

Heartfelt Giving, Lifesaving Impact.

Impact Review 2023



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Acknowledgment of Country

Monash Health respectfully acknowledges the Bunurong and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung peoples, the Traditional Custodians and owners of the lands where our facilities are located and programs operate. We recognise the ongoing spiritual link Aboriginal people have to their lands, culture and lore; and acknowledge that their connections build healthier families and communities. Monash Health pays respect to the Elders of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong peoples; past, present and future. We extend our respect to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees, consumers and stakeholders.

Interim Chief Executive's message Martin Keogh



It has been an extraordinary year for the Monash Health Foundation.

As we emerge from the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been heartening to see that the Foundation has not only sustained but strengthened engagement with our community and valued partners.

Our community's unwavering commitment and support have been demonstrated by impressive turnouts at flagship events such as the Monash Children's Hospital Gala and Monash Children's Hospital Walk, increasing numbers of regular donors and the success of our community fundraising appeals.

The Foundation has continued to build strong relationships, securing several new partnerships and significant donations to help ensure Monash Health provides the highest levels of care to our diverse and growing community.

I want to thank Ron and his hardworking team for their resilience, passion and dedication. Looking ahead, I am filled with optimism for the future as we continue to partner with the community we serve to deliver world-class healthcare.

I sincerely thank our community for their unwavering support. We know there is increasing pressure on organisational and household budgets, so more than ever, I want to express our heartfelt appreciation - on behalf of our healthcare workers and those we care for - thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Keogh'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large loop at the end.

Martin Keogh
Interim Chief Executive, Monash Health

Director's message Ron Fairchild

We have witnessed incredible generosity over the past 12 months.

From grassroots community groups holding fundraisers, to our regular donors, to employees who join our internal giving program – we simply cannot thank you enough for your contribution to improving the lives of so many seeking treatment through Monash Health.

Your ongoing support improves the experience of so many Victorians accessing the crucial health services Monash Health provides as the state's largest public health service.

This impact report aims to take you on a fundraising journey. You'll learn about individuals and groups in our network who are passionate about supporting a variety of causes at Monash Health, sharing examples of the many fundraising opportunities available to the community and our staff throughout the year.

We hope to provide you with an insight into some incredible research and lifesaving services that have been made possible thanks to your generosity.



We have shared a number of perspectives throughout this publication, including those of former patients, families, employees, community and business leaders and clinicians.

Please allow me to again extend gratitude to all our supporters on behalf of the Foundation, Monash Health and of course, our patients.

I trust you will enjoy our impact report and encourage you to share it with your family and friends.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Fairchild'.

Ron Fairchild CFRE, FFIA
Director, Monash Health Foundation





Pictured standing Sharna Robinson, Irene Manitta, Zahra Abbass, Bronwyn Miller, Basem Kerbage, Lauren Woolf, Beth Allan, Shirlene Downey, Karan Thopte, Sureha lynkaran, Zafreen Khan, Anna Go, Gayatri Ahilan **Pictured seated** Daraus Mirza, Ron Fairchild, Danielle Clark, Jessica Doherty **Not pictured** Georgina Heaslip, Kylie Malin, Mel Noble **We would also like to thank** Bill Haggerty, Angela Mihelcic and Kim Minett for their contributions over the financial year

The Monash Health Foundation supports Monash Health to advance world-class healthcare in your world

Monash Health is Victoria's largest public health service and proudly provides healthcare to one quarter of Melbourne's population.

This award-winning care is provided across the entirety of a person's life – from newborn and children's healthcare to aged and end-of-life care.

The Monash Health Foundation works with individuals, companies and the community to raise funds for:

- New or additional equipment, providing more efficient and effective methods of diagnosis, treatment and care.
- Medical research, including groundbreaking and translational research, allowing for improved methods of care and treatment for patients.
- Scholarships and professional development training opportunities for employees to share and build their global healthcare knowledge.
- Patient and family-centered care initiatives that support the wellbeing of patients and their families.
- Capital projects such as new facilities for patients, families and carers.



To find out ways to give to the Monash Health Foundation, visit monashhealthfoundation.org

Donor Charter

The Monash Health Foundation works to support hospitals across the entire Monash Health network. We also support communities in regional parts of the State, operating from a number of satellite sites.

Every single donation, no matter the size, makes an enormous difference. Thank you.

The Monash Health Foundation celebrates the important role of philanthropy in helping to transform healthcare at Monash Health and is committed to excellence in the delivery of meaningful and impactful donor stewardship when supporting Monash Health.

Thanks to the unwavering generosity of our donors, we have been able to support an array of innovative technologies, research programs, education and training, fund additional positions and deliver enhanced patient care initiatives across Monash Health in the 2022-2023 financial year.

We work with individuals, companies and the community to raise funds and match Monash Health's best philanthropic initiatives with our donor's intentions, and create meaningful opportunities to nurture their lifelong giving journey with the organisation through the following commitments:

1. Providing innovative equipment and technology

Investing in the latest and best treatment options to save and improve more lives. New developments in equipment and innovative technologies provide significant advances in treatment for patients that deliver the very best in care right now.

2. Improving quality of life

Partnering with our brightest minds to improve health and quality of the life outcomes through world-leading research. By investing in research, you play a vital role in developing medicine, increasing capabilities and improving care outcomes for patients of all ages.

3. Supporting families when they need it most

Providing the best experiences for our patients and their families. Projects like our Parent Lounges and Family Rooms provide spaces where families can take a break from the clinical surrounds of the ward to regroup and recharge.

4. Supporting world-class care

Ensuring our medical minds are at the forefront of latest advances, delivering the best practice, most innovative, and effective treatments to all patients. Investing in training and education opportunities allows us to deliver world class care to you and your community.

Fundraising Highlights

\$13.25 million

raised in FY2022/2023, including:

\$5 million

received from individuals, businesses, trusts and foundations

\$2.7 million

donated from corporate and community partners

\$1.4 million

Monash Children's Hospital Gala

Below is a snapshot of our fundraising highlights for the 2022-2023 financial year. We would also like to acknowledge and thank all those who participate in our iGive and Regular Giving programs, along with those who have made various contributions over the past 12 months.

The unwavering support of our donors allows us to significantly contribute to an array of innovative technologies, research programs, education and training, fund additional positions and support the delivery of world-class care is delivered across Monash Health.

\$760,000

worth of goods and services were donated over the financial year

\$300,000

in bequests from over 40 estates via our Gifts in Wills Program

\$100,000

raised through our Grateful Giving Program

\$240,000

raised through our community appeals

Thank you for your generosity

65kms for Cystic Fibrosis
Aaron Sansoni Foundation
Accent Aluminium Windows & Doors
Allan Palmer
Amanda and David Robertson
Amelia Goff
Anthea Kane
Antoinette Khalil
Aristidis Tsoulakos
Arthur and Elaine Clark
Arun Radhakrishnan
AusMed Health
Australasian Business Association
Australia's Biggest Playdate
Axign
B Braun
Bailey's Day
Barry Janes & Paul Cross
Berwick Opportunity Shop
Bevmarks
BGIS
BGL Corporate Solutions
Biggar Family – Darryl, Sue and Aiden
Blinkr
Bobangles
Bunnings Warehouse Dandenong
Cailes Cabinets
Cambridge Plumbing
Carlo Bragagnolo
Certis Security
Chain Reaction Challenge Foundation
Chalmers Family Foundation
Child's Play Charity
Children's Cancer Foundation
Chris and Sarah Erickson
Christine Chen
Christine Pho and Calvin Ker
Collier Charitable Fund
Country Fire Authority Hampton Park
Country Fire Authority Springvale
Crown Resorts Foundation, on behalf
of Mr Yalin & Mrs Gayle Tanyol
Curing Homesickness Alliance
Cybec Foundation
Cystic Fibrosis Community Care
Dang Tu Trinh
Derinya Primary School
Dhillon Household
Diana Egerton-Warburton
Eirene Lucas Foundation
Elastomers Australia
Elco Food Co
EPC Consulting
Erwin Sempio
Estate of the late Alice Letitia D'Esterre Taylor
Estate of the late Amelia Batten
Estate of the late CD Lloyd

We are grateful to the following donors who made
a gift over \$1,000 in support of the work conducted
by our clinicians, allied health professionals and
researchers between July 2022 and June 2023.

Estate of the late Charles Wright
Estate of the late EC Blackwood
Estate of the late Emily Vera Winder
Estate of the late Flora Louisa Thompson
Estate of the late George Chapple Hodges
Estate of the late Grace & Herbert Foulkes
Estate of the late GW & V Morewood
Estate of the late John Henry
Estate of the late John Henry James Symon
Estate of the late Joseph Kronheimer
Estate of the late JRG & Eva McKenzie
Estate of the late Margaret Lillian Merrifield
Estate of the late Martha Miranda Livingstone
Estate of the late Martin & Isabel McLoughlin
Estate of the late Mary Symon
Estate of the late Muriel Bradley
Estate of the late Phyllis Nerelle Turner
Estate of the late William and
Mary Levers & Sons Maintenance Fund
Estate of the late William Frederick Fletcher
Fairchild Family
Five Loaves Initiative
Foot Solutions Australia
Footy Show Grand Final Eve, My Room Telethon
Freemasons Foundation Victoria
Friends of Monash Health Committee
Friends of the Children's Foundation
GoAllan Services
Hanlon Foundation
Hermitage Building Group
Hippo Blue
Hitachi
House of Recliners
Humpty Dumpty Foundation
Ian Loh
In Celebration of Bayan's 7th Birthday
In Celebration of Ethan Wiese
In Celebration of Lola's 10th Birthday
In Celebration of Rosie's 1st Birthday
In Celebration of Shawon's 1st Birthday
In Celebration of the Griffiths Girls
In Memory of Arie Pham-Nieuwkerk
In Memory of Joan Akins
In Memory of Margaret Colahan
In Memory of Nghich Luong Tang
In Memory of Ngoc Giang
Industree Group (TRIDENT® Respirators)
Jaswal Family
Jeremy Yesudas
Jet Couriers
John O'Rourke and Kathy Ryan
John Stonemart Memorials
Joie
Jonathan and Kylie Brown
KB & RJ Taylor Charitable Trust
Kerr Family
Kevin Willey



To find out ways to give to the
Monash Health Foundation, visit
monashhealthfoundation.org

Kids Own Early Learning Centre Croydon
Kids with Cancer Foundation Australia
Kim Minett
Kinetic Foot Care NSW
Kiwanis Club of Waverley
Koala Kids Foundation
Lady Marigold Southey AC
Lady Marigold Southey Fund, a donor
advised fund of Mutual Trust Foundation
Lifestyle Community Casey Fields
Lifestyle Village Casey Fields
Lions Club of Clarinda
Lions Club of Dandenong
Lions Club of Moorabbin
Lisa Benning
Lloyd Schiller
Madeleine Frawley
Marissa Rickard
Masseuse Massage Chairs
Maxxia
MDA National Insurance
Mentone Girls' Grammar
Mercedes-Benz Waverley
Merryn and Lindsay Brown
Michael Wells
Michael Yazxhi
Monash ALP Labor Club
Monash Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Monash Glass
Monash Kids Support Group
Moose Toys
My Huong Luc
My Room Children's Cancer Charity
Namal Munasinghe
National Health and Medical Research Council
National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia
Nelly Hassan
Nelson Low
Ngoc Nghien Huynh
NICU Cheer
Nini and Jack Briskin/Kayden Briskin
Nino Early Learning Adventures
Noisy Beast
Origin Energy Foundation
Parker Healthcare
PARKROYAL Monash Melbourne
Patrick Tessier OAM
Patterson Cheney Cars and Trucks
Paul Chann
Pearl Construction Group known as Pearl Homes
Pentana Solutions
Percy Baxter Charitable Trust
Perfekt
Peter Cromer
Peter Farnsworth
Peter Kerr
Prader-Willi Syndrome Association of Victoria

Professor Nicholas Freezer
Pulari Victoria
Purebaby
Rauland Australia
Ray Finlayson
Reddy Roasts
Richard Lim – Lim's Pharmacy
Roger and Isobel Payne
Rose Anne Amarant
Rotary Club of Emerald & District
Rotary Club of Glen Waverley
Rotary Club of Greater Dandenong & Endeavour Hills
Rotary Club of Mount Waverley
Running for Premature Babies
Russell Anderson
Santi Support Services
Scleroderma Victoria
Service Today
SH Jewellery
Shashi Kochhar's Special Multi Anniversary
Celebration
Sou Be
South Oakleigh College Walk-A-Thon
Starfish Early Learning Centre
STC OBA Australia, Melbourne Branch
Stockwood Building Group
Sue Nicholson
Taing Family Trust
Tamia Moda
The Glen Asian Grocer
Tayler Graham, Family and Friends
Teva Pharma Australia
That's Right Bookkeeping
The Avant Foundation
The Erica Foundation
The Hoyne and Brazzale Families
The Miranda Family – Vanessa,
Tayah, Jett, Sean & Kirah
The Muriel and Les Batten Foundation
The Teo Chew Chinese Association of Victoria
The Valda Klaric Foundation
The Victorian Chapters No 2 Association –
Order of the Eastern Star
The Walt Disney Company
Thi Tran
Thomas Ly
Training Day Gym
Ultra Health Medical
Van Bich Nguyen
Waratah Engineering
Wellington Village Shopping Centre
Xuan and Troy Taylor – parents of
Isabella Nguyen Taylor
Y Lac
Zenon Ciciksz

Monash Health on a page

3.6 million
episodes of care

55,122
surgical operations

422,074
mental health
episodes of care

1.4 million
outpatient
services delivered

Monash Health is the largest and most comprehensive public health service in Victoria.

We provide safe, world-class care to more than one-quarter of Melbourne's population, along with caring for numerous communities across Victoria and parts of Australia.

Monash Health is comprised of over 25,000 employees and includes more than 40 locations spanning across the south-east metropolitan and regional areas of the State.

We offer integrated, comprehensive care at all stages of life, from pre-birth through to end-of-life palliative care.

248,062

emergency department presentations

45,868

paediatric admissions

65,001

ambulance arrivals

10,117

babies born

293,375

total hospital admissions

49.7 million

pathology tests completed



Providing innovative equipment and technology

Helping extremely premature babies not only survive, but thrive.

The 2023 Monash Children's Hospital Gala helped raise over \$1.4 million in funds to further advance cell therapy research and treatments for very premature or unwell babies.

Six months on from the gala, we caught up with Associate Professor Atul Malhotra to learn how these funds have been put to work, and to find out more about how cell therapies allow these babies to thrive.

Those of you who attended the 2023 Gala might recognise the name Associate Professor Atul Malhotra. He spoke at the event about the potential benefits of cell therapies in very preterm babies, and of the vital work he and the Newborn Cell Therapies Group do in the research and translation of these therapies for newborn health conditions.

Research into innovative therapies is a long and costly process, with studies often taking up to a decade or longer to complete before they can be safely and effectively introduced to patients as a standard form of care.

The funds raised at the 2023 Gala have allowed Associate Professor Malhotra and his team to significantly accelerate work on some cell therapy studies, meaning that more babies can receive potentially life-changing treatments sooner.

One of the key areas of interest for the Newborn Cell Therapies Group has been research into using cord blood derived stem cells to prevent brain damage and neurodevelopmental disorders.

Cord blood is the blood remaining in the umbilical cord and placenta of newborn babies. This cord blood is rich in stem cells which can be utilised to help protect, repair and salvage vital cells in the body.



Professor Atul Malhotra and former patient and NICU baby Toby at the Monash Children's Hospital Gala

“So far, the study is looking incredibly positive.”

Associate Professor Atul Malhotra



Currently, these cells can be used safely in full-term babies and older patients, however their safety has not yet been tested on very or extremely preterm babies (*born at less than 28 weeks gestation*).

Thanks in large part to the funds raised at the gala, Professor Malhotra and his team have been able to progress their CORDSAFE study faster than anticipated.

One of the most important contributions of the funds raised has been to further enhance the capability of the Hudson Institute of Medical Research's Cell Therapy and Regenerative Medicine Platform Monash Health Translation Precinct, which is vital for the production of the cell therapy product.

Platform Manager, Dr Gordon McPhee says the funds have had a huge impact on the Platform's capabilities and have "further enhanced our ability to support this cutting-edge research that would not otherwise have been possible."

The researchers have been collecting and processing umbilical cord blood cells from preterm babies and are now testing the feasibility and safety of administering these cells back into the preterm baby.

So far, the study is looking incredibly positive, with cord blood cells successfully collected in 72% of the extremely preterm babies participating in the trial.

Professor Malhotra says these findings are important, "we have shown that we can collect enough numbers of these cells in extremely preterm babies and can use them in those eligible in CORD-SAFE study currently underway at Monash Children's Hospital."

All going well, the safety study of administering the babies own cord blood cells back to them will be completed by the end of 2023, after which the team will embark on a larger efficacy trial of these cells.

Left Baby Trixie Belle in the Monash Children's Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. **Top** Guests at the 2023 Monash Children's Hospital Gala. **Bottom** Toby with his parents Tatum and Paul.



An ongoing legacy



Twanny Farrugia and his assistance dog, Lady Val.

In May 2023, Monash Health lost a valued member of its community when friend and passionate ambassador of the Monash Health Foundation, Twanny Farrugia passed away.

Twanny was a long-time patient at Monash Health, having received a kidney transplant in 1971.

He lived an incredibly full life despite being, as he said “the healthiest sick person you’ll meet”, dancing, cycling and running for almost 50 years post-transplant – making him one of the longest-surviving transplant recipients in Australia.

“Twanny was highly motivated by the gift of life he received as a young man and was devoted to raising awareness of the work we do here at Monash until the end,” said Professor Peter Kerr, Head of Nephrology Services at Monash Health.

Twanny set up a trust in perpetuity to express his gratitude for the invaluable work of the Nephrology Department to help him live life to the fullest.

Throughout his life, Twanny remained steadfast in his passion for giving back. He strongly advocated for others to consider leaving bequests in their will to benefit future patients in an area of health that is meaningful to them.

On behalf of the Monash Health community, we thank Twanny for his lifetime of support and generous gift.



Professor Peter Kerr, Head of Nephrology at Monash Health. The nephrology department is incredibly grateful for the generous gifts left to them via bequests.

Life-changing research made possible thanks to bequests.

Losing a loved one is undoubtedly one of the most challenging times in a person’s life.

However, the pain may be eased slightly with the knowledge that your loved one left a meaningful gift in their will to a cause that meant a great deal to them.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, a bequest of \$50,000 was left to Monash Health to be specifically used in the research of the links between diabetes and kidney disease, and how greater knowledge in this area might lead to improved outcomes for patients.

Adjunct Associate Professor Greg Tesch, of the Nephrology Department at Monash Health is looking forward to the outcome of this research.

“We know that diabetes prematurely ages the kidney and increases the risk of developing kidney disease. Once we can establish exactly how this process causes kidney disease, we hope to slow or stop this progression by targeting those causes,” he said.

Preventing or slowing the onset of kidney disease in diabetic patients will not only improve quality of life, but potentially lessen the need for patients to undergo dialysis or dual pancreas and kidney transplants.

This research may not have progressed so soon without the generosity of the anonymous bequester – and for that, we thank them.

Friends of Monash Health Committee



Monash Health Foundation Director Ron Fairchild, Friends of Monash Health Committee Chair Dame Janet Spooner, Monash Health Board Chair Dipak Sanghvi and Friends of Monash Health supporter Bill Haggerty.

Founded in 2021, the Friends of Monash Health Committee (FOMH) are a passionate group of individuals dedicated to inspiring philanthropy among their friends, family and business networks in support of Monash Health’s wide range of healthcare services.

Chaired by Dame Janet Spooner DGSJ OAM, the group have already made enormous strides and significant impact on the delivery of world-class care at Monash Health.

The committee holds regular events throughout the year, including dinners and themed luncheons, with recent highlights including ‘An Evening in Venice’ and Christmas in July.

Guests actively participate in various fundraising activities at these events, with dollars raised this past year going toward the new paediatric emergency department, and the Victorian Heart Hospital.



To find out ways to give to the Monash Health Foundation, visit monashhealthfoundation.org

Doctors conquer 1000 km ride for vulnerable babies

In March, three dedicated doctors from Monash Children's Hospital set off on a grueling 1000 kilometre ride through the South Island of New Zealand to raise funds for new cardiorespiratory monitoring equipment to care for premature and unwell babies at the Casey Campus of MCH.

Right Service Director, Monash Newborn, Dr Alice Stewart and her family at the completion of the New Zealand ride.
Below Riders tackling the South Island of New Zealand.





Dr Alice Stewart and Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor Rob Roseby are looking forward to their second Chain Reaction ride, with Professor Nick Freezer training hard for his first challenge.

“The Chain Reaction Challenge is just that, an enormous physical and mental challenge,” said Rob.

“During the tougher stages of the ride, thinking about what we’re working toward, and the benefit our fundraising efforts will have for so many children and their families is the best motivation we could ask for,” he said.

Of course, the three riders representing Monash Children’s Hospital find pockets of motivation every day when they come to work, as they treat patients and spend time with their families. The time spent with patients and their families strengthen their resolve to channel funds raised during the 2023 challenge into making their lives just that little bit easier.

“This year, we’ll be raising funds to install state-of-the-art cardiorespiratory monitoring in the Casey Special Care Nursery, equipping us for both now and the future so that more babies can receive care closer to home, and families in that catchment will not have the additional burden of long travel times to Clayton to be with their children in hospital,” said Alice.

“We know that easing that mental load in even the smallest way can make a big difference,” said Rob.

Our riders did a brilliant job, returning from New Zealand safely having exceeded their fundraising target.

Funds raised will also go to the Starlight Foundation, who provide a range of facilities and services to help make hospital stays just that little bit easier for children and their families.

The Melbourne Chain Reaction Challenge team comprised of more than 50 riders raised just over \$1.3 million for both Monash Children’s Hospital and the Starlight Children’s Foundation.

On behalf of the doctors, nurses and families at Monash Children’s Hospital, we would like to extend our gratitude on an incredible effort and an amazing fundraising total.



Improving quality of life

Monash Children's Hospital Walk for the Gait Lab

The 12th annual Monash Children's Hospital Walk.

The stormy skies couldn't keep more than 1400 participants away from Jells Park on Sunday 7 May.

This year, participants helped raise more than \$650,000 for the Monash Children's Hospital Gait Lab.

The Gait Lab forms part of a state-wide Victorian Paediatric Rehabilitation Service designed to improve the abilities of children and young people following major injury, illness, or medical procedures that affect their mobility.

16-year-old Bella, one of the patients undergoing rehabilitation treatment at the Gait Lab celebrated learning to walk again by participating in the walk with her family.

After being diagnosed with Rasmussens Syndrome at age 10, Bella suffered regular seizures, sometimes multiple each day, decreasing her quality of life significantly.

In 2022, after years of treatment and surgeries, Bella went on to have the left hemisphere of her brain removed.

Bella is now seizure free, but it's been a long road to learn how to speak, walk and even write again.

Bella now works regularly with Monash Children's Hospital Physiotherapist, Danielle Archibald in the Gait Lab to regain strength and muscular tone in her legs.

Adjunct Professor Barry Rawicki, along with Bella's physiotherapist Danielle, joined MC Stephanie Anderson (*Nine News*) on stage to talk about the Gait Lab and how funds raised at the MCH walk will help so many young people maximise their mobility.

Approximately 200 participants made their way around the 1km course, with the remaining 1200 taking on the 5km, each rewarded with an exclusive MCH Walk 2023 medal in recognition of their efforts.

The event precinct provided unlimited entertainment for the young and the young at heart, as special guest entertainer, Fairy Floss the Dancing Fairy performed throughout the morning.

The animal farm, Teddy Bear Hospital, Spin N Win Games and face painting were all massive crowd-pleasers!

Local school and community groups were celebrated and acknowledged for their awesome efforts, and students from Yarra Valley Grammar and South Oakleigh College spoke eloquently about their involvement and their inspiration to support Monash Children's Hospital.

Thank you again to all our generous sponsors, volunteers, supporters and of course, to all who participated in what was a stellar day of fun and fundraising!



Reverend Paul Joy (second from left) and dedicated students from Yarra Valley Grammar at the MCH Walk.



Bella (centre) and her family at the 2023 MCH Walk.



Former Monash Children's Hospital patient, Taylah (right) and her mum Vanessa volunteering at the MCH Walk.

Local organisations make a real impact for those who need it most

The Monash Health Foundation is passionate about working with local businesses and organisations who reach out to us wanting to give back to the community.

Pearl Homes, a local residential building company contacted the team wanting to know how they could best contribute to Monash Health.

At the same time, the Social Work Department at Monash Health put forward an urgent request for a supply of clothing for patients who were admitted without a fresh supply of clothing to wear once they were well enough to return home.

The Monash Health Foundation connected Pearl Homes with the Social Work Department, and the clothing initiative was born.

The importance of this program cannot be underestimated. While many of us take a clean change of clothes as a given, for some people, a new pair of pants and shoes can go a long way when it comes to a person's mental and physical health. Sajeevani Wijeratne, one of the Social Work Discipline Seniors at Monash Health Mental Health Programme said that the program has made an enormous difference in ensuring all patients can leave hospital in a dignified way, ready to tackle whatever comes next for them.

“Being able to provide patients who are admitted without their belongings, with a fresh set of clothing upon discharge, particularly in the colder months has been such a blessing,” said Sajeevani.



An example of the generous donations received by the Rotary Club for the Clothing Initiative.

The Monash Health Foundation was contacted by the Rotary Club of Oakleigh, Clayton Huntingdale who began the clothing initiative thanks to a \$3,000 grant from the Bendigo Bank.

The Rotary Club also introduced the Monash Health Foundation to Thread Together, a unique charity that donates brand new clothing to those in need, allowing for the continued expansion of the program.

Wicked Sista donates bags for tracheostomy patients



Mikaela with her Wicked Sista emergency kit bag.

The Monash Children’s Hospital at Home Complex Care team identified a need to source a particular type of toiletry bag used by patients with a tracheostomy tube in place (*a tube that delivers oxygen to patients who are unable to breathe normally after an injury or accident, or if their muscles are very weak*).

When a child goes home with the tube in place, their family must carry an emergency kit with them everywhere they go so they can manage any complications while they are away from home.

The Complex Care nursing team found a bag produced by Wicked Sista was perfect for this purpose and wanted to supply one free of charge to every child who went home with a tracheostomy tube—up to 20 children a year.

The waterproof bag, which comes in a range of bright designs, holds all the emergency kit in fold out sections, and a hook to hang the bag up makes it easily accessible while out and about.

The Monash Children’s Hospital at Home team were thrilled to have found support in a local business. The company was delighted with having the opportunity to help and donated a year’s worth of bags valued at approximately \$1,000.

Inaugural oncology conference attracts industry sponsors

In October 2022, Monash Health Cancer Services held its inaugural professional development conference with the aid of some generous industry partners.



Participants at the Monash Cancer Services conference.

The one-day conference was open to all Monash Health employees working in cancer services, including oncologists, pharmacists, nurses, Allied Health practitioners, social workers and volunteers.

With a packed agenda of internal and external speakers, the conference was an opportunity to come together for the first time since the pandemic began, hear the latest developments in cancer care, learn from each other and make plans for the future of the service.

AstraZeneca, BMS, Roche, Maxxia and Pfizer generously sponsored the conference, which enabled Cancer Services to host the event offsite, engage high profile guest speakers and provide an exceptional opportunity to collaborate across disciplines. It was such a success that the conference will return in November 2023 for two days with places being opened up to employees in cancer services at other Victorian health services.



Koala Kids donates scrubs to Monash Children's Hospital

The Foundation has enjoyed a wonderful relationship with Koala Kids Foundation over many years, focusing on support of the Children's Cancer Centre and families with a child on a cancer journey.

Koala Kids continues to focus its support across our Monash Children's Hospital sites at Clayton, Dandenong and Casey.

In December, Koala Kids provided approximately 1,300 scrub tops in a novelty children's print to nursing, medical and Allied Health employees across all Monash Health paediatric facilities, equating to a saving of over \$67,000 for our employees. We would like to thank Koala Kids for its extended support to Monash Children's Hospital healthcare workers over all Monash Health sites with this generous initiative.



Hippo Blue point of sale partnership

Dandenong based printing specialist Courtney Brands and their brand, Hippo Blue has supported Monash Children's Hospital over the last 12 months by regularly donating to the Monash Health Foundation each month.

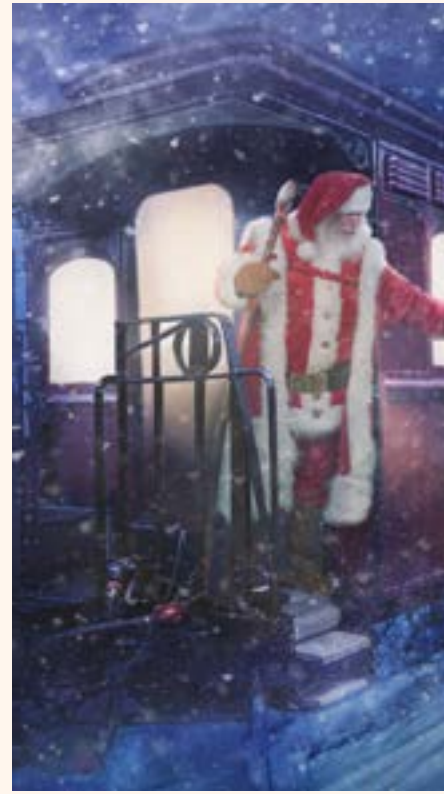
In addition, the company has undertaken bespoke printing projects for the Monash Health Foundation, enabling us to keep our expenses to a minimum. Hippo Blue and Courtney Brands team members have volunteered at our events over the years.

We are busy making plans to expand our partnership with Hippo Blue and look forward to reporting back on more exciting activities in the future.

EMERGENCY



Supporting families when they need it most





Bringing smiles to some very special faces; A Christmas Wish

Sometimes making beautiful memories is the most important and beautiful gift a patient and their family can receive.

The Monash Health Foundation works closely with various community groups and volunteers to help create these moments and we would like to share with you some of our favourites from the past year.

The Monash Health Foundation is incredibly fortunate to work closely with renowned photographer and artist, Karen Alsop and her amazing team at Story Art who visit The Monash Children's Hospital each year to create these beautiful images of some of our patients.





Easter at Monash Children's Hospital

The Easter Bunny visited the Monash Children's Hospital wards on Easter Sunday – thank you to Coles Supermarkets for their support in putting smiles on so many little faces.

May the Fourth be with you

On May the Fourth, Monash Children's Hospital patients and staff were visited by some very special friends from a galaxy far, far away.



Giving back in more ways than one



To find out ways to give to the Monash Health Foundation, visit monashhealthfoundation.org

In 2006, 11-year-old Kayla was diagnosed with bronchiectasis, an abnormal widening of the airways.

Kayla's parents Clive and Diane elected to have Kayla treated at Monash Children's Hospital as it was relatively close to home and meant frequent trips to and from her appointments would be a little less stressful.

Despite being concerned about treatment and Kayla's long-term health, Clive says that "every staff member at Monash were incredibly supportive every step of the way, from nursing and support staff through to her specialists."

It was that constant communication, reassurance and ongoing support that really made the difference for the family at this emotionally challenging and life-changing time.

Kayla was admitted to Monash Children's eight times over two years, with each stay being for at least three weeks at a time, with checkups in between.

"This was of course very tiring for Kayla, both mentally and physically. What made all the difference was that we knew Kayla was in the very best of hands, both medically and emotionally," said Clive.

Professor Nick Freezer, who was Kayla's paediatric respiratory specialist still enquires about her health when their paths cross, demonstrating the connection patients develop with their care team.

As Clive and Diane started thinking about retirement and ensuring their finances were in order, they discussed including a gift to Monash Children's Hospital in their will.

"Kayla was given exceptional care at Monash, and we felt one of the best ways we could say thank you and give back to the hospital was to leave a bequest in our will," Diane said.

"Kayla is now living a happy and relatively normal life thanks in large part to the team at Monash Children's Hospital who went above and beyond."

She continues to attend checkups and assessment to this day at Monash Health, although thankfully less frequently.

Kayla is just one of many people who have transitioned from paediatric treatment to receiving care at the adult hospital.

"While I miss some aspects of being treated at Monash Children's Hospital, the transition across to the adult hospital has been a positive one," Kayla says.

The story doesn't end here, however. Kayla is an avid volunteer and has been involved in many events raising funds for Monash Children's Hospital since 2013.



“ Thanks to the team at Monash, my health condition doesn’t impede my day-to-day life the way it once did. Volunteering is my way to give back, connect with the community and experience new things.”

—Kayla

This year alone, Kayla has volunteered her time at the Monash Children’s Hospital Gala, Bailey’s Day, traveled to New Zealand as the Charity Representative for Monash Children’s Hospital at the Chain Reaction Challenge and participated at the annual MCH Walk.

Clive and Diane are also keen volunteers, having joined Kayla in giving a helping hand at many events over the years

“I am passionate about the Monash Children’s Hospital fundraising community and intend to continue helping out whenever possible. I hope to see plenty of familiar and new faces at upcoming events!”

If you’re interested in volunteering at upcoming Monash Health Foundation events or are keen to learn more about leaving a gift in your will, email foundation@monashhealth.org.au and one of our team members will be in touch.

Curing Homesickness initiative sees Coles raise over \$200,000 for Monash Children's Hospital at Home program

Founded in July 2019, Curing Homesickness, is a joint fundraising initiative that brings together children's hospitals, foundations and paediatric services from across Australia.



Curing Homesickness works with trusted corporate partners to raise funds in support of projects and initiatives allowing 'kids to be kids' first, and patients second because we believe kids belong at home, not in hospital.

Major partner Coles has supported the Curing Homesickness initiative by selling \$2 donation cards Australia-wide each year and has also developed a range of products that support the initiative.

The most recent \$2 card campaign raised \$200,000 in Victorian stores, which will help expand the vital Monash Children's Hospital at Home program to assist children in our care. So that more children and can receive care and medical treatment in the comfort of their own homes and not need to spend as much time in.

You can help sick kids across Australia get home from hospital sooner by purchasing Coles "Mum's Sause" range of pasta and pizza sauces all year round. Fifty cents from every jar in Victoria comes straight to the Monash Children's Hospital.

Monash Children's Hospital at Home

For twelve-year-old Brooke, the Monash Children's Hospital at Home program means that she doesn't need to spend as much time in the hospital, away from school, her friends and her four sisters.

After years of treating her chronic asthma and countless hospital admissions, Brooke was officially diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis (CF) when she was eight and has since been receiving ongoing care at the Monash Children's Hospital (MCH).

By this point Brooke was in and out of the hospital, being admitted at least 3-4 times each year with lung infections and requiring IV antibiotics.

Brooke's mum Beck recalls there had been an indication from just 6 weeks of age that she may have CF, however all the tests kept coming back inconclusive or suggested she may be a carrier rather than having the disease.

When Brooke was eventually diagnosed, she thought "Our poor little girl had been given a double whammy of chronic asthma and Cystic Fibrosis."

Brooke had a port inserted which administers IV antibiotics to treat her lung infections along with a feeding tube in her stomach, to give Brooke additional fluid overnight, helping her to gain weight.

Brooke receives periods of care, usually around 2-3 weeks at a time, however it can be longer depending on how well she does with treatment. The MCH at Home team will visit once a day for an hour or so to run the IV for her antibiotics. They also check her oxygen levels, temperature, listen to her lungs and assess her general well-being.

The team also visit Brooke at school, which means she only needs to miss one hour of school to receive her medication rather than an entire day, whilst being treated at the hospital. This means minimal impact to her learning and that she doesn't miss out on socialising with her friends – something that means a lot to Brooke.



Little Mary Bochang is part of the Monash Children's Hospital at Home Complex Care program.

"We have had a very positive experience with Monash Children's Hospital, and by extension, MCH @ Home. The staff are all so friendly and helpful, and go out of their way to make sure we understand everything that is happening with Mary's care."

Dina, Mary's Mum (pictured above)



Supporting world-class care

“We’re seeing a steady increase in First Nations patients across Monash Health, so it’s really important that our clinicians are fully equipped, ready and able to address the specific needs of this community.”

Maia Sanderson, NICU nurse

NICU nurse, Maia Sanderson.



First Nations nurses head to Congress



To find out ways to give to the Monash Health Foundation, visit monashhealthfoundation.org

This coming November, twelve First Nations nurses and midwives from Monash Health will make their way to Northern NSW for the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM).

This wouldn't be possible without the generosity of our corporate partners MAXXIA and HESTA, who are supporting this initiative, ensuring this group of nurses and midwives are able to travel and take part in Congress.

Aboriginal Health Project Lead at Monash Health, Kathryn Sullivan says this is an exciting opportunity for the group of First Nations nurses and midwives.

"We're seeing a steady increase in First Nations patients across Monash Health, so it's really important that our clinicians are fully equipped, ready and able to address the specific needs of this community."

The group attending Congress is comprised of employees from a broad range of areas across Monash Health, including mental health, graduates, community health nurses and midwives.

NICU nurse, Maia Sanderson is looking forward to the broad range of eye-opening speakers, learning about new models of care and participating in professional development activities available to attendees.

"I'm especially looking forward to exploring the cultural aspects of First Nations healthcare at Congress," Maia said.

"I have been once before, and it is a truly eye-opening experience, I'm thrilled to be going back in November with a larger group of colleagues."

Since 2017, the cohort of First Nations employees at Monash has more than doubled and continues to grow year on year.

Given Monash Health is the largest provider of healthcare to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Victoria, we look forward to seeing this increase further in a tangible effort to improve patient care.

We look forward to sharing feedback from Congress in the future.

What it means to give back – Beat Kunz

Beat Kunz migrated to Australia at the age of 28 from Switzerland in search of new opportunities.

Having lost his parents as a young child, Beat pushed himself to attend school, and eventually went on to complete an apprenticeship that led to him working long hours, 7 days a week in environments that he describes as being “very tough both physically and psychologically.”

Despite the challenging nature of his work, he made many friends whom he reflects upon fondly and misses dearly since making the decision to migrate to Australia at the age of 28 from Switzerland in search of a fresh start.

Beat came to Australia with next to nothing and found himself again working long hours and studying hard to gain COT in Electronics and Telecommunication, and in addition, studied at night to obtain his A Grade Electrician’s License.

These qualifications allowed him to gain employment with Telstra, where he loyally worked as a technician for 24 years.

After retiring at age 55, Beat decided he wanted to travel as a reward for decades of hard work and sacrifice. Beat returned to Europe, visiting old friends and creating new memories before coming home to Melbourne.

Not long after his arrival back in Australia in late 2017, Beat felt unwell. He had previously disposed of six bowel cancer testing kits, as he believed he wasn’t at risk due to there being no history of bowel cancer in his family.

Beat’s GP insisted he go for a colonoscopy and scans. Beat avoided booking the appointment, but eventually booked himself in for the necessary tests. Unfortunately, Beat was diagnosed with bowel cancer and underwent urgent surgery.

Treatment included partial removal of his bowel, leaving him with a stoma, which was not only physically challenging, but presented a significant mental hurdle for Beat as he recovered.

“I am certain the outcome would have been more favourable had I taken the screening tests when I received them. I urge everyone who receives a test kit to make use of it, it might save your life,” said Beat.

Unfortunately, the cancer inevitably spread to Beat’s liver and lungs. This meant more treatment, more physical pain and the emotional toll that comes with a cancer diagnosis.

The Doctors, nurses and staff at Monash Health’s Department of Oncology based at Moorabbin who were charged with caring for Beat have played an enormous role in keeping him positive, and for ensuring treatment days are less daunting, he says.

“The nurses at Moorabbin are so incredibly kind and compassionate, they truly have become like family to me,” said Beat.



Monash Oncology staff at the inaugural Oncology Conference, funded in part by Mr Beat Kunz' generous donation.

Beat has always been one to give back, having donated to various charities whenever he could, so when he met Ron Fairchild, Director of the Monash Health Foundation, he was keen to discuss how he could “give back” as a way of thanking the people who have been there every step of the way throughout his cancer journey.

“I met with Ron and advised him that I wanted to donate an amount annually and was keen for the funds to directly benefit the people who look after me and so many other cancer patients,” said Beat.

“Ron and the Oncology team presented to me a several great ideas, and we eventually settled on the establishment of an annual conference for oncology nurses.”

The first conference was held at Hotel Chadstone in 2022 and saw almost 70 oncology staff attend to listen to important updates in cancer treatment, be inspired by keynote speakers and participate in a range of interactive activities.

“The donated funds have been able to give oncology nurses an opportunity to learn from within, the great research projects we are conducting and hear from leaders in nursing and medicine,” said Kim Rogers, Director of Clinical Operations at Monash Cancer Service.

The 2023 conference planning is well underway, with a date set for November.

Beat’s story, however, is far from over. In May this year, Beat met with his specialist and was sent for a brain scan, where a golf ball size tumour was found in his head.

After successful surgery to remove the tumour, Beat went home after 9 days as an inpatient.

Despite all this, Beat remains positive. “I know that I’m in the best hands with the team at Monash, they’re with me every step of the way, and I’m so glad I have been able to give back to them in such a meaningful way.”

Improving patient experience with the McGrath Foundation

It can be an overwhelming and uncertain time when diagnosed with breast cancer. Patients at Monash Health are fortunate to have access to Breast Care Nurses, some of which are funded by the McGrath Foundation.

Breast Care Nurses provide support and information when the patient needs it, from diagnosis and throughout their journey of care. Monash Breast Services is made up of a passionate group of staff, including highly trained and experienced Breast Care Nurses.

In addition, thanks to an ongoing funding partnership with the McGrath Foundation, patients at Monash Breast Services have access to a group of highly trained Clinical Nurse Consultants. These Clinical Nurse Consultants provide specialised care (known as the McGrath Model of Care) and ongoing support for patients and their families.

“We are incredibly fortunate to have four funded McGrath Breast Cancer Nurses available to patients across our Moorabbin, Casey and Dandenong sites,” says Catherine Langford Director of Clinical Operations at Monash Health Breast Services.

The McGrath Breast Care Nurses regularly participate in workshops and seminars to ensure they are at the forefront of knowledge, developments and enhanced care for breast cancer patients

This invaluable collaboration between Monash Breast Services and the McGrath Foundation is an ongoing one, with the team constantly working to further and strengthen the relationship with the goal of supporting our Breast patients and securing more dedicated, passionate Clinical Nurse Consultants in the coming years.

“ Not only do these incredible nurses inform, empower and support breast cancer patients, actively participate in education and readily pass on their knowledge to our wider nursing staff, further increasing the level of care we provide.”

Catherine Langford, Director of Clinical Operations

The McGrath Foundation Breast Care Nurses.





Helping children with Type 1 diabetes thrive

Almost half of all Victorian children diagnosed with diabetes are cared for by the team at Monash Children's Hospital. The Department of Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes provides care for more than 800 children under 19 years of age with diabetes like 17-month old Nate.

Nate went from a happy, energetic toddler to lethargic and unwell in a matter of days. It was quickly discovered he was living with type 1 Diabetes and experiencing a potentially life-threatening complication known as diabetic ketoacidosis.

Nate was quickly airlifted to the Monash Children's Hospital Paediatric Intensive Care Unit, where he received the critical care he required.

Over the following days, Nate's parents were provided extensive support and education by the Department of Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes before they were able to return home.

However, their Type 1 diabetes journey was just beginning, with Nate requiring four insulin injections every day and finger pricks at 2am each morning.

Six weeks later, the team at Monash Children's Hospital was able to make managing Nate's diabetes easier by providing Nate with a glucose monitor, meaning he now only requires a finger prick when the alarm goes off.

Nate's mum Natasha says that the exceptional level of care Nate has been provided with from the Department of Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes has made all the difference in his ongoing treatment journey.

"We are so grateful for the treatment Nate received and for the ongoing support and compassion – we can't thank them enough," said Natasha.

Close to \$100,000 has been raised via a community appeal in support of Monash Children's Hospital's Department of Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes, helping to significantly improve the lives of children like Nate living with type 1 diabetes.

iGive Donor, Lakshika Mylvaganam

Monash Health employee Lakshika Mylvaganam shares why becoming an iGive donor was so important to her.

“Becoming an iGive donor was not a difficult decision at all. I have been a donor since the program first commenced. I’ve been working at Monash Health for the past 13 years and am so privileged to be working for an organisation that contributes so much to the community.

Making a small donation every fortnight from my salary is one way I can show my gratitude for the great work Monash Health is doing. Besides being an employee, I have also had firsthand experience as a patient at Monash Health.

After undergoing life-saving surgery, and being able to walk out of hospital, I realised how a small contribution can go a long way when it comes to saving lives.

Another reason I became a donor is to show my appreciation and support for the great work the Monash Health Foundation team is doing.

I have been fortunate enough to work very closely with the team in my role as Finance Business Partner and I have seen the hard work that goes behind organising fundraising events, appeals and the constant communication with the donors.



Lakshika Mylvaganam is a proud iGive donor.

iGive is a great way for employees to donate from their salary, and what’s even better is it’s from their pre-tax salary.

I have chosen to contribute to the Monash Children’s Hospital and Victorian Heart Hospital. As a mother of two young children it’s very important that the hospital is well equipped and has the best infrastructure to support any child walking through the hospital doors.”

If you would like to learn more about joining the iGive program through your workplace, email foundation@monashhealth.org.

Grateful Giving: The chance to say thank you



Twenty years ago, Debbie required a double renal transplant and was fortunate enough to receive this life-saving procedure at Monash Health.

As a gesture of gratitude, Debbie and her husband Warwick, made a generous contribution as part of the Monash Health Foundation's Grateful Giving program.

We are thrilled to know that today, Debbie is healthy and thriving.

The Grateful Giving program is designed so that former or current patients and their families have the ability to make a donation in gratitude of the care provided to them. The program allows donors to specify a particular area they would like to donate to, or allows your gift to be allocated to the area of greatest need at Monash Health.

If you or someone you love has received exceptional care at Monash Health, please consider becoming part of our Grateful Giving program.

A word of gratitude from Pastor Brendan Lane

In August 2022 I was taken to the Monash Health emergency department in Dandenong experiencing great pain. A doctor diagnosed me immediately and I was placed in intensive care with advanced pneumonia.

I was intubated until I was able to undergo surgery at Monash Clayton. Thanks to the brilliant surgeons, the operation was successful, and I have made a full recovery.

I am so grateful for the great work done by the staff at Monash and the level of care provided by Professor Paul King and his team – I simply could not have been in better hands.

Please continue providing world-class care and use this donation in any way you see fit.

All the best –

Pastor Brendan Lane
St Mary's Parish, Dandenong

Supporting vital cardiac care at Monash Health

In February, Australia's first dedicated cardiac hospital opened in Victoria.

The Victorian Heart Hospital is now providing life-saving, personalised cardiac care to patients across the state, and is home to some of the most experienced cardiac specialists in the country.

Alistair made history as the first patient admitted to the Victorian Heart Hospital, and although he didn't necessarily want this 'honour,' he was excited to see first-hand this incredible new facility.

Having lost his father to a heart attack at 47 years old, Alistair was acutely aware of his own vulnerability. However, nothing could have prepared him for his first heart attack at the age of 41 back in 2001. Since then, Alistair has experienced several cardiac episodes, include an incident of cardiac arrest as a result of his third heart attack.

In March this year, Alistair collapsed while washing his lunch dishes at work, and sustained a severe head injury.

He was rushed to Monash Heart at Monash Medical Centre in Clayton where he regained consciousness and was informed that he had experienced another cardiac episode alongside multiple injuries due to the fall, including a brain bleed, black eye and cracked rib.

Alistair was admitted, and after six days he was transferred to the brand-new Victorian Heart Hospital for two nights before being discharged to continue his recovery at home.

Alistair admits that nobody would want to spend time in hospital, but he found the natural light and modern, welcoming surroundings had a positive impact on his mental and emotional health during his stay.

"We're truly privileged to not only have a dedicated heart hospital in Victoria, but for patients to be in the care of some of Australia's most experienced cardiac doctors and nurses is truly exceptional," Alistair said.

Thank you to all who generously donated to the Monash Cardiac Care appeal, we're thrilled to report that we have raised more than \$81,000, which will go a long way in ensuring we can continue providing gold-standard care to our cardiac patients.



Supporting world-class care through community partnerships and events

Every year, multiple community organisations and groups come together to help raise funds for Monash Health.

The annual Bailey's Day golf tournament and luncheon took place in March at the beautiful Woodlands Golf Course in honour of Bailey Tessier, who would have turned 21 this year.

Sadly, Bailey passed away at the age of two as a result of a brain tumour. Bailey and his family became part of the Monash family as he underwent treatment at the Monash Children's Cancer Centre.

In honour of Bailey's short life, his father Patrick embarked on his mission to raise funds to help treat children just like Bailey, and has gone on to raise over \$4 million to help train oncologists specialising in paediatric brain tumour research.

Thanks to the generosity of so many across the community, Bailey's Day 2023 raised over \$430,000 in support of Monash Children's Cancer Centre.

This year over \$1 million was raised for cystic fibrosis research.

The annual 65km for Cystic Fibrosis endurance walk took place around Princes and Royal Park in March, raising crucial funds for CF research.

Cystic fibrosis (CF) is a chronic inherited condition that affects the lungs and digestive system, with about 70,000 people living with the condition worldwide

All proceeds from 65km for Cystic Fibrosis will be directed to CF research or research that improves the quality of CF care in hospitals as this is known to be essential for good health outcomes.

Over the past decade, this event has successfully raised over \$900,000 thanks to the dedication and support of volunteers and participants.

A total of over \$100,000 was raised at the 2023 event, meaning the organisers not only met their target of raising \$1 million since the event started, but exceeded it.

Thank you to all who were involved behind the scenes in ensuring these wonderful events took place, and to all who attended or participated – your enthusiasm and generosity never goes unnoticed.



Participants at the starting line ready to walk 65km for CF.



Bailey's Day teddy bears.



The Teddy Bear Hospital nurses (*and Teddy*) at the Biggest Play Date.

Biggest Play Date

The Miranda Foundation played host to yet another magnificent Biggest Play Date event in early March at Aspendale Gardens.

Families turned out on a beautiful Melbourne morning for plenty of entertainment, games, rides, food and fun – all to raise funds for the Monash Children’s Cancer Centre.

The Foundation extends its thanks to the wonderful Miranda family, with a special mention to Vanessa and her daughter Taylah, for working so incredibly hard to raise almost \$45,000! Thank you to all who attended, see you next year.



Kids Fun Run with Puffing Billy

A sunny December morning saw several hundred children race against the iconic Puffing Billy steam train in The Rotary Club of Emerald and District's annual event Kids Fun Run with Puffing Billy in Gembrook.

Participants raced against the steam train in aged-based groups throughout the morning to raise funds for the Monash Children's Cancer Centre.

The event exceeded its fundraising target, almost \$50,000 to the Monash Children's Cancer Centre.

The Monash Children's Cancer Centre cares for approximately 30% of all paediatric cancer patients in Victoria, and it's fundraising efforts like these that allow the team to continue providing world class care for so many children and their families.

Thank you again to Rotary Club of Emerald and District, generous event sponsors and of course, our young runners and their families for making the event such a success.

A celebration of true friendship: Shashi Kochhar and the Friends of the Children Foundation



Shashi Kochhar (centre) with members of the Friends of the Children Foundation, and Monash Health Foundation staff at the Monash Children's Hospital Walk.



Shashi Kochhar, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elder Uncle Bill Nicholson, and Monash Health Foundation team member, Kim Minett.

“Let us bring everyone together and spread a message of humanity, harmony, togetherness and belonging to this land and help create a better tomorrow for future generations”

Shashi Kochhar,
Friends of the Children Foundation

If you've ever attended the Monash Children's Hospital Walk, you may be familiar with Shashi Kochhar and his incredible team of volunteers at Friends of the Children. If not, allow us to introduce you...

Shashi Kochhar came to Australia more than 52 years ago. About 25 years ago when he felt comfortable and settled with life in Australia, he decided it was an important time for him to 'give back' to a land that he says blessed him with an abundance of love, respect and a wonderful lifestyle.

After much soul-searching, he decided he wanted to do something that would benefit children across a range of areas including health, environmental impact and education. It was then that the Friends of the Children Foundation (FOTCF) was born.

The Friends of the Children Foundation have a simple, yet poignant mission statement – Live in harmony, work together, respect all and help the needy in our community.

“Every project we take on aligns with this mission, so that we can enable our youth to reach their full potential of becoming good citizens of this world, living long, healthy productive, purposeful and philanthropic lives,” says Shashi.

In 2012, under the guidance of Shashi, the FOTCF established one of the Monash Health Foundation's most successful fundraising events – the Monash Children's Hospital Walk, held on the first Sunday in March at Jells Park in Wheelers Hill.

Since its inception, the event has raised almost \$1.5m, with funds raised going to areas of need across the Monash Children's Hospital.

“The work Friends of the Children Foundation does for Monash Children's Hospital is so important because the hospital services a large, rapidly growing population. This means there is an even greater need for us to work together and give more than we take in order to secure a better future to plan for our future,” Shashi explained.

The FOTCF also hosts several other events each year, with over \$100,000 being raised for various causes at Monash Children's Hospital including a scholarship program to provide ongoing professional

development training opportunities to nurses and midwives and equipment for the Paediatric Emergency Department.

Recently, the FOTCF have turned their focus to funding scholarships for education and professional development for Monash Children's Hospital nurses and allied health professionals. This year they sponsored the Nurse of the Year Scholarship, won by Michael Schilling, Interim Nurse Unit Manager.

One of Shashi's favourite projects was helping to fund training manikins to Monash Children's Hospital Simulation Centre and for health services beyond our borders.

“One of the most touching moments in my life was when Monash informed me that one of their training Manikins in the Paediatric Emergency Department had been officially named 'Winston Shashi PICU,’” says Shashi.

The work Shashi and FOTCF do goes beyond fundraising, with more than 40 volunteers assisting with the daily Bread Brigade. Members collect leftover baked goods from supermarkets and bakeries and provide them to a range of charities including Monash University student programs, neighbourhood houses and emergency housing along with providing assistance in feeding those who may be struggling or experiencing homelessness.

The FOTCF also coordinates almost 100 volunteers to assist with collections for various charity appeals throughout the year, including Clean Up Australia and environment days.

Ron Fairchild, Director of the Monash Health Foundation says he is incredibly proud of the relationship the Foundation has built with Shashi and FOTCF over the past decade.

“The broad range of philanthropic activities that FOTCF participate in on a daily basis is nothing short of an inspirational and motivational example to many others. Their work is a testament to Shashi and his teams' dedication to their mission of ensuring a better future for children across our community,” says Ron.

The Monash Health Foundation looks forward to further fostering this invaluable relationship with FOTCF into 2024 and beyond.

To learn more about the Monash Health Foundation and how you can support patients and their families at Monash Health, visit monashhealthfoundation.org





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