

Inspire

WINTER 2025

STORIES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Hornoi family commits \$1 million to support pediatric cancer program



Left to right: (standing row) Dino Sophocleous (president and CEO of Hospitals of Regina Foundation), Shawn Hornoi, Shannon Hornoi Ross, Tammy Hoffart, and Karen Hackl (major gifts officer of Hospitals of Regina Foundation.) (seated row) Sterling Hornoi and Patricia Hornoi.

A \$1 million commitment by the Hornoi Group of Companies will help children from southern Saskatchewan who are receiving cancer care in our Children's Cancer Clinic at the Regina General Hospital.

The Hornoi family's gift will support the creation of a specialized pharmacy clean room so our pharmacists will have the critical technology and space they need to create personalized chemotherapies for each child receiving treatment. Hospitals of Regina Foundation has committed to raise \$2.8 million for this essential addition to our pediatric cancer program.

It is important to Sterling Hornoi to give back to his community. Sterling

and his wife Patricia have six children, 20 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, all of whom he considers a blessing. Since his early days in business, he has made contributions to local groups to help support the community's needs.

"We are a family-owned business and it is important to us to do what we can to help look after the community that has supported our business," says Sterling.

The pharmacy clean room is another step forward in advancing quality children's health care in southern Saskatchewan. In 2022, with the generous support of our community, Hospitals of Regina Foundation invested \$1.5 million to create our new Children's Cancer Clinic at the Regina General Hospital.

Since the Children's Cancer Clinic opened on Sept. 13, 2022, children battling cancer and their families have been receiving treatments and support in Regina. But, no two cancers are alike and no two children are the same. Consequently, each child's treatment must be individualized to give them the best chance at recovery and a normal life.

Personalized chemotherapy, customized to each child's specific cancer markers, is the latest standard of care for children receiving active cancer treatment. Custom chemotherapy helps doctors deliver treatments based on the child's

bloodwork on the day of treatment, and the molecular profile of their specific cancer. Personalizing treatment in this way lessens harmful side effects, reduces damage to healthy cells and gives our kids a chance at the best results possible. Offering this care in Regina, as close to home as possible, is important for these children and their families.

While childhood cancer is relatively rare, it remains the most common disease-related cause of death among Canadian children. Last year, 22 children from southern Saskatchewan were newly diagnosed with cancer and an additional 135 children currently receive treatment and follow-up care in our Children's Cancer Clinic.

"This gift brings us that much closer to having a specialized pharmacy clean room for our Children's Cancer Clinic at Regina's General Hospital," says Dino Sophocleous, president and CEO of Hospitals of Regina Foundation. "We couldn't be more grateful for the generosity of Sterling and Patricia, and the Hornoi family. They are great partners to our Foundation and an example to follow for our community."



HOSPITALS OF REGINA
FOUNDATION

Better lives. Made possible by you.



Left to right: Eliana Menegbo, Korle Menegbo

Eliana Menegbo came into this world with a strong will to survive and a mother who believed in her strength, which baby Eliana needed during the 116 days she spent in our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in the Rawlco Centre for Mother Baby Care, at Regina's General Hospital.

Her mother, Korle Menegbo, visited the emergency room more than once for bleeding and pain during her pregnancy but she did not require treatment at the time. Then, Korle's water broke in February 2024 when she was only 21 weeks pregnant and she was admitted to the Labour & Birth unit at the Regina General Hospital.

Her medical team was concerned she might develop an infection and monitored her carefully during her three-week stay. Korle, who could feel her baby moving, was grateful for the hourly checks and weekly ultrasounds to confirm the baby's condition. Once the medical team was convinced the baby was stable, Korle was sent home on bed rest.

On March 28, while getting blood work done at the hospital, Korle felt unwell and experienced more bleeding. Later in the day, an ultrasound in the Labour & Birth unit, showed the baby was in distress and

Baby girl thriving at home after 100-plus days in NICU

needed to be delivered, despite having 12 weeks to go before Korle's due date. Eliana was delivered by Caesarean section that night, at 28 weeks, and was immediately taken to our NICU for urgent care.

Korle held her breath when she went to the NICU to see her baby for the first time. Eliana was surrounded by doctors and nurses, inside an isolette with several medicine lines and an oxygen tube attached to her. The care she received from our specialized NICU medical team during her first 24 hours was critical to her survival, and included draining fluid from her lungs and receiving oxygen, as she was too small to breath on her own.

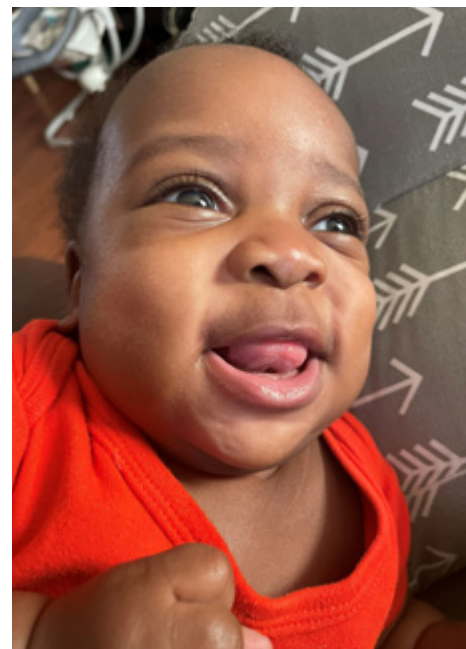
"It was overwhelming, but it was also a blessing because I don't know if she would have survived without the NICU," says Korle, who was discharged three days later. She visited every day, sitting by Eliana's isolette, singing to her daughter and praying while pumping milk for her feedings.

Eighteen days after giving birth, an emotional Korle held her baby girl for the very first time. The length of time they were skin-to-skin got longer each day, as Eliana became better able to regulate her temperature and her oxygen saturation improved. Thanks to the care Eliana received in our NICU, she was able to overcome issues with her lungs and a brain bleed, so that she could finally go home in late July 2024.

"I never once believed she would not be okay. She even got off the oxygen earlier than they expected. She is breastfeeding like a champ. Everything has fallen into place. I am so grateful to God and those

who work in the NICU. The doctors and nurses were wonderful," shares Korle, who has appointments with specialists who will monitor Eliana's brain, lungs and eyes as she grows and develops.

"Our NICU team provided great care to Eliana so she can be home with her family. She is one of over 500 babies born in Regina each year whose families rely on our NICU to provide the best care possible, right here at home," says Dino Sophocleous, president and CEO of Hospitals of Regina Foundation. "We support this exceptional team by investing in the technology and equipment they use in their efforts to give our children the best chance at going home and living better lives."



Eliana Menegbo

Regina family grateful for care close to home at Children's Cancer Clinic

Joel and Marley Michel of Regina are grateful their baby boy could get chemotherapy treatments, right here at home, at our Children's Cancer Clinic in the Regina General Hospital. Baby Elijah was diagnosed with cancer in his kidney before he was six months old. He just turned one in mid-September 2024.

While pregnant with Elijah, Marley was told an ultrasound scan showed his kidneys were enlarged. When Elijah was born, another ultrasound showed his kidneys were still enlarged, but it wasn't until he was three months old that a tumor was discovered in one of his kidneys.

Doctors hoped that early chemotherapy treatments would reduce the tumor's size, but ultimately it was decided that surgery was necessary to remove the stricken kidney. Around the same time, results from genetic testing revealed Elijah has Beckwith-Wiedemann syndrome, a

congenital growth disorder, which can also lead to an increased risk of certain childhood cancers.

For almost four months, baby Elijah underwent chemotherapy treatments. Every three weeks, Joel and Marley would bring their son to the clinic on a Wednesday for blood work, to determine whether he could receive his next round of chemotherapy the following day.

Having our Children's Cancer Clinic so close to home made the situation easier for the Michel family to bear. It meant they could wake up at home on the days of Elijah's chemo treatments in Regina, rather than travel to another centre the day before. It reduced the amount of time Joel was off work when he joined Marley and Elijah during his treatments. It also meant the world to them to have the support of their friends and family who live nearby.

Elijah was a week shy of his first birthday when he received his last chemo treatment. During that treatment, Elijah smiled while sitting in his mother's lap so nurses could give him his pre-treatment medication. While he received his chemotherapy through a port in his chest, he often babbled as he wandered with a toy in his hand, carrying it by the nurses' station and winning the hearts of every adult he encountered.

Elijah Michel

In 2022, with the generous support of our community, Hospitals of Regina Foundation invested \$1.5 million to create our new Children's Cancer Clinic at the Regina General Hospital. Last year, 22 children from southern Saskatchewan were newly diagnosed with cancer and an additional 135 children currently receive treatment and follow-up care in our Children's Cancer Clinic.

The Foundation has now committed an additional \$2.8 million to create a pharmacy clean room, a specialized space where pharmacists will develop personalized chemotherapy for each child receiving treatment in Regina.

This upgrade will help our doctors deliver treatments based on the child's bloodwork the day of treatment and the molecular profile of their cancer. Personalizing treatment in this way lessens harmful side effects and reduces damage to healthy cells.

This investment in our Children's Cancer Clinic is a part of the Foundation's on-going commitment to invest in the best pediatric care possible for the children of southern Saskatchewan.

"Being able to personalize cancer treatment through customized chemotherapy gives our kids the best results possible," says Dino Sophocleous, president and CEO of Hospitals of Regina Foundation. "We are committed to supporting the best pediatric care in the country, right here at home."



New partnership *improves health care for children from southern Saskatchewan*



Dino Sophocleous (president and CEO of Hospitals of Regina Foundation) with Tammy Forrester (CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities Saskatchewan) announcing Hospitals of Regina Foundation's \$150,000 investment in RMHC-SK's Miles To Go Campaign.

Hospitals of Regina Foundation has formed a first-of-its kind partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities Saskatchewan (RMHC-SK.)

The Foundation committed \$150,000 to RMHC-SK's *Miles To Go* capital campaign, which is raising money to build a Ronald McDonald house in Regina. The home will provide a safe, secure, and nourishing environment for families caring for their sick child receiving medical treatment in Regina's hospitals.

"This funding is especially significant to RMHC-SK as it is the first hospital foundation gift ever received by the

organization for a capital project," says Tammy Forrester, CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities Saskatchewan. "We look forward to our future relationship with Hospitals of Regina Foundation in support of Saskatchewan children and families."

The *Miles to Go* capital campaign aims to raise a total of \$26.5 million to build houses in Regina and Prince Albert with \$14 million of the capital raised going towards the expansion to Regina. The new house is projected to support more than 800 families annually. Every year, 2,000 southern Saskatchewan children require care in our inpatient pediatric unit at Regina's General Hospital and

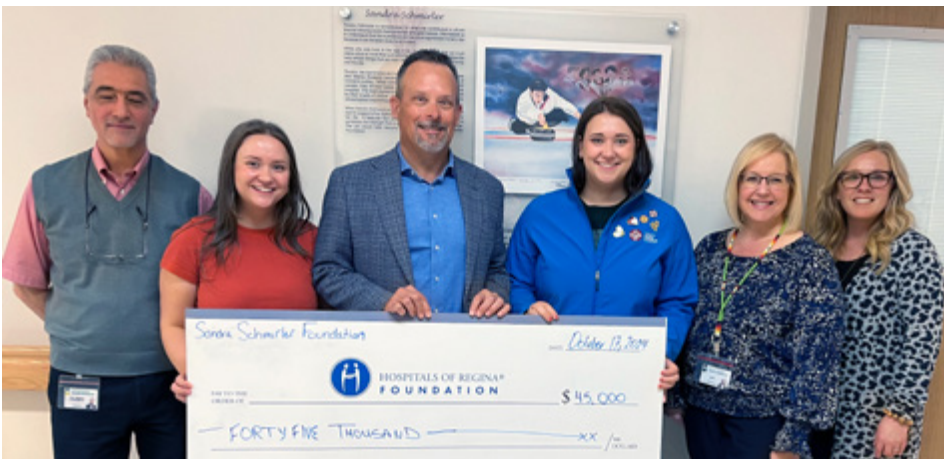
the Wascana Rehabilitation Children's Program has almost 16,000 patient visits. This home will allow out-of-town families to be close to their kids while they receive treatment in Regina.

"We know that sick children heal better and recover faster when they are near their family and support system. That is why we are happy to partner with and support Ronald McDonald House Charities Saskatchewan's effort to build a house in Regina. Southern Saskatchewan children undergoing medical treatment in our hospitals, as well as their families, will be better supported as close to home as possible," says Dino Sophocleous, president and CEO of Hospitals of Regina Foundation.

"This funding is especially significant to RMHC-SK as it is the first hospital foundation gift ever received by the organization for a capital project. We look forward to our future relationship with Hospitals of Regina Foundation in support of Saskatchewan children and families."

Tammy Forrester, CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities Saskatchewan

Sandra Schmirler Foundation supports life-saving NICU technology



The Sandra Schmirler Foundation gifted \$45,000 to Hospitals of Regina Foundation in September 2024.

Left to right: Dr. Andre Harabor (neonatologist at the NICU), Jenna England (ambassador for the Sandra Schmirler Foundation and Sandra Schmirler's daughter), Shannon England (former director of The Sandra Schmirler Foundation), Sara Miller (ambassador for the Sandra Schmirler Foundation and Sandra Schmirler's daughter), Lisa Green (senior vice-president, Hospitals of Regina Foundation) and Charlene Huber Flahr (manager, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.)

Each year, 500 babies need our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in the Rawlco Centre for Mother Baby Care, at the Regina General Hospital. Whether they are born early, have complications during or after birth, or arrive as part of a multiple birth, these fragile babies require a safe and calming environment where they are kept warm and comfortable while receiving the specialized care they need in order to grow strong enough to go home with their families.

A NICU isolette is a specialized bed system that provides babies with customized temperature, humidity and light levels. In 2024, our long-time partner, the Sandra Schmirler Foundation, made two donations, totaling \$80,000, to support the replacement of one of these isolettes.

Inside an isolette, little ones are protected

while they continue to develop their lungs, cognitive functions, eyesight and hearing. Isolettes help create an individualized environment where a baby's temperature is constantly monitored and regulated. They also reduce noise heard by the baby while allowing medical staff and parents easy access to the baby to provide care and treatment.

In 2024, the Foundation funded three new isolettes to equip our NICU with upgraded technology that is used around the clock to provide the best care possible to vulnerable babies.

"I'm incredibly proud to continue Sandra's legacy by helping fund essential equipment for babies born too soon, too small, or too sick," says Shannon England, former director of The Sandra Schmirler Foundation. "The Regina General Hospital holds a special place in our

hearts, and knowing that our support will fund a new isolette is truly meaningful."

With its highly trained medical staff and consistent support from Hospitals of Regina Foundation, it is no wonder our NICU is recognized as one of the best neonatal facilities in Canada. This would not be possible without the support of longtime partners like the Sandra Schmirler Foundation.

"We are very grateful to the Sandra Schmirler Foundation," states Lisa Green, senior vice-president, Hospitals of Regina Foundation. "They have been providing grants to our Foundation since 2005 to support premature and critically ill babies in our NICU. Support like this from our dedicated partners allows us to invest in life-saving technology so that hundreds of babies from across southern Saskatchewan who need our NICU every year receive the best care possible, right here at home."



The Sandra Schmirler Foundation gifted \$35,000 to Hospitals of Regina Foundation in March 2024.

Left to right: Darren McEwan (executive director, Sandra Schmirler Foundation), Jenna England and Sara Miller (ambassadors for the Sandra Schmirler Foundation and Sandra Schmirler's daughters), Bernadette McIntyre (past chair of the Sandra Schmirler Foundation) and Lisa Green (senior vice-president with Hospitals of Regina Foundation.)

Innovative partnership *makes ground-breaking health care training program a reality*



Left to right: Dino Sophocleous (president and CEO of Hospitals of Regina Foundation), Stephanie Munro (CEO of Lloydminster Region Health Foundation), Cody Barnett (CEO of Boreal Healthcare Foundation), Alison Dubreuil (president and CEO of Suncrest College), Health Minister Everett Hindley, Ross Fisher (executive director of Health Foundation of East Central Saskatchewan) and Lecina Hicke (CEO of St. Paul's Hospital Foundation.)

An innovative partnership between six Saskatchewan hospital foundations and Suncrest College in Yorkton has helped make possible a new post-secondary program that will train medical ultrasound technicians for the first time in Saskatchewan.

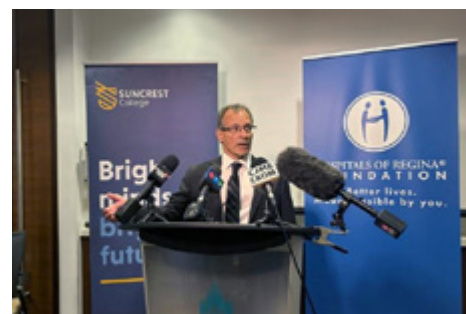
The new Diagnostic Sonography Program is a 28-month advanced diploma program, which combines blended theory with hands-on classroom learning and practical clinical experience. The Ministry of Advanced Education and the Ministry of Health announced the new program in February 2024.

Five of the six hospital foundation CEOs joined Saskatchewan's minister of health and the president of Suncrest College on Aug. 29, 2024 to announce their collective investment in the new program. The six hospital foundations which joined in

the partnership are Hospitals of Regina Foundation, the Health Foundation of East Central Saskatchewan in Yorkton, St. Paul's Hospital Foundation in Saskatoon, Lloydminster Region Health Foundation, Boreal Healthcare Foundation in Prince Albert and St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation in Esterhazy.

The new Diagnostic Sonography Program will greatly enhance the care available to patients across Saskatchewan. Ultrasound sonography is a key diagnostic tool medical teams use to diagnose and treat many conditions, including monitoring a developing baby's health during pregnancy, gallbladder disease, the evaluation of blood flow, tumour biopsies and treatments, thyroid gland conditions, genital and prostate problems, joint inflammation and metabolic bone disease.

Before this partnership was created and the program developed, those wanting to train as sonographers had to go out of province to Alberta or Manitoba to access training seats reserved for Saskatchewan students, with no return of service obligations. The Suncrest College program began accepting applications in spring 2024 for the first annual intake of six students in the fall 2024. It will admit eight new students per year, starting in 2025.



Ross Fisher (executive director of Health Foundation of East Central Saskatchewan)

Meet the 2024 fall home lottery winners

This year's fall home lottery was, once again, another outstanding success. We continue to be humbled by the ongoing support from our southern Saskatchewan community. All funds raised by our lotteries go towards the greatest areas of need in Regina's three hospitals. Over the years, the Foundation's investments in our local health care have made a substantial impact, providing state-of-the-art, life-saving technology for the people of southern Saskatchewan.

Congratulations go out to Leona Baun of Pilot Butte, Sask., the winner of our grand prize home package. She shared

the winning ticket with her sister, Sherry Langston, and her husband, Bruce Baun.

We were pleased to meet the new owner of the Echo Lake cottage prize package, Shirley Beblow of Regina, Sask. We were also happy to present Monique Dumaine of Storthoaks, Sask., our 50/50 Add-On winner, a cheque for \$514,037.50. She was joined by her husband, Garry Dumaine.

Also on hand was Doug Pomfret, who took home \$10,000 cash by winning the Membership Loyalty Prize.

This lottery featured a stunning \$1.4 million grand prize package, which included the showhome and \$25,000, and a beautiful \$775,000 cottage plus \$10,000. Both properties were built by Ripplinger Homes. The 50/50 Add-On reached an incredible \$1,028,075, with half going towards projects in our hospitals and half to the winner.

Thank you to all our winners and everyone who supported our fall home lottery. Your support helps us continue to invest in the best local health care possible, as close to home as possible, for patients in Regina and across southern Saskatchewan.



Top left:

Sherry Langston, Leona Baun and her husband, Bruce Baun, winners of the Grand Prize Package, including the Showhome and \$25,000, with Dino Sophocleous, president and CEO, Hospitals of Regina Foundation

Top right:

Shirley Beblow, winner of the \$775,000 Echo Lake Cottage and \$10,000, with Dino Sophocleous.

Bottom left:

Doug Pomfret, winner of the \$10,000 Membership Loyalty Prize, with Dino Sophocleous.

Bottom right:

Monique Dumaine, winner of \$514,037.50 cash from the 50/50 Add-On draw, and her husband, Garry, with Dino Sophocleous.



Celebrating *our community's giving spirit*



Uncover the Cure Cocktail party



Gift of Giving Gala



Clay Catley Memorial Rodeo



Ladybug Picnic Festival

The giving spirit of the individuals, organizations and businesses that support Hospitals of Regina Foundation is outstanding. Time and time again, these caring and generous partners gather together to raise funds for Regina's health care facilities in new and exciting ways! Whether a gala event, a donation at the till campaign, a golf tournament or a marathon, people step up and support health care for those who need it most. We are so grateful for our community's support because nothing we do happens without you.

Thanks to many amazing volunteer organizers and their supporters, here are some of the fundraising activities that took place between August and December 2024, in support of Hospitals of Regina Foundation:

- Ladybug Picnic Festival – \$3,000
- Mexican Scramble Golf Tournament – \$4,300
- Clay Catley Memorial Rodeo – \$790
- GMS Queen City Marathon – \$880
- Uncover the Cure Cocktail Party – \$107,892
- Gift of Giving Gala – \$16,385
- Desjardins Financial BBQ – \$405
- McDonald's in Yorkton and Melville donation at the till and donations from hot beverages sold – \$5,200
- Regina Centre Progress Club Gala of Hope – \$15,000

Winter weather may be cold but there are lots of great events to warm up your heart. It is also going to be a busy spring! Please join in the fun at these upcoming events! Follow our social media pages to keep up to date on how to get involved by purchasing tickets, or supporting our community's efforts through donations.

- The 2025 Magic Variety Show – Jan. 26, 2025
- Local Bands for Tiny Hands – March 1, 2025
- Pure Country 92.7 Snow Pitch Tournament – March 1-2, 2025
- An Evening in Greece Gala – March 8, 2025
- Z99 Radiothon – March 20, 2025
- Chinese Spring Festival Celebration – April 12, 2025

CONNECT

To learn how you can host your own fundraiser, visit our website hrf.sk.ca/Events/Host-An-Event, or contact Brianne Moore, development officer at 306-781-7501 or by email at brianne.moore@hrf.sk.ca.

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#225-1874 Scarth Street, Regina, SK S4P 4B3

Tel: 306-781-7500 Email: hrf@hrf.sk.ca

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