

Donations at **WORK**

Alberta
Children's
HOSPITAL 
FOUNDATION

Owen Hart Memorial for Special Children's Fund

When a child is diagnosed with an illness or injury, it's often sudden and unexpected. It can cause major disruption in a family's day-to-day life, weigh heavily on their hearts and minds, and, in some cases, become financially daunting. Thanks to community support, a program at the Alberta Children's Hospital helps ease the stress for many families who find themselves in an overwhelming situation.

Sometimes a little helps a lot

The Special Children's Fund provides resources to eligible families whose financial situation impacts their ability to be with their child in hospital, take care of their own basic needs, or afford medical supplies or equipment required for their child's recovery.

In the 2016-2017 year, the Special Children's Fund was able to help 1,565 families with various supports during their children's stay in hospital. Each family had a compelling story or need.

"Demand for this support is high," says Catherine Morrison, Manager, Patient and Family Centred Care. "There were many more families who experienced job losses in 2016 and 2017. This means the Special Children's Fund has recently supported families who have never even qualified for this program in the past."

Among those supported were a family of Syrian refugees who have a child with hearing loss. They could not afford ear molds or specialized batteries for hearing aids so these costs were covered by the Special Children's Fund.

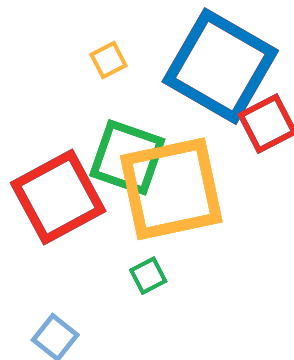
In another case, a child was receiving end-of-life care at Rotary Flames House and had only her mother staying with

her here in Calgary – her father and five siblings were back at home in central Canada. The child was desperate to see her family again, but it was impossible for her parents to afford the travel costs for everyone. Thanks to community-donated resources, the Special Children's Fund team was able to help facilitate flights for the child's family members so all of them could be reunited before she passed away.

"These stories are some of the exceptional ones," says Catherine. "Just as important are the smaller items and services we are able to provide families with in their time of need, allowing them to focus their full attention on their child in hospital."

The Special Children's Fund helps families with:

- Meals & food vouchers
- Parking costs & Travel support
- Hearing devices
- Accommodations
- Medications & medical supplies
- Specialized formula
- Orthotics
- Dental care
- Oxygen supports
- Breast pump rentals
- Feeding supports
- iPads with communication apps



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