



GUILDconnect

A newsletter to connect all members of the Children's Hospital Guild of Manitoba

May 2025

This issue of the newsletter mainly features the reports given at the Guild Annual General Meeting on February 1, 2025.

News from the President

Good morning and welcome to the Children's Hospital Guild of Manitoba's Annual General Meeting. I am going to start with a very grateful thank you to all our members who donated hundreds of hours this past year raising an amazing \$170,000 for the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba. We will have a group photo with the cheque later in the meeting.

Hours were spent working at the Nearly New Shop – including sales, scheduling, sorting, cleaning and merchandising; planning and executing the very successful High Tea in April and the La Vie en Rose Luncheon and Fashion Show in October; sewing, knitting and crafting for the Ice Crystal Gala, the reinstated Teddy Bears Picnic, (1,681) and requests from the hospital for various items all coordinated through our Sew4kids leadership; and the writing and preparing the Guild newsletter.

Many of our members volunteered at the Book Market and the Teddy Bears Picnic and in support of the Foundation, whether they were calling to thank donors or assembling activity kits for children in hospital or attending events or announcements. Guild members are ambassadors for the Foundation.

A special thank you to the Board of Directors and the Executive for their leadership and dedication to the Guild.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba staff for the encouragement and assistance we received this past year including preparation of materials, signage and letters, staff support at our events and advertising and social media support. Thank you!

On a sad note, we lost a very dedicated member this past year, Barbara Whitla, who we honoured at our October Volunteer Appreciation event. Barbara was a graduate of the Children's Hospital School of Nursing and worked at both the General Hospital and Children's Hospital. She was a long serving (60 years) volunteer – Annie A. Bond Guild, Peter Pan Club, CHGM, Book Market and was instrumental in introducing knitted red Christmas toques for premature babies and finger puppets for Child Life. Copies of her obituary are on the entrance desk.

Suzanne Munroe

Treasurer's Report

The Children's Hospital Guild of Manitoba had a very successful year. The Guild hosted two events, High Tea and La Vie en Rose fashion Show. We also collected \$3,200 from donations and the Teddy Box collections. After the expenses of these events, the Guild operations had net earnings of \$99,586.

The Nearly New Shop had a record year with sales of \$124,790. Running the shop cost \$38,362, which left net earnings of \$86,428.

The Guild was able to transfer to the Children's Hospital Foundation \$170,000 this year. We transferred \$70,000 in the spring and the remaining \$100,000 at the end of the year.

Karin Holmes

Membership Report

The Membership Committee is pleased to report that as of February 2025 our Guild Membership stands at 106.

We are pleased that over the last year a number of new members were welcomed to the Guild. We hope they are enjoying their time volunteering and finding the experience rewarding and fulfilling. Their effort and support to our various fundraising activities has contributed greatly to their success. The addition of new members is critical to the success of the Guild and as always should anyone be aware of someone whom may be interested in joining the Guild please invite them out to one of our events.

We would like to welcome our newest members who have joined since our Fall Board Meeting:

- Candice Stearns
- Philippa Johnson
- Carolyn Abgral
- Taylor McEachern

It is with regret that we announce that one of our long-time members, Barb Whitla, passed away December 19, 2024. Barb was a hard-working volunteer and the Guild was extremely fortunate to have her as a dedicated member.

We have started collecting the fees and would like to thank those who have already submitted payment. Annual dues remain at \$25.00.

As with previous years e-transfers will be accepted. Payment is to be made to childrenshospitalguildofmb@gmail.com.

Those wishing to pay by cheque should forward their cheque payable to **Children's Hospital Guild of Manitoba** to:

Ilene Holmes
710 Cloutier Dr.
Winnipeg Manitoba R3V 1A8

Please advise of any information changes including change of address, phone number, e-mail etc., so that we may keep the Roster up to date.

Ilene Holmes & Liz Polakoff (co-chairs)

Nearly New Shop

Nearly New Shop volunteers have certainly noticed an increase in daily sales. From January to April 26, 2025, sales have totalled \$22,301. One key factor behind this success is the expert and steady guidance of Carol Stephens, whose unique talent for creating beautiful window and feature displays delights both customers and volunteers alike.

Another factor for our surge in sales is due to the frequent posts on Meta and Instagram which Marianne Meush does so very well. Then, there are the twenty-some volunteers who sort and price, work the till, open and close the doors, sell online, and ensure everything works. This past year, we have welcomed Carolyn Abgral, Brianna Belton, Susan Dwilow, Joy Goertzen, Val Komenda, Taylor McEachern, Laura Ross, and Candice Stearns. Presently, we have two other individuals who wish to volunteer.

Lastly, we are deeply grateful for the continued donations of clothing, housewares, toys, and other collectibles from the wider community. Without this generous support, we wouldn't have inventory to sell—nor could we support the Children's Hospital in the same way as we do today.

Currently, we have a large and lovely selection of women's spring/summer tops, sandals, capris, and shorts. Men's wear is well stocked with short sleeved summer shirts, shoes, and shorts. We are the place to shop for children's and baby wear for good quality clothes.

The Bear Clan continues to work with us in finding placement for the items that we cannot sell. They distribute these items to various agencies supporting people in need.

Last December, we sold out of Christmas decor. Well not quite, but we certainly depleted the "Christmas Room" stock. Now, at the end of April, the Christmas Room is full to bursting and so we will have lots of stock for this season.

As usual, the Nearly New Shop always needs volunteers especially for the Friday and Saturday shifts. If you would like to pick up a shift, please contact me (mthuebner@gmail.com) or Brenda Born (brendaborn59@gmail.com). Brenda prepares the scheduling. Or call the store at 204 772-3629.

Marian Huebner with input from the Nearly New Shop volunteers

All I can say is...I work in the back of the shop on Wednesday and there is a constant flow of generous donations during my shift. Some days we are just about finished sorting all the items that have come in, when the doorbell rings...and we receive more donations. You never know what "treasures" will be uncovered and in some instances, it can be a challenge to figure out exactly what they are. I have been volunteering for quite a few years and every shift is as adventurous and enjoyable as the first. This store is a wonderful place to volunteer and meet new people with a like mind in giving back by volunteering. The added plus is seeing and hearing the excitement and joy of the customers when they find "that something special".

Theresa Sippel

Sew4Kids Update

Sew4kids is a service committee of the Children's Hospital Guild of Manitoba Inc. Our group receives requests from various departments at the hospital / Foundation and completed projects are tagged with "Sew4kids" and distributed throughout the hospital.

Our sewing and knitting members produced many wonderful items for the Children's Hospital and its patients. We have several new members who have been very productive, including the Manitoba Telephone System Retirees, who helped enormously with the Ice Crystal Gala bearwear. We also received many bonding pads for the NICU from the Pinewood Quilters. A big shoutout to our regular contributors: Threads of Hope, Carellan Sewing Centre, and Glenlawn, Dakota and Elmwood High Schools, who contribute time, materials and energy.

Anna Sikora sends out emails twice a year to all the Sew4Kids members as well as the general Guild membership. Anna also takes responsibility for storing materials and finished goods, and delivers those to the Children's Hospital Foundation for distribution in the hospital. Val and I help where we can!

We would like to acknowledge the annual contribution from the Book Market of \$250 and the \$500 received from the Guild. These monies allow us to purchase fabric for receiving blankets and Christmas stockings. We are most grateful to all who contribute and we know that the departments in the hospital are also very grateful.

The following list details the numbers and types of items donated in 2024 including 50 aprons for the Book Market volunteers.

Bibs/burp cloths: 8
 Blankets: crochet 19, fleece 16, receiving 174
 Book bags: diabetes 212, Child Life 316
 Clothing: boxers 23, hats 37, other including IV shirts 16, mittens 88, PJ bottoms 73
 Ditty bags: 56
 Dolls (muslin): 68
 Gala Bearwear: 520
 Gala other: 31 vests. Fix boots
 HSC: stockings 37, mittens and caps 161
 NICU: bonding pads 592, eye covers 343, fitted sheets 8
 Pee tents: 17
 Pillow cases: 7
 Quilts: pieced 111, denim 11
 Slippers: 93
 Special projects: crochet 160
 Teddy Bears Picnic: bears ears 1681, pieced quilts 2, fix bear parts
 Toiletry bags: 55
 Toys: puppets, stuffies 46

Anna Sikora
 Val McCartney
 Meredith McArthur

CHRM Grants & Awards Committee

The Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba (CHRM) is the research division of the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba (CHF). The CHRM Grants and Awards Committee consists of several researchers, three lay members and two ex-officio members.

Funding is granted to students and researchers conducting child health research studies in the categories of Undergraduate Summer Studentships, Operating Grants and Small Grants. The committee meets on zoom several times during the year to review all the submitted applications. The application guidelines and scoring rubrics ensure that the review process is viewed through a lens of equality, diversity, and inclusion.

The Summer Studentship Awards are designed to provide exposure to career opportunities in the areas of health research for pregnant people, children, youth, and families. There were 25 student applications in 2024, 8 studentships were funded for \$7000. each. 2025 applications are due on February 12th.

Fourteen applicants submitted Operating Grant applications in the spring of 2024. Five Basic and 3 Clinical were approved and funded to \$60,000. each. Project awardees and titles are listed on page 2 of this report.

Five Small Grant applications were reviewed in November 2024; two applications were successful and awarded \$5000.

Vikram Bhatia– Effect of hypoxia on the kinome of neonatal pulmonary artery smooth muscle

Kristin Reynolds– A Scooping review of caregiver mental health impacts and supports for cow's milk protein allergy in infants

The total amount of research funding awarded for the three competitions is \$546,000. Project topics in Basic Research:

Applicant Last Name	Applicant First Name	Requested Amount	Title
Dunn	Henry	\$60,000.00	Investigating a novel trans-synaptic complex of molecules <u>independently-implicated</u> in neurodevelopmental disease
Wigle	Jeffrey	\$60,000.00	Identifying mechanisms leading to congenital heart defects in Mowat Wilson Syndrome
Jones	Meaghan	\$60,000.00	Identifying synergistic epigenetic effects of early and later life cigarette smoke exposure on the lung
Berard	Alicia	\$60,000.00	Identification of a role of the vaginal microbiome in intra-amniotic inflammation
Wright	Galen	\$60,000.00	Implementation of a human brain organoid platform to study neurodevelopmental disorders

Clinical Research project topics:

Applicant Last Name	Applicant First Name	Requested Amount	Title
Lim	Lily	\$60,000.00	Are There Others Like Me? Discovering Juvenile Arthritis Patients in Manitoba Using Machine Learning Derived Patterns of Healthcare Encounters
Abdullah	Al Maruf	\$60,000.00	Pharmacogenomics of Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor-Induced Behavioural Activation in Children and Adolescents (PGx-SImBA)
Eltonsy	Sherif	\$60,000.00	Antiseizure medications during pregnancy and neurodevelopmental outcomes in children

Gladys Stewart, Lay Representative

High Tea Report 2024

The second High Tea was held April 20,2024 at the St.Charles Country Club.

We were sold out at 218 people and proud to say we were able to donate almost \$58,000 to the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba.

This year we added a photo booth which was a huge success with line-ups to get a picture with friends and volunteers. The teddy bears this year were outfitted with dresses, crinolines, and fancy hats, thanks to Silvana and her mother who did the sewing. Nicole Dube was once again our emcee and brought her daughters as guests. We had a speaker and family who talked about their experience at Children's Hospital and after we raised \$18,000 for Fund the Need.

Thank you to all our members that volunteered their time and efforts that helped make the event a success.

Heather Williams, Silvana Hanson

Fashion Show Report 2024

On Saturday, October 19 2024, the Children's Hospital Guild of Manitoba welcomed 160 guests to our annual fashion show. This year's theme was La Vie en Rose. For a couple of hours we were all able to relax and separate ourselves from the outside world and look at life through Rose coloured glasses. The Provencher Room became our Parisian cafe complete with a strolling singer and a three course French inspired luncheon. Dozens of roses were painted on a canvas that became our beautiful and popular selfie wall. (Thank you to Maisy Clarke for her talents). Nicole Dubé was our engaging MC and SWISH Productions provided decor, music and an amazing fashion show from local merchants.

I am pleased to report our net proceeds were \$43,610!

Sponsorship	\$20,080
Tickets	\$19,890
Raffle	\$11,700
Donations and Fund the Need	\$8,625
 Total expenses	 \$16,685
 NET	 \$43,610

Looking ahead our next show will be on Saturday, October 25, 2025. I am excited to announce that we will be in The Crystal Ballroom at the Fort Garry Hotel.

Pattie Moore

Social Committee Update

This report outlines the activities of the Social Chairs for the year 2024. Our role is to ensure that there are refreshments for the regular Guild meetings and to organize two major social events during the year which are the June Windup and the Christmas celebration.

The last AGM was held at St. Mary's Academy on January 27, 2024. On this day refreshments were organized by Mary Jean Davis as Diane was away. Thank you to the many volunteers who aided her at this time.

Refreshments were also provided at an executive meeting held on May 4 at St. Mary's Academy.

Our June windup, a Summer Solstice Celebration was held on June 20, 2024. Our venue was the St. Paul's Alumnae and Friends Hall and the event was catered by the Greek Market. About 30 Guild members enjoyed good food, games and quizzes.

The October meeting was a celebration of our volunteers and this event was graciously organized by Leigh Anne Peterson at her condo party room. A wonderful spread was arranged by her and her committee volunteers.

The final event of the 2024 year was our annual Christmas dinner held on December 17 at the Winter Club, courtesy of Meredith McArthur. A lovely buffet was arranged by the club's kitchen and our members enjoyed the traditional gift exchange and several games, quizzes and prizes. A good time was had by about 29 members.

In closing, we would like to thank the many members who also regularly bring baking and treats that greatly enhance our meetings. I think we have our own "Butter Tart Lady".

Diane Kubas & Mary Jean Davis

CHGM Coin Boxes

The CHGM Coin Boxes yielded \$1528. Thanks to my husband for sorting and rolling. Also, thank you notes have been prepared for the outlets allowing us to place our coin boxes in their facilities.

Our portion of the sales of 50/50 tickets at a Winnipeg Goldeyes game yielded \$980. General Manager, Andrew Collier, has kindly designated June 22, 2025 as our date to volunteer this

season. I do not have confirmation of the number of volunteers required.

I have not received further information as to whether our Guild could put coin boxes in the Manitoba Liquor Commission outlets.

Donna Askew

News from the Children's Hospital Foundation

Introducing your 2025 Champion Child

The Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba introduced Jack as your new 2025 Champion Child on February 6. He's a charismatic, funny and happy kid who will need HSC Children's Hospital until he reaches adulthood. Jack was born at 26 weeks along with his brother Jori. Together they weighed less than five pounds. Sadly, Jori didn't make it longer than six days. Jack had a condition called hydrocephalus, which is a buildup of cerebrospinal fluid within the brain, putting harmful pressure inside his skull and required five life-saving brain surgeries before he turned two to treat it.

Today, Jack loves doing everyday things like cleaning. As any kid his age does, he likes arts and crafts, cooking and playing on the swings. Flags of any kind though, are his absolute favourite! We are so pleased to have Jack take on the role of Champion Child this year.

Funding priorities for 2025

Funding for the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba (CHRIM) remains a priority for the Foundation. Donor support of work at CHRIM supports research that ensures kids continue to get the best evidence-based care, treatment, medication and so much more. Research done here will have lasting impacts on health outcomes for children with diabetes, autism, cancer, asthma, oncology, dental health and so much more. The implications of this work will affect children who need care in Manitoba, but it will also help kids with these conditions and diseases around the world.

Indigenous Community Healing Space

Up to 60 percent of kids treated at HSC Children's are Indigenous. Many of the children who need care at Children's are also from remote and Northern communities. Also sobering is that Indigenous children in Manitoba are three to five times more likely to be affected by several diseases or other health conditions.

This is why the Indigenous Community Healing Space at HSC Children's Hospital is so badly needed. It will provide Indigenous patients and their families with a safe space while they're away from their home community, giving them crucial cultural supports they need for their healing journey.

Life-Saving Surgical Tools

Every year, 6,000 operations are done by the Pediatric Surgery Department at HSC Children's Hospital. Over the years, its operating rooms have faced more surgeries than it can reasonably accommodate, many of them with complex requirements, and increased wait times. The pandemic made the problem worse, creating a significant surgical backlog.

You can improve the experience for kids who need surgery at HSC Children's. With your support, pediatric experts at Children's will have access to leading edge tools that will help with diagnosis, surgeries and treatment for kids facing acute needs and those with chronic conditions.

Register a team for the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba Golf Tournament

Golf and help children who need treatment and care! We invite you to tee off to support kids in hospital at the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba Golf Tournament on Tuesday, June 10 at Glendale Golf & Country Club.

You can help by registering a team or sponsoring the tournament. To learn more, visit goodbear.ca/events.

GuildConnect Annual Report

We are pleased to report on the Guild newsletter, GuildConnect, for the year ending December 31, 2024. Three editions of the newsletter were compiled, edited and distributed to all the CHGM members by email in 2024 – April, August and November. Each edition featured news from the President; updates on the Nearly New Shop, Sew4Kids, Membership, Social committee, Children's Hospital Foundation; reports from the Treasurer; and the High Tea and La Vie en Rose Fashion Show fundraising events. Articles from the Children's Hospital archives, information on Looking Ahead and Food for Thought ... And Fond Remembrances may be included if we have contributions. Each edition concludes with "Notes from the desk of your GuildConnect editors". On October 26, 2024, we, the co-editors, hosted the "Volunteer Appreciation Tea" at Lindenholm Place. Members of the Guild who are Children's Hospital Nurses Alumnae generously contributed their time and some delicious baking for the event. The purpose of the tea is to acknowledge and give appreciation to all the Guild members who give their time and talent throughout the year. A special tribute was given to Barb Whitla, our now late Guild member, who dedicated over 60 years of volunteering. Sadly, Barb passed away on December 19, 2024.

We are grateful for the positive feedback we have received about the newsletter and we welcome any suggestions or contributions for the upcoming 2025 editions.

Leigh-Anne Peterson
Diane Wilson Mate

Looking Ahead

Mark your calendar for the following events:

Thursday, June 19, 2025: Guild social evening at Carol Gamby's home. Watch for email messages with further details.

Saturday, October 25, 2025: Guild Fashion Show & Luncheon at the Fort Garry Hotel, Crystal Ballroom. Watch for email messages with further details.

Sunday, September 7, 2025: Teddy Bears Picnic. Volunteers are needed!

From the Desk of your GuildConnect-editors

During this past winter, my husband and I were leaving our son's home late at night. He and his family live in a community on the periphery of the city and with few trees and lights to interfere with the view, the night sky is beautiful and amazing. On this particular night the moon was full, the sky was deep and dark, two planets and many stars shone brightly. There wasn't a sound on the street and not a breath of wind stirred. In spite of the cold, we stood for a few minutes and took it all in. In that moment, I felt a comforting sense of peace, and gratitude for the privilege of being able to experience that moment without concern or fear for my safety and security.

I find myself thinking a lot about peace lately. It seems that peace has been disrupted and undermined in so many parts of the world including our own. Watching the news can be a worrisome, even shocking experience on most nights. This is not new of course. Throughout our existence, humans have found it challenging to live together harmoniously, to accept, respect and protect each other. Can we as individuals have an impact on restoring peace on the planet and promoting a respectful existence among humans or is the problem just too big? Must we be in a position of power and authority to direct activities contributing to peace or can we each nudge the world toward peace from our own unique location and circumstance?

Peggy Chinn is a nurse educator, scholar, editor and author. Based on her belief that every day our actions influence the potential for peace in the world, she generated the following:

A Dozen and One Things You Can Do to Create World Peace

1. Plant and nurture something that grows.
2. Practice the fine art of yielding – in your car, in conversation, etc.
3. Become active in a group that works on principles of cooperation.
4. Fill your home, work and community environment with visual and auditory images of peace and tranquility.
5. Do at least one thing to simplify your life and reduce consumption of disposable products.
6. Do at least one thing to reduce your consumption of natural resources.
7. Move toward a vegetarian diet.
8. Learn and practice some form of meditation.
9. Learn and practice ways to reduce hostile interactions with others.
10. Exchange gentle form of touch regularly.
11. Express appreciation to at least one individual or group every day.
12. Help three children learn three things on this list.
13. Pass this list on to someone else.

From Power and Politics: A Handbook of Feminist Process

Peace begins with each one of us and we can each make a difference in creating a compassionate, respectful and inclusive world. We can create our own list of activities that promote peace within ourselves, which influences our actions and can ultimately impact the whole world.

Diane

Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world. Desmond Tutu

Leigh-Anne Peterson and Diane Wilson Mate
Co-Editors of **GuildConnect**