

how to help

5 ways you can help



CELEBRATE

You can give kids with cancer a **lifetime of birthdays** by asking for donations in lieu of gifts on your birthday, graduation, wedding or other milestone celebration.

Give More Birthdays

DONATE

Make a one-time gift or join our **League of Super Heroes** Monthly Giving Program.

SHAVE

Show moral support for kids who lose their hair to chemo by **shaving your lid and raising funds**.

WINE N' DINE FUNDRAISE

Enjoy an evening of fine wine and gourmet dining on **Saturday, March 16, 2019 at Parents' Quest for the Cure**, while supporting childhood cancer research. **Save the date!**

With a bit of fun and creative flair, **anything can become a fundraising event**. It could be a 10K run, bake sale, hockey tournament or Christmas raffle. Contact us with your fundraising ideas today.

To learn more about how you can help, visit us at kidscancercare.ab.ca today.

research

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None of Dr. Morrissy's work would be possible without a robust collection of tumour samples. **Thanks to your support, Calgary boasts one of the largest collections in North America.** Dr. Jennifer Chan, the Kids Cancer Care Chair in Pediatric Oncology Research, who oversees the tumour bank, is pleased to have Dr. Morrissy on the Calgary research team. "It's exciting to be adding experts like Dr. Morrissy to our exceptional team of researchers in the Childhood Cancer Research Program. Her findings are already revealing interesting new approaches to tackling this very difficult diagnosis."

"We know that metastases of medulloblastoma are entirely devastating," says Dr. Morrissy. "It's important to understand how the cancer cells spread from the primary tumour to distant sites on the brain surface. Our research indicates that they cross the blood-brain barrier and travel in the bloodstream throughout the body, homing back to the brain where they grow as deadly metastases. **This tells us that perhaps we can monitor the risk of the cancer recurring by doing simple blood tests. It's a hypothesis at this point, but it gives us a place to start.**"

Adapted with permission from the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation



Dr. Sorana Morrissy

Photo by Brangwyn Jones Photography

kids candidly

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK, TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN WITH CANCER

kids cancer care

FALL 2018 ISSUE

kidscancercare.ab.ca



FLYING COLOURS

Thanks to you, Bill passed grade 10 with flying colours!

kids cancer care
kidscancercare.ab.ca



Kids Cancer Care Foundation of Alberta
is a Registered Canadian Charity
#99940 9171 RR0001.

CEO message



Unique Perspectives Photography

“That’s what I consider true generosity: You give your all, and yet you always feel as if it costs you nothing.” – Simone de Beauvoir

Thank you for another great summer!

With your support, 463 children experienced the magic of camp this summer. I wish you could see all the emails of gratitude that pour in. While I’m unable to share all of them, I’d like to share this one with you:

This camp was so great for our family! It’s the first year our kids have been to camp and although they were nervous and had a few tears when we dropped them off, they were full of excitement and stories when we picked them up. They made so many new friends, tried new activities, learned new songs and loved the camp staff! When we asked them about returning next year, they all yelled, “YES!” and can’t wait to go back! Huge thanks to Camp Kindle and everyone who makes this possible for children impacted by cancer! It really does make a difference and our family is so appreciative! — a parent

We’re fortunate to regularly see expressions of gratitude like this. They inspire us and remind us of why we are here and they make us especially grateful for you.

Forever grateful,

Christine McIver

Christine McIver, M.S.M., LLD (Hon), CFRE
Founder and Chief Executive Officer

research

powered by you

How your support is helping attract top research talent to Calgary

Researchers investigating a devastating children’s brain cancer predict that one day we may be able to monitor a child’s risk of relapse with a simple blood test.

With a bold new research lab and a world-renowned tumour bank, Calgary was the ideal place for Dr. Sorana Morrissy to relocate her lab and continue her research. Dr. Morrissy’s research is offering important insights into a devastating children’s brain cancer.

And your support helped create the research environment that attracted her to Calgary.

“While the prospect of working in a brand new lab environment was compelling, I was especially drawn to the collaborative nature of the work being done at the Alberta Children’s Hospital Research Institute and University of Calgary,” says Dr. Morrissy. “The multidisciplinary approach is invaluable in our quest to find new answers for kids fighting cancer.”

A medical geneticist from the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Dr. Morrissy is working with researchers specializing in brain tumours and the immune system.

Using advanced computing systems, they are sequencing medullablastoma tumour samples to understand why some cancer cells elude chemotherapies and why others don’t.

The ultimate goal of Dr. Morrissy’s research is to understand the molecular changes in tumour cells that make them resistant to cancer treatments. Armed with this information, they can begin laying the foundation for identifying and developing new targeted therapies that will save lives without causing permanent damage to the child.

“In Calgary, there may be three to four cases of medullablastoma a year, but in every case, treatment causes heartbreaking damage to these young developing brains,” says Dr. Morrissy. “It’s important for us to find better ways to help these kids and their families.”

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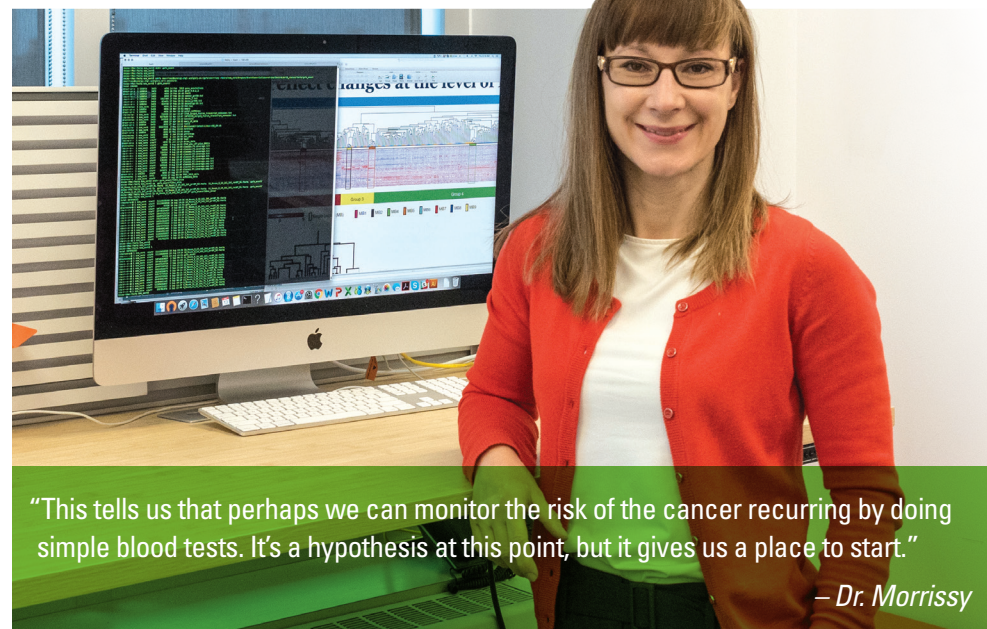


Photo by Brangwyn Jones Photography

“This tells us that perhaps we can monitor the risk of the cancer recurring by doing simple blood tests. It’s a hypothesis at this point, but it gives us a place to start.”

– Dr. Morrissy

education

futures inspired by you

You helped Bill to keep going, while on treatment

“Sometimes I think I would have just quit if it wasn’t for Nadia. She kept me motivated and helped me to keep going.”

– Bill Tseng

Bill Tseng has always been a strong student, excelling in math and science. **It’s clear he has the aptitude and, thanks to you, he’s proved that he also has the fortitude to fulfill his dream of becoming an engineer.**

Bill was raised to work hard and dream big, but at the age of 15 his dream seemed like it might slip away.

“I was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma on the first day of spring break in grade nine and missed the rest of that year,” says Bill. “I was nauseous and vomiting and had a lot of headaches. I missed all of grade 10, so I was afraid I would fall behind and have to repeat some of my courses.”

Taking online courses, Bill’s classroom had become a battered old laptop, a science textbook and a collection of math and science notes. Without a teacher, he was struggling with where to turn when he had questions.

That’s where Nadia Narendran came in. With your support, Nadia became Bill’s one-to-one tutor through our Education Support Program. With her help and a lot of hard work, Bill made it through grade 10 – with flying colours.

“Bill has grown so much as a learner,” says Nadia. “We spent a lot of time exploring strategies on how to research answers on his own, so he’s become more self-sufficient.”

The tutoring didn’t end when the sessions finished each week. If Bill encountered a problem, he’d text a photo of it to Nadia. She would then text Bill a series of questions on how he might solve it.

“Nadia was always there to help,” says Bill’s mother Kai Chen Huang. “She came once a week, but she was always only a text a way. I was so worried about Bill because he couldn’t go to school and he was all alone. Nadia was kind and gentle and patient. She became a good friend and supporter as well as a very good tutor and mentor. I am so grateful to her.”

Now in grade 12, Bill is looking forward to graduating high school and beginning studies at the University of Calgary’s Schulich School of Engineering.

“Sometimes I think I would have just quit if it wasn’t for Nadia,” says Bill. “She kept me motivated and helped me to keep going.”

Thank you for helping kids like Bill keep up their studies, while battling cancer. ■



“She came once a week, but she was always only a text a way.”

– Kai Chen Huang

Photos by Don Molyneux Photography