength and compassion unfold at the IWK. It is a lifeline for children, women and families all over the Maritimes.

In this report, you will read the amazing stories of patients, caregivers and donors who, like you, make the IWK a special place. We are humbled by our donors, and we are proud to share how your generosity is helping to bring better, healthier and brighter futures to our region through exceptional care and kindness.

As we celebrate the best of our community coming together for the IWK, I also want to take a moment to recognize the care, perseverance and passion of the IWK staff and team. The photos on this page represent just a few of the thousands of dedicated people who have continued to support and provide specialized care at the IWK throughout the pandemic.

Extraordinary care calls for extraordinary generosity and my sincere gratitude is extended to you—our donor community—who continue to make a choice to help enhance care at the IWK no matter what. You are part of a legacy of world-class care that is diverse and inclusive and can be witnessed throughout the IWK community.

Thank you for your unwavering support in making a meaningful difference.

For children. For women. For the future.



A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Gillivan'.

Jennifer Gillivan
President & CEO
IWK Foundation



A WARM AND WELCOMED RETURN

The IWK Telethon for Children on CTV has always proudly displayed Maritimers' big hearts, and the return of the IWK Telethon in 2021 as a reimagined virtual broadcast was no exception.



Despite being unable to broadcast live from the IWK and other locations across the Maritimes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the time-honoured tradition of sharing heartfelt and inspirational IWK stories and celebrating our incredibly generous Maritime community remained at the heart of the IWK's largest annual fundraiser.

Thanks to you and our friends at CTV, our generous Maritime community raised \$6.6 million. We are forever grateful to you and all our supporters for making the IWK the best place for children and families who need and rely on specialized medical care.

Thank you for making a difference! Here is some of the equipment purchased during Telethon 37:



1 BiliLux Phototherapy

Device for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Phototherapy (or light therapy) is the most common treatment for reducing high levels of Bilirubin (a naturally occurring substance in the blood) that causes jaundice in a newborn.

Blue light phototherapy is the most effective method to decrease the Bilirubin levels in the blood, meaning that the infant receives the treatment they need much faster.



2 CADD Infusion Pumps and Accessories

The CADD infusion pump helps treat pain. The most common use is as a PCA (patient-controlled analgesia). With a PCA, children can push a button when they are in pain, and the machine will provide a dose of pain medication programmed in by the pain physician.

This feature gives children control over their pain and has provided better pain management and less overall opioid than alternative methods (like continuous infusions alone).



2 NeoCots for the IWK Emergency Department

The NeoCot is a bassinet designed for hospitalized infants and provides a safe place for the physician to examine the baby. The cot also provides that much-needed break for a family to be able to lay their baby down in a safe space instead of having to hold them while they are in the Emergency Department.

It is a safe means of transporting a baby and is adjustable so that it's the right height for the parent in a seated position or the nurse standing. It can also be angled for babies with trouble breathing or stomach reflux.

PROFILE: DR. ANA SJAUS

Anesthesiologist, Women's & Obstetric Department of Anesthesia, IWK Health

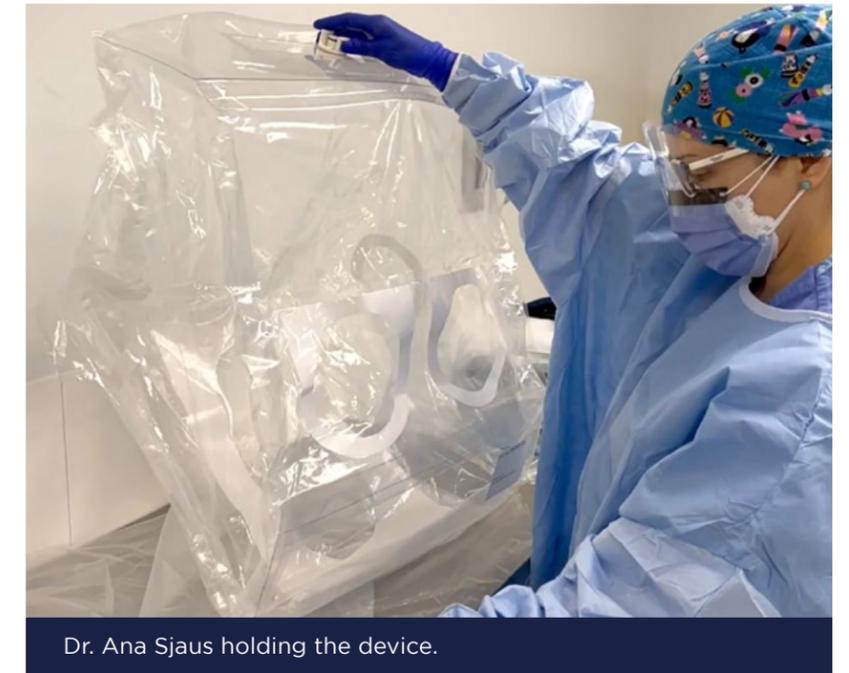
In addition to clinical care at the IWK, Dr. Ana Sjaus is also involved in ground-breaking environmental research. She is leading a team to develop a disposable device to help protect healthcare professionals and sterile environments, such as an operating room, from infectious aerosols that could be exhaled or coughed up during patient procedures. For example, patients who need intubation and have tested positive for COVID-19.

"The device is made from thin, flexible, transparent plastic that's relatively resistant to tearing," explains Dr. Sjaus. "You plug it into the medical air supply, and it just pops up and inflates like an inflatable tent that can be placed over a person. It also has a ventilation port that allows us to evacuate and suction out the infected air that may contain infectious particles."

After close to 180 experiments, the next phase of the research project is to move the device into clinical trials so it can be evaluated and studied with patients. The goal is to have a device that will protect medical staff from the potential transmission of respiratory pathogens and prevent spreading those pathogens to others.

"Research never happens in isolation, especially research and development," says Dr. Sjaus. "It is always a group effort." As a donor to the IWK Foundation, you are part of this group effort. Your generosity has provided funding to help Dr. Sjaus bring her important idea to life.

This study is one of 40 made possible by the Nova Scotia COVID-19 Research Coalition, of which the IWK and IWK Foundation are proud members.



Dr. Ana Sjaus holding the device.



THISTLEDOWN FOUNDATION

Canada's Children's Hospital Foundations (CCHF) and Children's Healthcare Canada (CHC) were thrilled to announce a \$26 million investment from the Thistledown Foundation to support Canada's 13 acute care children's hospitals across the country. A donation of \$2 million to each of these hospitals, including the IWK, was made to support urgent local needs identified during the pandemic.

Thanks to this incredibly generous gift, the IWK was able to fund some of its highest priorities to support patients and families. Visit iwkfoundation.org/thistledown to learn more.

THE BEST CARE IS RIGHT HERE - AT THE IWK

Thanks to your compassion and support, Maritime children, women and families have access to the best care right here - at the IWK. Meet some children and families who have greatly benefited from your generosity. You have given them hope, comfort and healing when they needed it most.

Gratitude for Second Chances



Sindi Lee knows all too well what it's like to almost lose a child. Two of her four children have needed critical emergency care.

In 2017, Sindi noticed that her weeks-old daughter, Maci, was breathing faster than usual. Sindi took Maci to their local hospital, where doctors discovered she had an enlarged heart. That day, Maci was transported to the IWK by ambulance.

A cardiologist at the IWK determined Maci had a life-threatening congenital heart defect and would need open-heart surgery to repair it. The following day, Maci was airlifted to Toronto for surgery.

One month later, Maci returned to the IWK, where doctors discovered she had an irregular heartbeat. She was admitted for 22 days before finally returning home. Maci, now five, is doing well and continues to be followed closely by the IWK.

Almost five years later, Sindi was back at the IWK's Emergency Department, but this time with her 15-year-old son, Caden.

On a regular February day in 2022, Caden was struck by a vehicle while walking to a nearby convenience store. He was taken by ambulance to his local hospital in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, and later by a critical care ambulance to the IWK for emergency trauma care.

Caden was admitted to the IWK's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and placed on a ventilator. He also had an intracranial pressure (ICP) monitoring device inserted to determine if his skull had pressure or swelling. Thankfully, Caden's ICP pressure was in the acceptable range; however, his MRI results showed he had a severe traumatic injury to his brain stem. He also sustained a fractured thoracic vertebra, significant lung damage and broken ribs. Despite his injuries, they were optimistic he'd survive, but whether he would be the Caden they knew, they didn't know.

A week later, Caden's care team removed his breathing tube and, soon after, his feeding tube and all other access lines. Over a few days, Caden began to ask for water and correctly respond to questions about what his name was and where he lived. With every passing day, Caden's health slowly improved. He was moved out of PICU and began rehabilitation.

After 31 days at the IWK, Caden finally returned home and finished what he set out to do on that February day - go to the store to buy candy.

"Without the IWK, I wouldn't have two of my children," says Sindi. "There are no words you can say that convey that appreciation for a group of people. I'm just so grateful it's there."



Flourishing Briannarose

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Briannarose Lukow felt unwell and began experiencing many different symptoms, including fever and body aches. When the symptoms did not subside, Jennastar Clarke, Briannarose's mom, took her to their local hospital in Edmundston, New Brunswick.

While Briannarose did not have COVID-19, her condition continued to deteriorate. Over a few short months, she lost close to 60 pounds and struggled walking up and down stairs.

One day Briannarose fell and began experiencing a seizure. She became unresponsive, and her mom called an ambulance. Thankfully, the paramedics were able to stabilize her and open her airways. She was transported to her local hospital and then to the IWK by EHS LifeFlight and admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). Jennastar could not accompany her daughter and followed by car to the IWK.

Jennastar met with many specialists over the eight days her daughter was placed in an induced coma to help keep her comfortable and free of pain. After many tests and procedures, a kidney biopsy helped determine that she had an aggressive form of lupus, an autoimmune disease in which your body's immune system attacks your tissues and organs.

Briannarose's IWK care teams began treatment which quickly helped her feel better. "They took care of every possible thing she needed, from the top of her head to the bottom of her toes," says Jennastar. "Every day, she got better and better."

Briannarose is now 15 years old and is top of her class, bilingual and incredibly talented!



Roman's Recovery

In 2020, Roman Sawa's parents, Michele and Ted, noticed he was self-conscious about his body. His behaviour towards food and exercise also began to change. He became fussier about what he was eating, and he started running.

Things continued to escalate throughout spring 2021. Exercising became an obsession, and he started losing weight. Roman's eating habits continued to deteriorate until he barely ate. Their normally larger-than-life son, who was always singing and joyful, had become unhappy. They realized Roman needed help, so he began seeing a psychologist in their community.

Roman's situation became critical when he showed signs of total food refusal. His parents took him to the IWK's Emergency Department, where they realized his body was in distress. Roman was admitted to the Garron Centre for Child & Adolescent Mental Health which provides acute inpatient support.

Over the next 10 weeks, Roman's IWK care team worked closely with him and his family to provide treatment and therapy. Slowly things began to improve. Roman began to eat again and put on some weight he had lost.

Michele praises the multidisciplinary team that helped her son, "They coached us and gave us the reassurance we needed to be part of the team helping Roman get better. By the end of our stay, Roman was comfortable there and started singing and joking around again. The IWK gave us our son back," she says.

Children may represent 25% of our population, but they are 100% our future. Thanks to you, the future looks bright for Maci, Caden, Briannarose and Roman.

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

IWK URGENT PRIORITIES FUND

Thank you for being part of a compassionate and caring community, making a meaningful difference in the lives of Maritime children, women and families who rely on the IWK's specialized care. You help ensure these patients can access world-class care when they need it most through your support of the **Urgent Priorities Fund**. It helps fund innovative research, programs, updated facilities and vital pieces of medical equipment.

We're proud to share some of the ways your generous support has made an impact in 2021-22:

Aboriginal Children's Hurt and Healing Initiative

Thanks to your support, the IWK Foundation helps fund the Aboriginal Children's Hurt and Healing Initiative under the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR). In collaboration with the Chronic Pain Network, communities are leading their own research in partnership with the IWK team to better understand the pain and hurt experiences of children and youth and to design culturally safe care practices.



Fellowship Funding

Dr. Laura Stymiest is a pediatrician at the IWK and Director, Child and Youth Advocacy, in Dalhousie's Department of Pediatrics. She is a past recipient of an IWK Foundation Fellowship, which allowed her to complete a Master's degree in children's law and policy while working in the IWK's emergency department. The fellowship, which was funded entirely by donors like you, made it possible for Dr. Stymiest to lead important ongoing work on the health and wellbeing of children and youth living in the Maritimes. She can better understand how advocates, like her, can improve children's lives by helping governments make better, healthier decisions.



Dr. Laura Stymiest,
Pediatrician, IWK
Director, Child and Youth Advocacy,
Dalhousie's Department of Pediatrics



Helping Repair the IWK's Helideck

Providing emergent or urgent care as quickly as possible is vital for critically-ill newborns, children, youth and mothers with high-risk pregnancies. As the Maritimes' only specialized pediatric hospital and trauma centre, a rooftop helideck at the IWK is essential to providing acute care and treatment to patients in our region. Your donations helped repair the helideck's fuel containment and heating systems, ensuring it continues to be there for those who require life-saving critical care.

Translating Research into Care (TRIC)

Translating Research into Care (TRIC) grants support projects that combine research and care at the bedside, advancing health care delivery and improving patient care and outcomes. One TRIC grant funded through your support is an important study assessing the continuous measurement of oxygen saturation in infants with bronchitis.



Creating a Welcoming Space for Patients Who Need Emergency Care

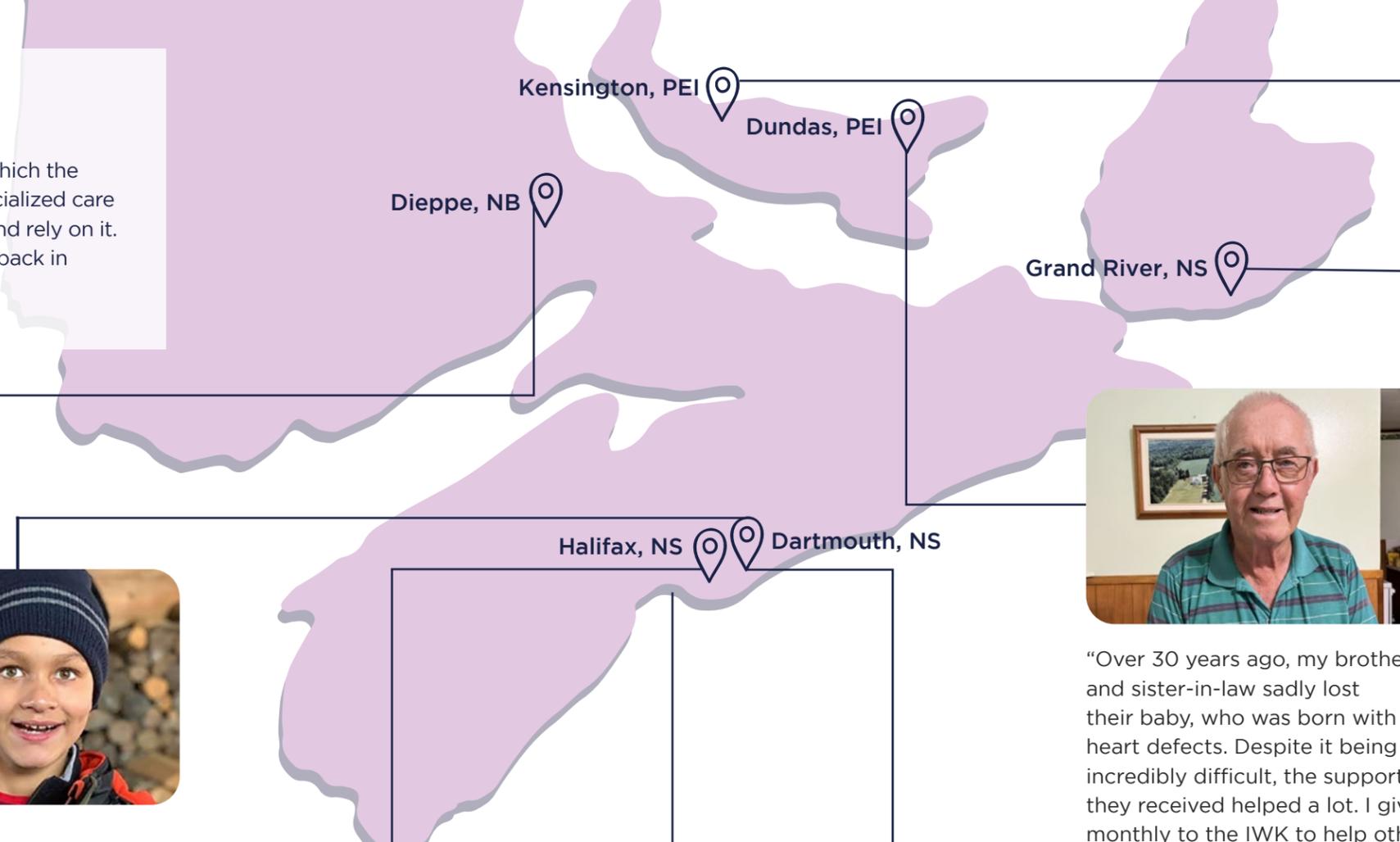
Thanks to donors like you, the IWK has a newly updated Emergency Department (ED) waiting room. The waiting room is now a bright and refreshing area with improved air quality, appreciated by patients, families and staff. The updated ED waiting room can accommodate more patients and families while respecting social distancing and infection control practices. Specific enhancements and improvements include contributions towards updated waiting room interior finishes, flooring, furniture, and glass dividers, as well as exterior handrails, screens and balcony updates.

Improving the Health and Wellness of Women

The Partnership for Women's Health Research Canada is a pan-Canadian collaboration focused on enhancing women's health research to improve the health and wellness of women, trans and non-binary people. Your donations support the IWK's involvement in this vital initiative.

YOUR IWK

Your support is a lifeline to the outstanding care for which the IWK is known. Because of you, the IWK can offer specialized care to Maritime children, women and families who need and rely on it. Meet other Maritime supporters like you, who all give back in meaningful ways.



"We chose to support the IWK for our Pedal for Their Future fundraiser, because everyone that was involved in the fundraiser is a parent to young children. We understand the vulnerability of a sick child, and we are incredibly empathetic for any family that has to live that reality."

- Cam MacKinnon & Stéphane Boudreau, IWK Warriors



"The IWK helped me so much when I was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes that when I heard about the 100 Hours for the Kids Warrior on the radio, I really wanted to join them in giving back. I have participated in the program for three years, beating my goal and being the top fundraiser out of the Warriors each year!"

- Ethan Edwards, Youth Donor



"When our community thinks about the IWK, children are what immediately comes to mind. However, I wanted to share my breast cancer story to bring awareness to the exceptional care provided for women at the IWK. Mostly, I want other women to know that the IWK is there for them, too. It's also why my husband, Kris, and I were inspired to give back through a gift of shares."

- Leila Gashus, Major Gift Donor



Estate of Donald L. Drake (d. May 28, 2021)
"Uncle Don didn't have children, but he loved kids and would be happy to know his IWK legacy gift will be designated to making new parents of premature babies a little more comfortable during their stay."

- Paul Quinn, nephew, Legacy Giving



"Over 30 years ago, my brother and sister-in-law sadly lost their baby, who was born with heart defects. Despite it being incredibly difficult, the support they received helped a lot. I give monthly to the IWK to help other families like mine."

- David Nicholson, Monthly Donor



"I happily support the IWK because of the exceptional care that my eight-year-old granddaughter, Emmie MacCuspig, receives from the wonderful staff. Emmie would not be the happy-go-lucky child she is without their dedication."

- Margaret Ann MacCuspig, Founders Club



The IWK Foundation was grateful to begin a new long-term partnership of support with the Town of Kensington, PEI, in 2021, which will see the municipality graciously contribute a \$1,000 donation to support children's urgent care priorities in each of the next ten years, through 2030.

- Official Representatives, Town of Kensington, Community Group



RE/MAX brokerages throughout the Maritimes raised a record-breaking \$188,513 for the IWK through the Miracle Home Program in 2021. Plus, RE/MAX Nova became the first Maritime brokerage in history to be named one of Canada's top ten fundraising brokerages! Thank you all participating brokerages, and agents.

- Maritime RE/MAX Brokerages, Corporate Giving

Thank You for Giving

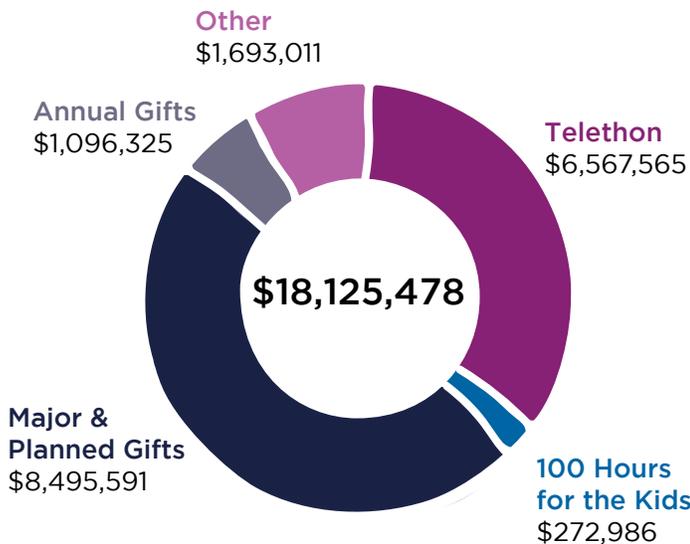
To learn more about all of the ways to give to the IWK Foundation, please visit iwkfoundation.org/ways-to-give.

To view a full list of our 2021-22 IWK Donors, please visit iwkfoundation.org/reports.

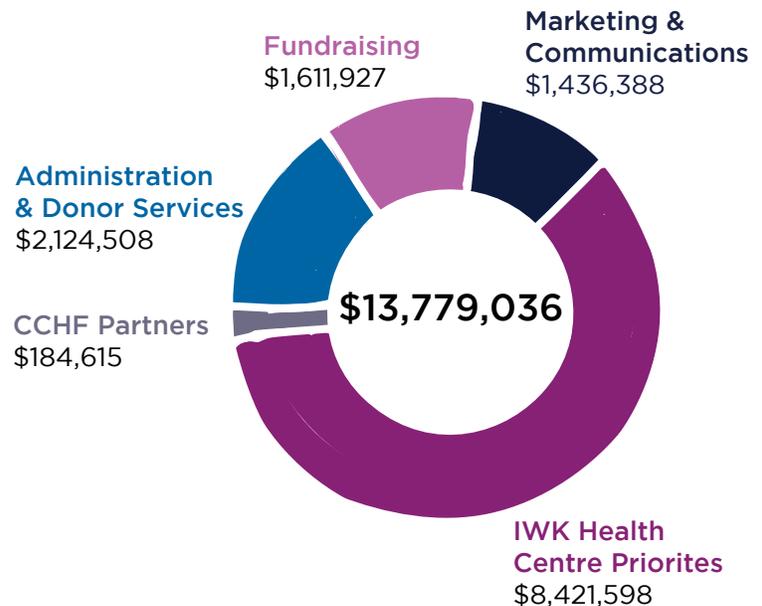
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

We feel very fortunate to have the generous support of our Maritime community, who helped make the IWK the special place it is and will continue to be.

Fundraising



How We Spend Your Dollars



To learn more about the impact of your generosity, visit iwkfoundation.org/reports to view the IWK Foundation's 2021-22 audited financial statements.

LOOKING AHEAD:

The New IWK Emergency Department

When the IWK Foundation embarked on *Breakthroughs in Care* and the Critical Care Redevelopment Project nearly 10 years ago, it was a call to action.

And you answered.

It was the largest privately funded healthcare campaign in the Atlantic region that transformed care in the areas of inpatient mental health, women's health, rehabilitation services and neonatal and pediatric intensive care, as well as funding mental health outcomes research.

Once again, we are calling on our donor community to make a difference.

As the largest pediatric hospital in Atlantic Canada and the only Level 1 pediatric trauma centre east

of Quebec, the IWK is building a new emergency department (ED). It is being designed to provide an innovative, efficient and stress-reducing emergency care experience for Maritime patients and families.

Our donors will play an integral role in bringing the new ED to the standard that Maritime patients and families rely on and deserve, ensuring that the quality of space matches the IWK's philosophy of care. You, together with the IWK Foundation in partnership with the Government of Nova Scotia, have the chance to be a part of developing the new ED at the IWK.

We look forward to sharing more details about how you can support this exciting project very soon. With your help, we can ensure that every child will feel at ease when they visit the IWK ED.



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