

Ethan's Story: A space to better serve Calgary's kids



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decision made was to race less than 5km to South Health Campus to seek support from the pediatric emergency team there. Every second that day could have been the difference between life and death.

Calgary is one of the fastest growing cities in Canada, and many young families are making their home in Calgary's sprawling south.* When South Health Campus first opened their doors for emergency care in 2013, they knew they would need to support the pediatric population in the area. However, they didn't anticipate that 20-25% of all emergency visits would be for patients under 18, and they couldn't have known the impact they would have for families like the Nielson's.

Ethan was stabilized at South Health Campus and airlifted to Alberta Children's Hospital where he would spend months recovering. Every day his mom, Melanie, made the 45 minute drive from their home in the south to the children's hospital in the city's northwest. While Ethan received incredible care from the team at Alberta Children's Hospital, it was the immediate care and intervention of the team at South Health Campus that gave the Nielson's their first glimmer of hope.

Four years ago, Ethan Nielson was walking home from piano lessons with his sister in the Calgary community of Cranston where they lived when he was hit by a truck, pinned underneath and dragged. In that single second, everything for the Nielson family changed.

Having the quick ability to access the specialized care teams led to very different outcomes for Ethan - such as less time spent in the hospital, a quicker recovery, and better outcomes following the lack of oxygen to his brain for an extended period of time.

Paramedics struggled to secure Ethan's airway. They realized they needed specialized pediatric equipment, and fast. The ride to Alberta Children's Hospital may have taken too long. Perhaps the single most important

Today Ethan has big dreams to be a police officer, firefighter or doctor so that he can help others just like him. He also loves math and his favorite thing to do is win against his family on game nights.

Life can change in an instant, like it did for the Nielson's. You can show your gratitude to the amazing health care teams that impacted you or a loved one by making a donation.

Partners in Community – Calgary Foundation

Some of the biggest challenges the city faces are best tackled together. When it came to building a new pediatric emergency space at South Health Campus, the Calgary Foundation became champions for an important mission to serve the city's growing needs and saw alignment in the values of many of their donors and fund holders.

It's not uncommon for Calgary Health Foundation and Calgary Foundation to partner on important philanthropic endeavors that will bring the community closer to important medical advancements and health initiatives that will better serve all of Calgarians, including our littlest citizens.

Aligning donor values to important initiatives that make Calgary stronger and healthier is when we see the best results. Because of this, and with the support of the Calgary Foundation, an anonymous donor stepped forward with a donation of \$3.9 million to ensure a customized pediatric emergency pod would be able to better serve the families in Calgary's south.



Responding to the city's growing needs: The Pediatric Emergency Pod

While not every visit to the emergency room is as critical as Ethan's, the value of having a pediatric emergency space that is customized to care for the young community is immense.

- Currently, 1 in 5 patients to South Health Campus' emergency room are under 18.
- The new pediatric emergency pod has nine beds and child-friendly theme rooms with murals as well as a private, internal waiting space to help make the hospital setting less intimidating for young patients.
- The new space has capacity for 14,500 patients annually to accommodate the anticipated growth of 2% per annum in the upcoming years.
- The unit is located in a state-of-the-art space comprised of 3,861 square feet with a focus on creating a child and adolescent friendly environment.
- The cost of construction totaling \$3.9 million, was fully funded by an anonymous donor to Calgary Health Foundation through the Calgary Foundation.

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*According to 2019 CED data, Calgary's growth rates are only second to Edmonton