



MEDIA RELEASE

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A century of care: Children's Hospital celebrates 100 years

(London, Ontario) – A century of care is being celebrated at Children's Hospital at London Health Sciences as October 29 marks 100 years of providing exemplary care to hundreds of thousands of patients and achieving global recognition for medical firsts and technological advancements.

Since 1922, Children's Hospital has been the heart of this healthy community, providing much-needed services to children, supporting families, and championing medical advancements through education and research. Reflecting on the last 100 years, there is much to celebrate:

- 1984: Ontario's first liver and heart transplants in children
- 1997: A six-month-old girl became the world's youngest multi-organ transplant recipient receiving a liver, bowel, stomach and pancreas
- 2022: State-of-the-art robotic arm allowing surgeons to pinpoint the location of epileptic seizures ultimately curing children of epilepsy

"This is so much more than just celebrating a legacy of care," said Nash Syed, President of Children's Hospital. "This is about building the future of health care for children. I am incredibly proud of what this hospital has accomplished in the last 100 years, and I have no doubt that the excitement felt for achieving this milestone will carry us through the next 100, 200 and even 300 years. For me, this excitement is what fuels my passion for working with our incredible teams, the Children's Health Foundation, regional partners and the government to expand and transform health care for years to come."

A century of care creates many remarkable moments, including Steven McLean's. Born prematurely in 1991, Steven received life-saving care at the Children's Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). What followed was continuous follow-up appointments, 30 operations and 100 emergency room visits by the age of 18. Through all this, Steven's family continued to receive compassionate care whenever they entered the doors of Children's Hospital. Inspired by the support Steven received from the health care teams, Steven chose to become a registered nurse in family medicine at LHSC.

"As I look back on my health care journey, I am so grateful for the support I received at Children's Hospital," said Steven McLean, LHSC RN. "At one point during my care, I was sad knowing that after I was healed, I wouldn't see the staff at Children's Hospital; I knew I would miss them. I owe so much to medicine, which is why I'm proud to be an RN."

Like many local advancements in health care, Children's Hospital has always depended on the generosity and compassion of its community. Established in 1922, the Children's Health Foundation has played a vital role in the creation of what Children's Hospital is today.

"With our community's continued support, our legacy of the best possible care for our kids, lives on at Children's Hospital," said Scott Fortnum, President and CEO of Children's Health Foundation. "You enable cutting-edge care, rehabilitation and research ensuring the best care for our young lives for the next century and beyond."

As Children's Hospital looks to the future, providing compassionate, inclusive and equitable care will continue to be the foundation for all operational decision-making. With digital advancements like robotic technology, virtual care, and non-invasive medical procedures, Children's Hospital will continue to inspire the health care leaders of tomorrow, while being the heart of this healthy community.

Quick Facts

- In 1922, Children's Hospital was originally named War Memorial Children's Hospital of Western Ontario to honour men and women who had fought in WWI
- In 1922, a three-storey building called the War Memorial Children's Hospital opened with 60 beds. It had as many as 185 beds in the 1970's and in 1985

moved to the Westminster site and was renamed Children's Hospital of Western Ontario.

- Verna Woods was the very first patient admitted to the new facility on October 29, 1922
- As a result of a merger of Victoria Hospital and University Hospital in 1995, Children's Hospital of Western Ontario came under the proud banner of LHSC
- On October 1, 2007, Children's Hospital of Western Ontario became Children's Hospital
- Today, Children's Hospital has 12 critical care beds and 58 inpatient beds and serves children in London, Southwestern and Western Ontario, parts of Northern Ontario, Canada and the United States.

About London Health Sciences Centre

With roots going back a century and a half, London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC), is an award-winning, research-intensive acute tertiary and quaternary teaching hospital, one of only 14 such hospitals in Ontario. LHSC is also home to Children's Hospital, one of just four acute tertiary care paediatric hospitals in the province. Our unique place in the health system positions us well to inform and advise on provincial, national and international health policy. We are the cornerstone of care for many specialized programs and services in Western Ontario. And, as a major provider of emergency care and through our community hospital mission, we also care for the more than 400,000 people who call London home as well as many in surrounding communities. With Ontario's health system continuing its transformation, LHSC has an opportunity to inform it and to place itself at the locus of the regionalized health system by virtue of its size, specialized capabilities, research and education capacity and its current regional footprint. LHSC's formal relationship and strong bond with Western University provide a mechanism for collaboration to enable the delivery of high-quality care through a process of continuous learning and research. At its core, the affiliation is a reciprocal relationship that leverages the learning, teaching and care environments of both Western University and LHSC. LHSC is a 15,000 person strong team of physicians, staff and volunteers – collaborators, innovators and pioneers, meeting the care needs of those we serve and charting a course for the future.

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**For more information contact:
Steve Young**

Media Relations Consultant
London Health Sciences Centre
(519) 685.8500 x 77767
Steve.young@lhsc.on.ca

After-hours assistance:

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