



**The Great Bear Society**  
Leave a legacy for Stollery kids





## Leave a legacy for our sickest kids

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The Great Bear Society is a community of people who are creating a lasting legacy by leaving a gift to the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation in their Will.

These Great Bears stand confidently in the name of something bigger than themselves and act as defenders of hope for our sickest kids. They give generously in support of families they may have never met and to a cause that may never touch them directly.

The Great Bear Society builds a brighter future for thousands of vulnerable children across Western Canada. These guardians of children's health help the Stollery pursue excellence. They are the rock families stand on during extraordinary battles.

Great Bears protect our Little Bears, and their gifts change lives forever.

## Guided by the Great Bear

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The Great Bear and the Little Bear constellations, Ursa Major and Ursa Minor, have lit up the night sky and inspired civilizations for thousands of years. The Great Bear is a symbol of health and protection, and a trusted marker for navigating the world.



Lindsay and his family - Michael, Deb and Alexis.

## Great Bear Ambassador

# Lindsay Dodd

I vividly remember the day my son, Michael, became gravely ill.

I remember vividly our doctor saying, *“The bad news is – your son has a condition that can be fatal in kids. The good news is – we have a bed waiting for him at the Stollery.”*

*“There’s something so raw about handing your three-month-old baby over to a surgeon. You feel helpless.”*

There it was. The most challenging words a parent could hear. Yet, at the same time, the most hopeful words I could have heard right then, too.

There’s something so raw about handing your three-month-old baby over to a surgeon. You feel helpless. But knowing that the medical team whose hands you’re putting him into is the very best in the country? I wish every parent in Canada was as fortunate as we were that day.

I’m forever grateful that Michael recovered. In fact, he’s gone on to university. But I’ve always remembered those feelings of helplessness and of hope. That’s why I’ve been deeply committed to supporting the Stollery Children’s Hospital ever since.

Over the years, my wife, Deb, and I have donated and volunteered at the Stollery Children’s Hospital Foundation. I’m a past president of the board of trustees, and Deb served on the advisory committee of the Stollery Women’s Network. Michael raises

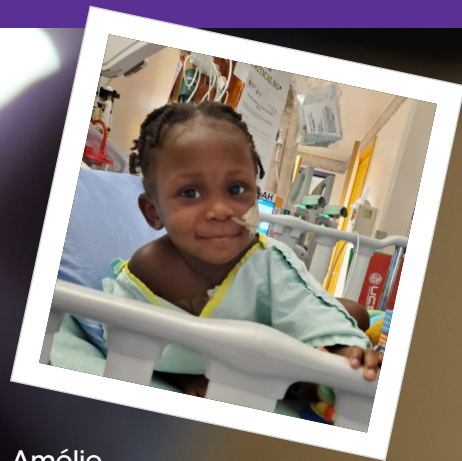
funds for the Hospital, too. We see just how much the Stollery counts on the generous support of the community and how well the Foundation uses every donation that it receives.

Recently, we decided that it’s time to support the Stollery in a new way. We joined the Great Bear Society by making the Stollery Children’s Hospital Foundation a beneficiary in our Wills.

To many, the Ursa Major (Great Bear) constellation is a symbol of health and protection. To me, our families gift means that once we’re done on this earth, the resources we’ve been able to accumulate through our lives can be used to help other people. Families like we were that night over twenty years ago.

*“We decided that it’s time to support the Stollery in a new way... by making the Stollery Children’s Hospital Foundation a beneficiary in our Wills.”*

**Great Bears** are building a future with no bounds for Stollery kids.



Amélie  
Saved in an emergency



**Amélie radiates light. She loves to dance, play with her brothers and strike a pose whenever a camera appears.**

What began as an ordinary spring afternoon quickly became a life-threatening emergency. When Amélie was just 18 months old, she suddenly collapsed at home. An X-ray at her local emergency department revealed a lithium coin battery lodged in her throat. She was rushed by ambulance from Red Deer to the Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton.

Shortly after arriving, Amélie went into cardiac arrest twice. The battery had caused severe internal injuries, burning through tissue and rupturing her esophagus, trachea, aorta and carotid artery. Through the night, her medical team performed multiple life-saving surgeries, including open-heart surgery.

After receiving more than four litres of blood, Amélie recovered in the pediatric intensive care unit, spending time on life support and a ventilator before she was strong enough to continue her recovery as an inpatient. After 36 days at the Stollery, she was finally able to go home.

Today, Amélie is as cheerful as ever. She continues to be followed closely by her Stollery team and will require ongoing care as she grows. Her parents are profoundly grateful for the team that saved their daughter's life and for the new, stand-alone Stollery that will care for children like Amélie for generations to come.

**Cameron loves sledge hockey, wheelchair basketball, video games and cheering for his favourite WWE superstars.** Thanks to the experts at the Stollery Children's Hospital, he's able to live life to the fullest and keep on cheering.

Cameron's medical journey began the moment he entered the world. Born six weeks early, he needed to be resuscitated at birth and spent his first weeks in the NICU growing stronger each day. When he was just over a year old and not meeting developmental milestones, his Stollery team discovered he had a tethered spinal cord, a condition similar to spina bifida in which the spinal cord is attached at the base of the spine. He couldn't sit up or walk.

At 15 months old, Cameron underwent the first of many surgeries to release his spinal cord. At age three, he was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy, and doctors believe there may still be another diagnosis to uncover. Over the years, his complex medical needs have led to multiple surgeries and procedures and more than 600 days spent at the Stollery.

Today, Cameron wears leg braces and uses his wheelchair most days, as he tires easily. After spending more than 600 days at the Stollery, his family knows that having world-class, specialized care close to home has given Cameron the strength to keep chasing what he loves.



Cameron  
Growing up with complex care





*Great Bear's*

## *Edward and Suzette Kitz*

Edward and Suzette Kitz may not have a personal connection to the Stollery Children's Hospital through their own family, but their belief in caring for children and investing in the future runs deep.

Edward grew up farming in Vegreville before spending more than 40 years serving the Edmonton community as a pharmacist. Suzette, born in Belgium, built her career as a medical secretary in a health care facility. The two met while travelling the world by ship and have been side by side ever since,

marrying in 1966. Their shared love of adventure has taken them around the globe together three times.

Through their work in health care, Edward and Suzette saw firsthand how vital strong medical systems are for families and communities. They came to believe deeply that supporting children's health is one of the most meaningful ways to invest in the future. As Edward once said, "**Every child represents the future.**"

Although they do not have children of their own, their affection for kids and their gratitude for the good fortune they have experienced in life, which they often describe simply as being "**lucky**," inspired them to give back in a lasting way. They chose to include a gift to the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation in their estate plans, ensuring their support will continue beyond their lifetime.

Edward and Suzette know their legacy will help the Stollery meet the greatest needs in pediatric health, strengthening care for children and families today while helping ensure the hospital can continue to grow and evolve to meet what comes next. It is their hope that others will also consider the difference they can make by leaving a legacy of care for generations of children to come.



*Edward and Suzette came to believe deeply that supporting children's health is one of the most meaningful ways to invest in the future. As Edward once said, "Every child represents the future."*

## How would you like to leave your legacy?

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There are many ways to leave a lasting legacy. Talk to a lawyer, accountant or estate planner about which option is right for you.

### **Bequest in your Will**

Gifts in the form of cash or property are easy to arrange and are the most common forms of legacy giving.

### **Gifts of securities**

Gifts can include donations of publicly listed stocks and securities.

### **RRSP, RRIF and other deferred pension funds**

Consider naming the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation as a beneficiary of these funds.

### **Life insurance**

Donate policies by naming the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation as the beneficiary.

### **Charitable gift annuity**

Transfer cash or property today in exchange for a partial tax deduction and a stream of income during your life.

## You are ensuring No Bounds for Stollery kids and their future.

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Your donations support excellence at the Stollery today through specialized training, research, programs, equipment and facilities, while also helping bring a new stand-alone Stollery Children's Hospital to life for future generations.

## Become a Great Bear

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### **Give us a call!**

Contact a member of our team for more information. They would be happy to walk you through the options and discuss how your gift can help give all kids the best chance to live a long and healthy life.

### **Make the pledge!**

Talk to a lawyer, accountant or estate planner for advice on which option is best for you. We would be honoured to be a part of your legacy.

### **Spread the word!**

Let the Foundation and your friends and family know. You are now part of an impressive group devoted to protecting our littlest bears.

# Connect with us



## **Stacey Amyotte, CFRE**

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Stacey Amyotte is the director of annual and personal philanthropy for the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation. She oversees a skilled team dedicated to helping kids and families at the Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton. Stacey has more than 15 years of experience raising funds for health care causes and is passionate about children's care. Stacey is a busy mom of three and loves to read, watch rugby, and cook.



## **Neil Luipasco, MFA-P**

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Neil Luipasco is a senior development officer for the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation. With more than 15 years of fund development and senior management experience in the not-for-profit sector, Neil has worked with social services, education, arts and health-related causes. As a Great Bear Society member himself, Neil enjoys spending time with his three adult children and his grandkids.



[StolleryKids.com](http://StolleryKids.com)

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