



The Miller family

Our story

Champions for the health of every Island family since 1927

children's
HEALTH FOUNDATION
OF VANCOUVER ISLAND

Investing in the health of Island kids since 1927

Our beginning

Our story began more than 90 years ago with a parent fighting to bring care for her child closer to home – a cause that’s just as relevant across Vancouver Island and the surrounding islands today.

Since our beginnings in Mill Bay, we’ve dedicated ourselves to transforming access to services for kids and youth with health challenges, supporting every Island family in finding care for their children – yesterday, today, and tomorrow.



Ivy and Erma at the Solarium, 1930



The Solarium, 1928

Early childhood development

Enabling access to resources, supports, and therapies to ensure children thrive and reach their developmental milestones from prenatal to age six.

Youth mental health

Supporting services and experts that reach youth any time throughout their mental health journey.

Children and youth living with complex needs

Helping families access multiple services, therapies, and specialists to address the complex needs of their children from birth into young adulthood.

Children’s Health Foundation of Vancouver Island has invested in the health of Island kids for more than 90 years. Our vision is to ensure all Island families have access to the health care they need.

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, we are able to bring supports closer to home and help transform the lives of children and youth living with physical and mental health challenges.

We know kids may only be 21% of our Island’s population, but they are 100% of our future.

Our story

1922

Edith Scott appeals to the Women's Institute of British Columbia to help her sick stepdaughter access treatment.



1927

The Queen Alexandra Solarium for Crippled Children welcomes its first patient.



1958

To better meet patient needs, the Solarium relocates to its current location in Victoria.



1973

The Queen Alexandra Solarium is renamed the Queen Alexandra Hospital for Children.



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1925

Vancouver Island's Mill Bay is selected as the site for a children's hospital. A contribution from the Royal Family inspires the name.

1940

A splint and brace shop opens at the Solarium.



1968

The G.R. Pearkes Centre for Children opens, treating patients with cerebral palsy.



1982

The Anscomb House opens, treating patients with muscular dystrophy.



1984

The Queen Alexandra Foundation for Children is established, now known as Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island.



1987

Vancouver Island's only child and youth mental health facility, Ledger House, opens.



2012

Jeneece Place opens, a home away from home for families traveling to Victoria for their child's medical care.



2017

Capital campaign launches to develop a youth mental health hub offering services and support, now called Foundry Victoria.



2027

Children's Health Foundation celebrates 100 years of investing in the health of Island families!



1986

The Rehabilitation Engineering Centre opens (later renamed the Fisher Building) housing wheelchair, orthotic, and prosthetic services.



2004

Queen Alexandra Foundation funds the development of Child, Youth & Family Centres in Colwood and Sooke.



2012

Queen Alexandra Foundation for Children renamed Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island.

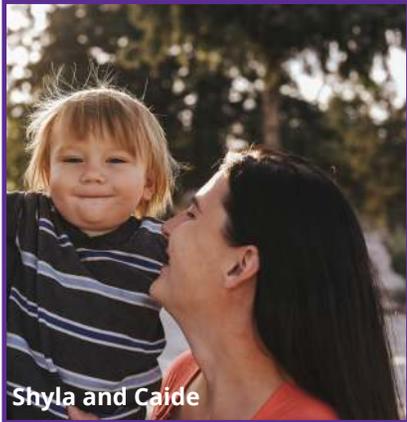


2019

Capital campaign launches to develop a home away from home in Campbell River, Qwalayu House, serving families from the west and northern regions of the Island and surrounding islands.



How Jeneece Place made this Campbell River family feel at home



Shyla and Caide

In spring of 2018, Campbell River soon-to-be mom Shyla went into preterm labour at just 24 weeks. After being flown to Vancouver and then sent to Victoria, Shyla knew there was going to be a long and complicated road ahead for her and her newborn son Caide.

Being hours away from home and family, Shyla wondered where they would stay during their extended time in Victoria. This feeling is a reality for many Island families needing to travel long distances to receive health care.

Thankfully, Jeneece Place, Victoria's home away from home, was able to take the pair in. Shyla and Caide's initial stay at Jeneece Place lasted four months. For Shyla, it was an experience she couldn't be more grateful for.

"I have no idea what we would have done without Jeneece Place. The only other option would have been to get a hotel, but we can't afford that," said Shyla.

Caide and Shyla are back home living in Campbell River, but Caide still experiences frequent seizures, which means they travel to Victoria every few months so he can receive treatment.

Each time, they've been able to stay at Jeneece Place. Beyond his little setbacks, Caide is doing really well and is learning to walk.

"Every time we stay at Jeneece Place, the staff remembers us and our situation. It truly is a 'home away from home'. Whether they're making you dinner, or just making you laugh, they make it better."



Mrs. Margaret Smith's legacy for Island kids

The late Margaret Delphine Smith left a generous legacy gift in her will, which will benefit thousands of Island kids and their families for generations to come through the Lisa Huus Memorial Fund.



Mrs. Margaret Smith

Margaret was a beloved philanthropist, volunteer, wife, and friend. Margaret kept a close friendship with Mrs. Annie Huus, whose 20-year-old daughter Lisa passed away from a rare condition

associated with muscular dystrophy nearly three decades ago. After Lisa's passing, the Huus family created a memorial fund at Children's Health Foundation to support students pursuing post-secondary education while living with a physical disability.

"Margaret and Lisa had a close friendship and Margaret was inspired by Lisa's determination. She believed everyone deserved a chance and made this gift to support other children like Lisa, well into the future," says Annie.

Your impact on youth mental health: Meet Maude

Since she was 15 years old, Maude struggled with depression and anxiety. To combat her mental health challenges, she turned to alcohol and drugs. And it quickly spiralled out of her control.

"I felt like I'd dug myself into this hole that I couldn't get out of," says Maude.

When Maude realized she needed help and was ready to make a change, Foundry was there. She saw trusting doctors, received counselling, and entered a treatment centre.



Maude at Foundry Victoria

A few months later, Maude was hired to work at Foundry Victoria as a peer support worker. Maude helps clients find resources, whether that's a food bank, a counsellor, or a psychiatrist. And if the clinic can't see the client that same day, Maude is a listening ear right then and there.

"I think if Foundry hadn't been there for me when I was ready, it's hard to say whether or not I'd be sitting here today. There's a chance I wouldn't be."

The Mason family's legacy for Island kids with complex needs

Ask Victoria resident Janice Mason about her brother David and she's quick to describe him as a central part of their tight-knit family. Born in 1965, David had multiple complex health challenges and his parents were told he wouldn't live past his fifth birthday.



David and Gren Mason



David and Reta Mason

Being in a wheelchair didn't stop David from being an active member of the family who loved being outdoors. Every adventure his family went on – from camping, to Beacon Hill Park, to beaches across the Island – David went on too.

When asked for her hopes for kids like David, Janice said, "I want them to have the opportunity to explore and be able to go after the things they want, just like other kids."

From the time he was kindergarten-aged, David attended school at the G.R. Pearkes Centre at the Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health before passing away at the age of 17.

The Women's Auxiliary of Pearkes contributed to a fund to honour David's legacy. The Fund operated for years as a bursary for post-secondary education for students with disabilities. The Mason family is now investing the fund in the community to support kids to access care as well as outdoor recreation and play.



David and his sisters

"My parents provided us with lots of opportunities. I know that not all families can do that for their kids, so if we can do something to help, that is very meaningful for us."



Leave a legacy of health for Island kids

You can help to ensure that Island kids have access to the health care they need for generations to come. Join us as a champion for the health of every Island family by leaving a gift in your will.

Why leave a legacy gift?



Legacy giving is a heartfelt way to support the things you care about most, now and in the future.



A gift left after your lifetime may allow you to give more than you are able to afford now.



A charitable gift in your will may provide significant tax relief for your estate.

If you would like more information about leaving a gift in your will, you can contact Jane Evans directly at jane.evans@islandkidsfirst.com or 250-940-4950. We will be happy to work with you and your family to help you meet your legacy giving goals.

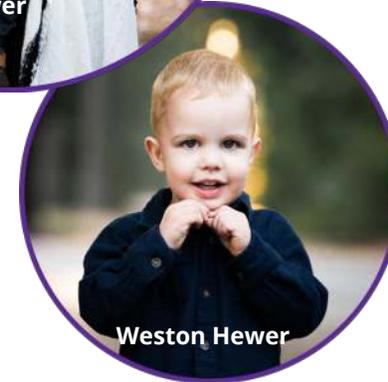
If you have already left a legacy gift to, please let us know. We would love to thank you and welcome you to our Queen Alexandra Legacy Circle.

Thank you for being a champion for the health of every Island family



Jackson, Weston,
and Robyn Hewer

"We're so very grateful. You don't realize the resources and support that are out there until you have a need for them, and Jeneece Place opened up a whole world to us."
– Robyn, Weston's mom



Weston Hewer

For more than 90 years, generous donors like you have made our work possible. From Port Hardy to Ucluelet to Victoria and beyond, your generosity has allowed us to support families from across the Island and surrounding islands.

You have transformed the lives of children and youth living with physical and mental health challenges.

Thank you!



Ricci, Brian, and Emma
Campbell River

“

“Every thought, care,
or penny given from
someone to Children’s
Health Foundation
of Vancouver Island
means the world to us.
It all helped us raise
Emma.”
- Ricci, Campbell River

Connect with the Foundation

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