



BY OUR SIDE: CARING FOR LITTLE LIVES CLOSE TO HOME

A newborn takes her first breath free from a ventilator. A child learns they just overcame the greatest battle of their young life. A family is finally together after far too long apart. These moments drive the talented physicians and nurses of our Maternal Child Program. They're moments made possible by you.

You gave the gifts of comfort and peace of mind, enabling both parents and patients to stay close to their support systems. In our Birthing Unit, Paediatric Urgent Care Clinic, Asthma Clinic, and others, you equipped teams with new tools to provide critical care and families with new ways to stay connected. When the unthinkable happened and neonatal care was required, your donations enabled us to make that care the highest priority. At our

Regional Level 2C Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, which helps deliver babies as early as 30 weeks, you gave tiny warriors a fighting chance and their parents the opportunity to remain by their side.

Even in the darkest weeks of the pandemic, **five new lives came into the world every day at Southlake with the support of the equipment you provided.** From the 12 beds in our Paediatric Unit to the 1,311 annual visits at our Paediatric Oncology Clinic, we were able to keep patients shielded from the pandemic and their loved ones deeply involved.

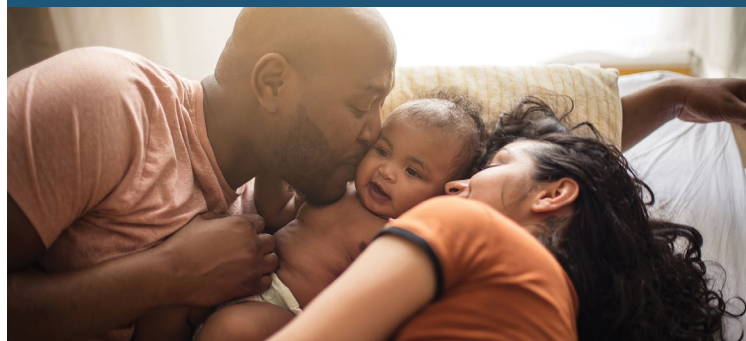
Wherever your support reached, the ultimate effect was the same: keeping exceptional care close to home for families in our community.



VITAL SIGNS

Your Impact by the Numbers*

A YEAR AT SOUTHLAKE



2,600 BABIES BORN

439 NICU ADMISSIONS

897 CHILDREN CARED FOR IN THE
PAEDIATRIC URGENT CARE CLINIC

1,353 PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY
CLINIC VISITS

892 CHILDREN CARED FOR IN THE
BILIRUBIN CLINIC

**Statistics reflect annual numbers from the most recent hospital data available.*

A PERSONAL MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM THE FRONT LINE:

Our patients need a team of people to help provide the care they need. And during COVID-19, our role has doubled. On top of being responsible for the care and wellbeing of our patients, educating them and providing them with the treatment they need, we're also filling the gap to be their support system in the cases when their loved ones can't be with them. For those of us on the front-line, we depend on a team too – and that team includes you, the generous donors who put the tools and equipment in our hands. You make it possible for us to provide the most advanced care possible, right here close to home. Together, we are helping keep families together.

Carly Venedam Registered Nurse, Birthing Unit, Southlake Health Centre



THE FAMILIES YOU HEAL

From complex delivery to happy homecoming for one mum.

In August of last year, Carly Skinner returned to Southlake for the birth of her second child. Her first, Charlie, was delivered by emergency C-section in 2017, but complications during his birth meant her second could be even more complex.

Carly would have what is known as a Vaginal Birth After C-Section, or VBAC, a relatively new procedure that comes with its own challenges and risks. From the moment she entered the hospital, her team took the time to inform her of the medical decisions ahead. Carly remembers the difference this made. “I was panicked, but the information was shared in a way that made me feel I had control of the situation. Knowledge is power.”

As her contractions came faster, Carly was brought to a private delivery room. Her husband was cleared to join her and with him came a new source of support: Nurse Carly Venedam. The expecting mum was struck by Nurse Carly’s “genuineness, going above and beyond when she really didn’t need to. It’s hard to put into words, it’s just a feeling she gave off.”

But her unborn baby’s heart-rate was dropping, the same distress that forced Charlie to be delivered by C-section. Nurse Carly helped guide Mom through these critical moments. Seven minutes later, little Annie was lying on her mother’s chest taking her first gulps of air.

Then her breathing began to slow. Her tiny body was still grey from lack of oxygen. A Respiratory Therapist rushed her off for emergency care and Carly was left to recover.



Carly's first-born, Charlie, with his 5-month-old baby sister, Annie.

“It goes from all the hustle and bustle to suddenly you’re alone. You don’t have your baby or your husband.” But she did have Nurse Carly, who returned to share up-to-the-minute information. “This nurse just went above and beyond.”

After a few hours in a Continuous Positive Airway Pressure machine in the NICU, Annie was breathing on her own. Nurse Carly stayed by her side until they were cleared to go home.

Carly and Annie had more than just exceptional physicians and nurses by their side: they had you. **You helped provide the equipment that gave little Annie the breath of life.**

Their story isn’t unique: every day, on average five families welcome their newest member into the world at Southlake. Through complication and intervention, your support makes the difference to each one.

THE EQUIPMENT YOU INVESTED IN TO SAVE LIVES

The most delicate patients need the most advanced equipment. You were there to put it in the right hands.

NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT CARDIAC MONITORS

These crucial monitors alert staff when a newborn's heart rate is too low or high, if their breathing slows or pauses, or if their oxygen saturation numbers drop. Our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit was able to replace outdated cardiac monitors with new equipment that includes resuscitation monitors and central monitoring to give nurses real-time information at their station to act pre-emptively for any intervention that the little one needs. To parents, the peace of mind knowing their newborn will get critical care in an instant is beyond valuable.

ECHOCARDIOGRAM

Infants and children are not just smaller adults: they require specially designed and sized equipment. Built for these unique patients, child echocardiograms give our teams real-time insight into the health and function of the smallest hearts. Thanks to your support, Southlake's cardiologists and pediatricians are now equipped with the most accurate information available, and children and their families no longer have to travel to larger hospitals for care.



PAEDIATRIC EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

As part of a collaboration between Southlake's Emergency Department, Paediatric and NICU programs, these leading edge devices detect when a child takes a turn for the worse, and quickly alert staff to the need for medical intervention while providing clearer clues as to the cause. The system helps reduce incidents of respiratory cardiac arrest in infants and lowers the number of patients requiring transfer to the Paediatric or Neonatal Intensive Care Units for more acute care.

MASON POWER POLES

These vibrant, colourful IV poles bring kids' favourite animals, Disney characters and superheroes right into their hospital rooms, making cancer treatment a little less scary. Not only do our staff now have more of these critical tools, but young patients have an opportunity to choose the pole they'd like — a small but impactful moment that puts them in control.



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When baby Annie was born, we hooked her up to the monitors right away to see her oxygen levels and get an accurate heart rate to make sure she was okay. That's what alerted our respiratory therapist that her lungs needed a little extra help, and we were able to send her into NICU care for a few hours. Because we have the right equipment to monitor newborns, our NICU team was able to be by baby Annie's side, and I was able to give her mom the care she needed after giving birth. Thank you for supporting the equipment that is vital to the work we do, and helping us give new parents and their newborn babies the best possible care at every moment.

”

Carly Venedam

Registered Nurse, Birthing Unit



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The equipment you provided last year is already making an impact. But other **devices are approaching end of life and in urgent need of replacement or upgrade**. One of our top priorities for the future is our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, known as “Giraffe” at Southlake, where newborns requiring immediate intervention can get the care they need before going home with their families. **Here are several of the devices our NICU urgently need right now.**

WARMERS

These specialized beds are designed to maintain a temperature-controlled environment for newborns to thrive, complete with an x-ray tray to provide infants with uninterrupted warmth during x-rays. A built-in scale makes measuring a baby’s weight easy, while sensors enable clinicians to monitor and track vital signs such as temperature and oxygen saturation levels at a glance.

INCUBATOR CARESTATIONS

Designed to mimic the womb, Incubator Carestations provide infants with the optimal conditions for natural, peaceful healing while their organs develop. These invaluable devices also strengthen the bond between families and their babies at a critical time by providing digestible information about the little ones’ progress at every step of the way.

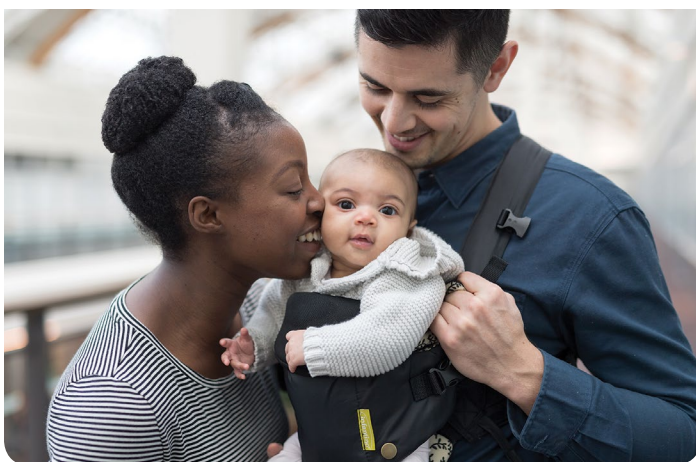


OMNIBEDS

These give infants who require the most critical care a controlled, protected microenvironment with fully integrated monitoring. The Giraffe OmniBed Carestation is designed to address the changing and complex demands of the NICU by utilizing advanced technology to provide supportive, family-centered care solutions, consistently-controlled thermal environments, improved patient access and visibility, and reliable clinical performance. The Giraffe OmniBed was designed to bring babies one step closer to caregivers’ expertise, their parents’ embrace and to going home healthy.

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Keeping families together is so critical to care and recovery for young patients. One of the biggest reasons why families need to travel far for treatment is the availability of equipment. Children need highly specialized devices, which are often only available at the largest hospitals. This can introduce considerable expense and disruption to an already difficult experience. By supporting our Maternal Child Program, you’re giving your community those tools so that families stay close to the support systems vital to recovery.

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Dr. Charmaine van Schaik Chief of Paediatrics and Medical Director, Paediatric Outpatient Clinics



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Much of this year has been focused around COVID and ensuring our families celebrating the birth of a child can do so with confidence in our safety and support towards this life milestone. Equally, we have made sure that all our families can receive needed healthcare by our paediatricians, obstetricians and midwives throughout COVID by changing how and what we do to meet the community's needs: telephone care, virtual or video care, and in-person care. In the end, it's about maintaining and supporting the health needs of our families.

..... ”
Dr. Charmaine van Schaik
Chief of Paediatrics and Medical Director,
Paediatric Outpatient Clinics



THANK YOU



For children and their families, a hospital can be a frightening place. Knowing this, our skilled team ensures that Southlake's youngest patients are treated with the utmost compassion at every step of their treatment. And they ensure that their families get the insights and reassurances that are so important in the face of uncertainty.

One of our top priorities is making sure that the experience of childbirth is exactly what families imagine it to be. Listening to concerns, accommodating requests, and offering support are always critical steps to ensuring quality care, but during a pandemic these small touches make a world of difference. Your support helps ensure this personal connection runs through every moment they share at Southlake, whether by equipping nurses with the latest monitors or bringing the smile of a newborn in an incubator to their parent's phone. Every gift, no matter how small or how large, makes an impact.

You may not be aware that new and replacement equipment is not provided through government funding. Instead, we rely on people like you. And you have shown us that this reliance is well-founded. **Just like the families who come to Southlake for their child's care, you have put your trust in us to provide leading edge treatment and compassion. On behalf of our entire team, thank you so very, very much.**

As we continue to share love, healing and compassionate care with some of the smallest members of our ever-growing community, we are privileged to have you by our side.



Jennifer Klotz-Ritter President and CEO, Southlake Foundation



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Leading edge care takes a community, and your support is more than important: it's vital.

If you have questions or would like more information about the difference your gift has made, we're here to help.

Reach out and connect with us at 289.319.3234 or foundation@southlakeregional.org

southlake.ca/donate

