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IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING

The Saville Family Beach and Enchanted Forest



Play is crucial to a child's development and when offered in a specialized health setting like the Stollery Children's Hospital, the benefits to that child's care, recovery and long-term physical and mental health are undeniable. Play has a special therapeutic value for children who are sick or injured by contributing to their overall physical and emotional well-being.

Imagine a space where children can experience an MRI for the first time in a playful environment, where a child in a wheelchair or with an IV pole can still enjoy a playground. A place where sick kids can connect and feel less isolated and where a palliative child can have their last wish granted to go outside. A space where kids can simply be kids, even in a hospital setting.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, the *Saville Family Beach* has been transformed into a larger, more dynamic play area where all of this—and more—is possible. Three years ago, we embarked on a mission to raise \$5 million to renovate and expand *The Beach* play area. This space is an essential part of the Stollery journey, offering therapeutic play programming led by the Child Life team. Now complete, this up-grade of the-art outdoor area, *The Enchanted Forest*, which more than doubles the original 1,500-square-foot play space.

The Beach and *Enchanted Forest* offer medical-free play areas where Stollery kids and their families can take a break from the overwhelming hospital environment. These spaces provide a safe, comforting setting where kids can be kids, finding joy and relief between medical appointments, tests and surgeries.

"The Beach is somewhere fun, where Stollery Kids can go when they're in the hospital!"

Tucker
Stollery Kid

"The Beach is a little distraction from what's happening with your child. It's a place where kids can be kids."

Ashley
Tucker's mom

The Saville Family Beach and Enchanted Forest - Letting kids be kids

The updates to *The Saville Family Beach* and the addition of *The Enchanted Forest* will bring more versatility to the space, allowing for a variety of activities and experiences. The exciting new features include:

The Racing for a Cure Kitchen: This kitchen space allows Stollery kids to bake alongside Child Life staff, specifically catering to tweens aged 8 to 12. It also offers families the opportunity to prepare and share meals together.

The Ben Stelter Medical Play Area: Designed to prepare young patients for medical procedures, this area will soon feature a play MRI scanner. Through play-based activities, it aims to reduce anxiety, lower the need for general anesthesia and minimize the risk of healthcare-induced trauma, creating a positive experience for both patients and caregivers.

Interactive indoor play stations: Kids can engage with sensory tables, craft stations and games like air hockey, fostering creativity and play.

Edmonton Civic Employees Charitable Assistance Fund Submarine: This feature invites visitors into the magical world of the Enchanted Forest, enhancing their experience through imaginative play.

The Enchanted Forest: A secure, accessible outdoor play area featuring a large play structure for all ages and abilities, a Tee Pee, a projection wall for movie nights and seating areas surrounded by wall-to-wall murals.

Music, art and pet therapy areas: Dedicated spaces for music, art and pet therapy, including Ray and Leona's Puppy Corner, provide essential mental and physical health benefits to Stollery kids and their families.



The power of outdoor play

Did you know? Outdoor play greatly eases the difficulties of hospitalization for children, with fresh air playing a vital role in their overall healing—physically, mentally and emotionally. The new Enchanted Forest provides a safe, year-round space for play, therapy and family gatherings, creating a peaceful retreat from the hospital atmosphere.

Thanks to your support, kids can enjoy moments of play between medical appointments, tests and surgeries, allowing them to experience normalcy during their health care journeys. On behalf of Stollery kids and their families and the team at the Stollery Children's Hospital, thank you for helping give all kids the best chance to live long and healthy lives.

