



AARON'S APPLE

Your Investment. Your Impact.

We are profoundly grateful for Aaron's Apple's support of medication for the Patient Amenities Fund at SickKids. Your commitment to ensuring that no child should ever have to suffer in pain, and that no parent should ever have to watch their child suffer because they cannot afford to pay for treatment has a tremendous impact on the lives of children. Your gift makes it possible to provide financial assistance for families who require medication to treat their children during their most challenging times.

We are delighted to report on the impact of your gift over the past year.

Patient Amenities

Illness or injury can happen to any child, and caring for a child that requires hospitalization is one of the greatest challenges that any parent or caregiver may face. For many low-income families across Canada, this is a devastating reality that adds stress to their already challenging situations.

Although the cost of care is covered by public health insurance, hospital stays are very expensive. There are often incidental, out-of-pocket expenses that arise as a result of illness or injury. For low-income families that are struggling to live within their means, the added financial costs of attending to a child's care can be difficult to manage. Through your support the Patient Amenities Fund helps ease this financial burden so that families can focus on providing their child the care they need.

Last year, Patient Amenities provided support to hundreds of SickKids patients and their families dealing with financial hardships resulting from a child's illness or injury. Requests for this kind of support are omnipresent at SickKids, and Patient Amenities ensures that no child's health is compromised due to financial need.

Providing What's Needed to Heal

While hospitalization is covered by public health insurance, care for some patients can continue beyond their stay at SickKids. Ongoing treatment may require medication to help them recover or manage their condition at home. Over the past year, Patient Amenities has provided parents with additional funding to ensure children receive life-saving or life-enhancing treatments, when the cost is not covered by public or private health insurance. The Fund spent approximately \$15,000 to help families in need access prescription medication and over-the-counter treatments that were instrumental in their child's recovery.

Meet Jason* and Blake*

Jason, 10 and Blake 12, are brothers that both suffer from cystic fibrosis (CF) and pancreatic insufficiency—a common complication associated with CF. Throughout the course of their disease, they developed a condition that required anti-fungal therapy. Their father's insurance only covered a portion of the treatment, and he was not able to manage the remaining cost of the treatment in addition to the existing costs of his children's care. The Patient Amenities Fund was able to provide assistance to cover the remaining cost to ensure that Jason and Blake would be able to receive the proper course of treatment. Since receiving the medication, quality of life has improved for the two brothers.

Meet Stephanie*

Stephanie is a 3-year-old girl living outside Toronto that was diagnosed with Leukemia. Her mother is a single parent, and her workplace drug plan covers only herself. To manage her care at home, Stephanie requires medication and her mother is unable to afford the cost. Patient Amenities provided financial assistance to enable Stephanie's mother to purchase the medication until she could enrol in a government program to assist with Stephanie's medication coverage.

Thank You

We are incredibly grateful for Aaron's Apple's support. Your commitment to Patient Amenities ensures that we can continue to offer hope and healing to children and families that are made financially vulnerable by the cost of a child's care. On behalf of SickKids and all the children and families that benefit from the Patient Amenities Fund, thank you for your remarkable generosity.

**names and identifying details have been changed*

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