



foundation
of stars
the magic of research

ANNUAL REPORT

2016 - 2017





**FOCUSING ON RESEARCH
IS FOCUSING ON OUR
CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND FUTURE.**



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AN ESSENTIAL ROLE

The Foundation of Stars is recognized as one of the most important non-governmental sources of funding for childhood disease research.

The Foundation of Stars celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, and since its beginning has awarded almost \$70 million to fund for major pediatric research projects.

Since we see the medical advances made by the researchers, we believe that one day every infantile disease will have its treatment, or even be eradicated; therefore we continue to put every dollar raised to contribute to the advancement of research.

“TO DATE, THE FOUNDATION HAS PROVIDED NEARLY \$70 MILLION DOLLARS WHICH HAS ENABLED FINANCING OF MAJOR PEDIATRIC RESEARCH PROJECTS”



OUR MISSION

The Foundation of Stars supports only pediatric research in order to help our children grow healthier.



OUR VISION

The Foundation of Stars drives progress in research into children's diseases in Canada to increase children's chances of cures and improved health.



OUR VALUES

INTEGRITY
We act with openness and honesty.



ENGAGEMENT
We work passionately for children, researchers and the society.



LEADERSHIP
We give hope through health and education.



Did you know that?



JUST A FEW OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS IN PEDIATRIC RESEARCH SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE FOUNDATION

- ★ Over the past two decades, the life expectancy of children with cystic fibrosis has exceeded **THE AGE OF 50**.
- ★ To date, with current treatment protocols for acute lymphoblastic leukemia, the **SURVIVAL RATE OBSERVED** after 5 years in children aged 0-14 **YEARS IS 89%**.
- ★ With the establishment of risk factors in 1994, the number of deaths from sudden infant deaths is now **LESS THAN 1 PER 2000 BIRTHS**.
- ★ The most recent Canadian data shows that the **SURVIVAL RATE OF CHILDREN** 0-19 years of age diagnosed with cancer **IS NOW 82%**, compared with 71% in the mid-1980s.
- ★ In June 2016, a surgeon at the Montreal Children's Hospital **SAVED THE LIFE OF NEWBORN WITH A CHARGING ILLNESS**, a complex syndrome that prevents the infant from swallowing normally with injections of Botox (botulinum toxin). It was the first time that such a young baby with Charge syndrome was treated in that manner.
- ★ Thanks to perinatal research, the **SURVIVAL RATE OF PREMATURE BABIES** (children born between 24-25 weeks of gestation) **IS 75%** in Canada.

PROGRESS MADE WITH YOUR SUPPORT

- ★ In April 2016, a team of researchers at the Montreal Children's Hospital demonstrated that certain abnormalities in vitamin B9, also known as folic acid, are strongly implicated in the **DEVELOPMENT OF CONGENITAL HEART MALFORMATIONS**.
- ★ A study conducted by researchers at the Montreal Children's Hospital showed that high-dosage of ibuprofen could curb the development of cystic fibrosis, thus **INCREASING LIFE EXPECTANCY AND QUALITY OF LIFE** of sick children.
- ★ A research project on the development and validation of a method based on mass spectrometry for the analysis of urinary podocyturia in women with preeclampsia and gestational diabetes is currently underway at the CHUS Research Center, under the supervision of Dr. Christiane Auray-Blais. This project will **PROVIDE A PRECISE DOSAGE FOR THE ANALYSIS OF URINARY PODOCYTURIA** to better monitor and follow the patients affected and ultimately avoid serious complications in the latter and with their newborn.



Message from the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the President and Chief Executive Officer

Forty is the number that will be remembered this year!

For forty wonderful years the Foundation of Stars has grown and made every effort to bring some magic into the hearts of sick children and their families.

Throughout these years we have worked together to advance pediatric disease research and have led the Foundation of Stars to be one of the driving forces in the progress for collective health in Québec. By focusing on excellence and innovation, the Foundation of Stars has become a leader in improving the health of children struggling with conditions that are sometimes incurable. We have continued our efforts to move closer to our ultimate goal of providing children and their families with a future free of illness and suffering. This year has been particularly significant, as you will discover by reading this 2016-2017 annual report which we are pleased to present to you.

We are continuing the investment that began in 2015 with students and young researchers by funding their promising projects. In collaboration with the "Fonds de Recherche Québec-Santé (FRQS)," we are giving important training bursaries to those who represent this vital succession in the fight against childhood diseases.



JACQUES DUBUC

In total, over \$2,100,000 was donated in the last 4 years!

“BY FOCUSING ON
EXCELLENCE AND
INNOVATION, THE
FOUNDATION OF STARS
HAS BECOME A LEADER IN
IMPROVING CHILDREN'S
HEALTH.”

But 2016-2017 also marked the beginning of new projects of great magnitude. The Foundation of Stars is committed to supporting major programs in collaboration with the research centers of four major hospital institutions in Quebec. Perinatal health problems will be studied by the Department of Pediatrics at the CHU of Sherbrooke; Rare diseases by the CHU of Québec; Neurodevelopment and mental health in children and adolescents by the CHU Ste-Justine and inflammation and infection by the Montreal Children's Hospital (MUHC). In order to engage in these important projects, we are increasing fundraising in diverse activities to offset the reduction in government grants to researchers.

The Foundation of Stars would not be able to fulfill its mission without the indispensable support of all those around us including all the administrators and governors.

We wish to welcome two new members: Cimon Plante and Jean-Michel Filiatrault who will surely bring new perspectives to the Foundation. We would also like to thank Philippe Vaillant, who left us this year after fulfilling a two year commitment on the Board of Directors.

We wish to offer a very big thank you to our institutional and corporate partners, our donors and the Foundation of Stars team. Thanks to their collaboration and their investment, they enable us to carry out our various activities.

A special thank you is for our wonderful volunteers who spend a lot of their precious time supporting us throughout our projects; their contribution is necessary to the success of all we do.

We mustn't forget to offer our many thanks to our passionate and committed researchers who have benefited from our financial support and who make a great deal of progress in the field of pediatric health.

We are all part of the same team, each working in our own way to offer solutions to sick children. They are our stars and touch us by their stories and determination in their daily struggles. For them, it is essential to continue to support research in order to make further progress.

This year the Foundation of Stars is pleased to have Maripier Morin representing us along with our very brave stars. We welcome our radiant spokesperson who honors us by joining the Foundation of Stars.



JOSÉE SAINT-PIERRE

The Foundation of Stars is 40 years old! Let us celebrate by offering these children hope for another 40 years.

A word from our spokesperson

I am pleased to join the Foundation of Stars this year as a spokesperson! I care about children's health and I believe that it is through pediatric research that we will succeed in eradicating one day all the infantile diseases.

I am particularly proud to be a part of this foundation, which is one of the most successful engines to improve children's health in Quebec. Choosing the Foundation of stars was a natural fit for me as it combines two major issues that are dear to me: research for health and children's happiness.



For some time I had been trying to get involved in a cause, but it had to be the right one! The Foundation of Stars has an essential mission within our society and I fully share its values.

By supporting financially the four major pediatric research centers in Quebec, as well as the next generation, and by establishing various partnerships, the Foundation of Stars is getting closer every day to our common goal: to offer children a future without disease and without suffering! All this could not be possible without your support and commitment. Today I devote myself to be by your side and my mission will be to highlight all these research projects and this cause so dear to all of our hearts.

I'll let you turn the pages of this report and discover the touching stories of our shining stars as these children offer us beautiful stories of courage. They show us how fortunate we are to be healthy and how many are struggling to get there.

Maripier Morin, spokesperson

Star Jade

Hello, my name is Jade and I'm 12 years old.

I WAS BORN WITH TWO CARDIAC MALFORMATIONS: stenosis and an insufficient aortic. In February 2016, I also received a diagnosis of supraventricular tachycardia which requires me to limit my activities.

So I can no longer do competitive sports. I had to stop figure skating because I reached too high of a level. I also wanted to dance in an elite troupe, but that too, was forbidden. I will never be able to race, partake in Olympics, play soccer or basketball. But the doctor has allowed me to do non-competitive dance and horseback riding.



JADE

Fortunately, because I love animals, especially horses! Later, I would like to have a stable and become a primary teacher.

TO DATE I HAVE HAD FOUR TACHYCARDIA DISTRESSES.

When I am in distress, my heart can reach up to 244 beats per minute. If it lasts more than 20 minutes, I have to go to the hospital to get medication that lowers the fast pace rhythm of my heart. Some of these drugs make me feel like I'm dying... as if my heart was going to stop!

I must also tell you that I find it difficult never knowing when this can happen to me. For example in early summer, at my primary school graduation, I had to leave for the hospital before it ended. I was angry and sad because I had worked hard as a volunteer all year for this long-awaited moment.

Since this last episode, I am trying a third medication in order to finally succeed at controlling the rhythm of my heart. You know, I'd really like it to be the right one, because if it does not work, I will need to have a four-hour surgery.

I must admit that I find it very hard to live with all of this. I often wonder why this happened to me... By making a donation you can help researchers find ways to help children like me live despite the disease and to believe in their dreams. Thank you for being with us!

This year, I organized a Read-o-thon with my teacher and raised nearly \$3,000 for the Foundation of Stars (Personally I raised \$650!)

Here I am in a white dress, at my primary school graduation.

Ready for dance! But I always have to be aware of my heart's limits.

My passion for riding.

I have been riding since I was 4 years old! My horse is called Clepton. Now he's running for me.

★ Star Marilie



MARILIE



In the summer of 2015, Marilie's world, of 8 years, collapsed when it was discovered that she had atypical Guillain-Barré syndrome, a rare disease of the nervous system. The disease was so destructive that paralysis affected almost all of her organs: her liver, her kidneys, her digestive system, her diaphragm, her eyes were also affected and she was in need of an artificial respirator. Only her heart and brain were spared. This little one also suffered from a generalized burning sensation, induced by the affected nerves.

Immunoglobulin injections had no effect, and medical teams were worried about Marilie's future. But as soon as the first plasma transfusion was over, there were obvious signs of improvement. When administered early in the course of the disease, these transfusions shorten the rehabilitation period and reduce the risk of after-effects.

Within two weeks, after four transfusions, Marilie had regained her health! This astonishing healing is primarily due to the results of rapid diagnosis and due to her physical and mental strength, that is truly unique to her.

Today, Marilie has resumed the normal course of her life. She went back to judo and, apart from a slight problem of swallowing and fatigue that is felt faster than before, she enjoys the present moment without fear of a relapse. We are extremely grateful to all those who contribute, like you, to the funding of research, particularly for autoimmune diseases. That's what saved my daughter's life. Thank you for your donations!

Nancy, mother of Marilie



Stars Sophia-Rose et Jayden ★

After our daughter, Sophia-Rose, was born prematurely, we thought we would never have to go through such anxiety again. We were mistaken. Our son also arrived prematurely, at 30 weeks, weighing 1.4 kilograms.

But while our daughter grew up healthy, Jayden wasn't so lucky. During the very first hours of his life, he had severe brain hemorrhaging. He was kept under observation, but since his state of health did not deteriorate, risky surgery was avoided. We had no idea how our son would develop and if he would be gravely affected. Over the months, we were relieved to see that his cognitive capacities were intact. However, his arm movements were jerky, he was unable to sit up and his legs could not bear his weight. At that time, we also realized how strong our little guy was, and how determined he was to stand on his own two feet!



SOPHIA-ROSE ET JAYDEN

Since the age of nine months and today still, Jayden has undergone two to five physiotherapy and occupational therapy treatments every week. The use of his arms has returned, and by the age of two, he was able to move forward a little on all fours. To make his growing legs a little more flexible, during his entire growth period he will alternately receive Botox injections and medical treatments that consist of making tiny incisions in his calf muscles. Every time, these operations leave Jayden in plaster casts for six weeks, and afterwards he has to learn to walk all over again. But our little man has a will of iron. Jayden is only five years old but has so far learned to walk four times! As parents, we place great hope in research. Already, it has shown us that it is possible to improve the condition of children like Jayden who live with lasting effects of premature birth.

Eric, father of Sophia-Rose and Jayden



Star Samuel

Childhood is short and precious. When a child has to sacrifice a part of him to fight against disease, we all feel the horrible injustice of the situation. In May 2011, when he was only 5 years old, doctors discovered that Samuel was suffering from a brain tumor. Seven months later, he tragically lost sight in his right eye. Since then, physicians have operated on his brain six times, carried out four chemotherapy regimens including an experimental one, without actually countering the tumor growth. In January 2016, Samuel began a fifth chemotherapy protocol. But again, it was not successful because ten months later we were forced to stop this experimental chemo, and Samuel had to face two other brain surgeries, with only five days apart between the two. The first surgery allowed the unblocking of the drain which had become blocked by the tumor and the second operation consisted of removing 80% of the mass.



SAMUEL

This last surgery lasted 14 hours and involved a lot of risks: loss of vision, decreased mobility, the appearance of insipid diabetes to name just a few. After this endless surgery, our greatest relief, as parents, was to know that Samuel could still see, talk, move and recognize his family. He has had little after-effects and we will be eternally grateful to the neurosurgery team, especially Dr. Jean-Pierre Farmer.

Since Samuel's disease is very difficult to treat, we know that the road to recovery is still long, but our main hopes are based on research. Doctors and researchers still have a lot of work to do to understand how brain tumors form and to find the best treatment for each child in their care. This is why it is vital that people continue to support the Foundation of Stars.

For Samuel and all children who must endure pain, injections, surgeries and isolation without losing hope for healing, time is short. And the only way to offer them the gift of time is to support research. That is why we appeal to your kind heart to help us keep our promise to sick children.

Joël & Stéphanie, Samuel's parents



SAMUEL, PLEASE KEEP YOUR JOY IN LIFE. YOU ARE A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR US.
WE ARE PROUD TO BE THE PARENTS OF A BOY AS BRAVE AS YOU.
YOU CONTINUE TO AMAZE US WITH YOUR GREAT STRENGTH FIGHTING THIS DISEASE
AND ALSO WITH YOUR TALENTS AS A SINGER AND MUSICIAN!



JOËL & STÉPHANIE, SAMUEL'S PARENTS



Fundraising campaigns

Throughout the year, you have discovered the touching stories of our star children, especially through our fundraising campaigns.

We are committed to sharing with you the daily struggles of these courageous and determined children who embrace hope of a healthy future.

THERE IS NO SMALL GESTURE, IT IS THE COLLECTIVE EFFORT WHICH MAKES THE DIFFERENCE!

Whether we communicate with you by letter, e-mail or telephone, you always respond with great enthusiasm and generosity.

Thank you for contributing to our common dream: eradicating childhood diseases.

SOME INFORMATION ABOUT OUR ANNUAL CAMPAIGNS

- ★ More than 3,000 donors contribute \$32,000 every month (\$398,000 per year)
- ★ Nearly \$500,000 in donations after the campaigns in 2016-2017
- ★ 5 fundraising campaigns were organized during the year 2016-2017:
 - A newsletter in the spring of 2016 to keep you informed about the Foundation's research and activities
 - A telephone campaign in which we shared the story of Jade in the summer of 2016
 - The very popular discovery of the agenda in the autumn of 2016
 - The emotional Christmas story: Sophia-Rose and Jayden
 - A unique fundraising campaign combined with Somodif Inc. that doubled the amount of your donations in early 2017



33RD GREAT EVENING OF STARS



SUGAR SHACK DINNER FOR THE FOUNDATION TEAM



INTERACTIVE GREETING CARD BY SOPHIA-ROSE, 8 YEARS



OFFICIAL WELCOMING OF THE NEW SPOKESPERSON: MARIPIER MORIN



33RD EDITION OF THE SPAGHETTI LUNCHEON



THE MUSICAL ANIMATION OF OUR EVENTS



PHOTO OF THE TEAM AT THE PARTY FOR VOLUNTEERS



TEAM THE INVINCIBLES AT THE 'MOI POUR TOI CHALLENGE 2016'



OUR VERY FAITHFUL VOLUNTEERS



2016 SCOTIABANK SPORT CHALLENGE



FACEBOOK CONTEST

Social Network



417
subscribers



15 new
videos



Community of
794 followers



158 subscribers
+19 % over the
year



+23,7 % " Like " on our page,
a community of
1665 people

Corporate events

33RD GREAT EVENING OF STARS

It was under the fairy theme of Beauty and the Beast that the 33rd Great Evening of Stars was held on March 16 at New City Gas. For the occasion, three people wholeheartedly accepted the co-presidency; Mrs. Carole Chapdelaine, Senior Vice-President, Quebec and Eastern Ontario, Scotiabank; Mr. Jean Gattuso, President and Chief Operating Officer, Lassonde Industries Inc., and Mr. Sylvain Prud'homme, President and Chief Executive Officer, Lowe's Canada | RONA inc.

Animated by the radiant Maripier Morin and the great tenor Marc Hervieux, this evening filled of magic allowed the Foundation **to raise nearly \$490,000.**

The guests were able to experience a true Disney tale thanks to the magnificent Broadway medley presented by the Dance troupe Danse 1 2 3 and the interpretations of Véronique Claveau and Marc Hervieux. The guests were touched by the story of our shining star Samuel, suffering with a brain tumor, preceded by a vibrant testimony from Dr. Jean-Pierre Farmer, Director of the Department of Pediatric Surgery and Full Professor of Neurosurgery, Pediatric Surgery, Oncology and Surgery. Samuel is passionate about singing and he had the opportunity to perform for the 300 guests a song specially written for him!

The Foundation of Stars warmly thanks all partners and suppliers of the evening for their contributions: Scotiabank, Lassonde, Lowe's, BMO, PWC, UBS, Air Canada Foundation, Norton Rose Fulbright, National Bank, GardaWorld, iA Financial Group, La Petite Robe Noire, AON, Stikeman Elliott, National, Deloitte, CIBC, la maison ISHI, SAQ, Le Groupe Maurice, Cascades.

Thank you to all those near and far who participated in this event. Without you, this magical evening could not have seen the light of day!



Photo: From left to right: Marc Hervieux, co-host, Véronique Claveau, singer, Dr. Jean-Pierre Farmer, Alain B. Auclair, UBS Securities Canada Inc., Jacques Dubuc, Trudeau Corporation, Sylvain Prud'homme, Lowe's Canada | RONA inc., Jean Gattuso, Industries Lassonde Inc., Samuel Leblanc, Carole Chapdelaine, Scotiabank, Maripier Morin, co-host and spokesperson for the Foundation of Stars.

11TH ENCAN DES VINS DE MONTRÉAL

On May 2, 2016, the Encan des Vins de Montréal held its 11th edition at the Place d'Armes Hotel & Suites. The event was once again a crowning success, totaling \$253,470 dollars raised for pediatric research.

For the occasion, the wines of Château Angélus, synonymous with excellence since 1782, were served during the meal to the delight of the guests.

Among the distinguished guests of the evening were Jean Rémy Rapeneau, the family owner of the champagnes G.H. Martel et Co., Mrs. Véronique Rivest, renowned sommelier and host of the event, Dr. Nada Jabado, Hemato-oncologist Pediatrician, our young artist Samuel, suffering from a brain tumor, who has beautifully interpreted a song during the evening, without forgetting M. Jack Grimaudo, Deputy Director of Catering at the Ritz Carlton - Maison Boulud, and Laurent Berniard, auctioneer at IEGOR - Hôtel des Encans, who again energetically animated the auction.

2016-2017
\$253,470
Since the beginning
\$1,584,932



From left to right: Jack Grimaudo, Ritz Carlton – Maison Boulud, Laurent Berniard, IEGOR - Hôtel des Encans, François Pintal, National Bank Financial, Marc Bérubé, Coaching Financier Trek, Mariève B. Tremblay, Canada Steamship Lines, Alain Giasson, Alfa Capital inc., Josée Saint-Pierre, Foundation of Stars, Dr. Nada Jabado, Hematologist-oncologist, Alain Auclair, UBS, Véronique Rivest, sommelier, Anne Saint-Pierre, EY, Daniel Desjardins, Bombardier, Jacques Dubuc, Trudeau Corporation, Stephen Kelly, Norton Rose Fulbright, Pierre Alary, company director.

11TH ENCAN DU CLUB DES VINGT

The 11th Encan du Club des VINGT took place on October 26, 2016 at the Crystal Hall, under the honorary presidency of Patrick Hainault, Vice President of TD Commercial Banking. This flamboyant evening raised \$146,775 for pediatric research. Hosted by Marianna Simeone, journalist, animator and renowned columnist on television and radio, the evening was abundant with emotions along with multiple chances for sharing, in a friendly atmosphere.



From left to right: Jack Grimaudo, Ritz Carlton – Maison Boulud, Laurent Berniard, IEGOR - Hôtel des Encans, François Pintal, National Bank Financial, Marc Bérubé, Coaching Financier Trek, Mariève B. Tremblay, Canada Steamship Lines, Alain Giasson, Alfa Capital inc., Josée Saint-Pierre, Fondation Foundation of Stars, Dr. Nada Jabado, Hematologist-oncologist, Alain Auclair, UBS, Véronique Rivest, sommelier, Anne Saint-Pierre, EY, Daniel Desjardins, Bombardier, Jacques Dubuc, Trudeau Corporation, Stephen Kelly, Norton Rose Fulbright, Pierre Alary, company director.

The 200 guests had the opportunity to enjoy a gourmet meal accompanied by wines from the estate of Castello di Volpaia, represented by Mrs. Federica Mascheroni Stianti. A masterpiece auction was orchestrated by Laurent Berniard, auctioneer at IEGOR - Hôtel des Encans. This event was truly successful thanks to our ever more generous guests. The young Samuel, who could not be present at this event due to treatments, nevertheless shared his touching story with us by video.

2016-2017
\$146,775
Since the beginning
\$1,357,015

4TH ENCAN DES VINS DE SHERBROOKE

At the 4th edition of Encan des vins de Sherbrooke, researchers, doctors and a group of automobile dealers from the Estrie region joined forces again to support research into childhood diseases.

Hosted by renowned journalist Jean Arel, the evening was chalked full of liveliness, surprises and emotions and raised \$120,000 for the pediatric department of the CHUS mother-child axis. A distinguished guest joined the collective enthusiasm: Jean-Luc Mongrain, a journalist and Quebec television host, highly involved with the CHU of Sherbrooke.

The «food and wine» pairing of the gastronomic meal concocted by Café Massawippi delighted the taste buds of the 220 guests. Accompanied by Dr. Arnaud Gagneur, Patricia Tremblay, mother of two premature babies, Océane and Louis, born at less than 24 weeks, was able to convey the emotions she felt during this difficult period and all what was endured during this event. Afterwards, the auction was orchestrated by none other than Laurent Berniard, auctioneer at IEGOR - Hôtel des Encans, which allowed the most generous to leave with beautiful presents, as Ronald Thibault said so eloquently!



From left to right: Dr. Christiane Auray-Blais, CHUS, Ronald Thibault, Thibault GM, Louis Martineau, N.V. Cloutier Sherbrooke, Janick Dallaire, Volkswagen de l'Estrie, Josée Saint-Pierre, Fondation of Stars, Yves Le Bolloch, BMW Sherbrooke, Dr. Jean-Paul Praud, CHUS, Dr. Jean Charles Pasquier, CHUS, Jennifer St-Laurent, CHUS, Nicole Poisson, Club Lions, Danielle Rousseau, Sherbrooke Toyota, Renaud Fortier, Hyundai Sherbrooke.

A competition was organized with a peer review committee to define the redistribution of funds raised. For example, seven researchers will receive funding for their research project.

List of funded themes and researchers:

- Improving Care for Children with Genetic Diseases - Dr. Chantal Bouffar
- Prematurity and Pregnancy at Risk - Drs. Jean-Charles Pasquier and Dr. Anne-Marie Côté
- Child Neurodevelopment - Drs. François Corbin, Jean-François Lepage and Dr. Chantal Camden
- Heart Disease Screening in Children - Dr. Frédéric Dallaire
- Immunization and prevention of serious childhood illnesses - Dr. Arnaud Gagneur

A PARTICULAR THANK YOU TO A LONG TIME PARTNER: THE ANTONOPOULOS GROUP

Owner of several establishments in the authentic neighborhood of Old Montreal, the hotel complex has received many accolades for its collaboration in developing tourism in the region.

The Antonopoulos Group has provided considerable support to the Fondation of Stars for many years, among other things, a place to host the Encan des Vins de Montréal, which has been underway since its commencement 11 years ago!



LE PLACE D'ARMES
HÔTEL & SUITES

FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS, THANK YOU!

The events we organize would not be the same without the commitment of the following people:

LAURENT BERNIARD, auctioneer, IEGOR - Hôtel des Encans;

JACK GRIMAUDDO, passionate sommelier;

The many **VOLUNTEERS** that guide and assist each of our events, both corporate and sporting, as well as public fundraising.

Events and public challenges

CHANTAL LACROIX'S MOI POUR TOI CHALLENGE

For this 2nd edition of the «Défi SOS Santé – Moi pour Toi», 20 teams of 8 riders took turns to cover the 270 km connecting Montréal to Québec!

Organized by Chantal Lacroix, this event brought together nearly 150 people from all over Québec. Participants wishing to renew the experience of the past year and new riders have joined for this charity challenge which has created many more followers! Extremely motivated teams have gone beyond to support the Foundation of Stars. For 2 days and 2 nights, they combined team spirit and sport values to maintain their efforts. Giving back to the sick children the hope of growing up healthy, the participants showed how creative they truly were by raising \$92,719.

2016-2017
\$142,719
Since the beginning
\$222,900
★



Participants of the Challenge SOS Santé-Moi pour Toi.

A big thank you to our major partner RBC from whom we were able to add \$50,000 to the total amount raised.

A great collaboration for the benefit of research for childhood diseases!



2016-2017
\$30,000
Since the beginning
\$330,000
★



RECYCLING OF TEXTILE CANADA SOMODIF INC.

The Somodif's clothing recycling program that was set into motion in the early 2000s throughout the greater Montréal area now extends to the Toronto area. Thus, more people can contribute to the advancement of research by donating their old clothes!

COLLEGE LAVAL - 4TH EDITION OF «L'ULTIME ENTRAÎNEMENT POLICIER» OF THE RCMP

On Thursday, December 1st, 2016, Collège Laval's Secondary IV students met the ultimate challenge of training like Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers and raising funds to support the Foundation of Stars. They had Antoine Pruneau, Ottawa Red and Black player and Gray Cup winner, and Roseline Filion, a bronze medalist at the Summer Olympics in 2016. The result was remarkable, the sporting challenge was a huge success and they amassed \$18,000 for the benefit of pediatric research in Quebec.

2016-2017
\$18,000
Since the beginning
\$49,766
★



Jean Vermette, student of Collège Laval, Jonathan Chaimberg, Centre Adrénaline Performance, Pierre Charette, Collège Laval, Marilie Nichols, Frédérique Dufresne, student of Collège Laval, Antoine Pruneau, Rouge et Noir d'Ottawa, Josée Saint-Pierre, Foundation of Stars, Luc Poirier, RCMP and Roseline Filion, bronze medalist, 2016 Summer Olympics.



Ghislain Leblanc

THE TOUR OF GHISLAIN LEBLANC

For the past 29 years, the Foundation of Stars has been pleased to count on the unfailing support of Mr. Leblanc, who year after year raises funds for pediatric research. Indeed, he offers various articles to residents of Gaspésie for a cause that is dear to him.

Thanks to him, more than \$1,200,000 dollars has been contributed to improving the daily lives of sick children. A big thank-you!



33RD EDITION OF THE SPAGHETTI LUNCHEON

The 33rd edition of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Spaghetti Luncheon was a success. October 11, 2016 at the Hôtel Omni Mont-Royal: \$16,924 dollars had been raised for the benefit of pediatric research! Thank you to the RCMP and to all the volunteers and sponsors who participated in this event.



Karine Gagné, RCMP, François Deschênes, RCMP, Josée Saint-Pierre, Foundation of Stars.



PLACEMATS FOR RESEARCH

Since 2005, Mr. André Bernier has traveled across Québec to raise awareness among SMEs and regional elected representatives of the cause for research for childhood diseases. In doing so, he offers them the opportunity to buy advertising space on a placemat that will later be used by local restaurateurs.



LONGUE POINTE CHRYSLER

Once again this year, Longue Pointe Chrysler donated \$1 for every oil change performed in their service department to the Foundation along with \$5 for every car sold.



Management and staff of Longue Pointe Chrysler, as well as Sylviane Chatel, Foundation of Stars.

ST-VIAEUR BAGEL

A special thanks to St-Viateur Bagel, for their generous help for the past 35 years.

This year, we would like to acknowledge the great generosity of Robert Morena and the dedication of Fabrizio Colombo Fiore who personally raised \$1,000 dollars. Thanks to the extraordinary people of St-Viateur Bagel, an extra \$4,007 will be devoted to pediatric research.



From left to right: Robert Morena, St-Viateur Bagel, Josée Saint-Pierre and Sylviane Chatel, Foundation of Stars, Fabrizio Colombo Fiore, St-Viateur Bagel



SCOTIABANK SPORT CHALLENGE

Organized by Scotiabank, this sport challenge offered participants the opportunity to challenge themselves physically for a cause that is dear to them.

Thanks to the involvement of the coaches from the gym InspireA+, Arianne and Alexandre, runners for the Foundation of Stars were able to benefit from a professional sports training program.

Testing their physical condition, training every Saturday, courses and advice were certainly welcomed in order to prepare our participants to run the 5 km, 5 km with stroller or the 21 km. Why not pamper and encourage these runners to take up the challenge for the benefit of pediatric research!

2016-2017
\$2,500
Since the beginning
\$10,609



The team of runners for the Foundation of Stars

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Once again this year, the Trudeau Corporation has honored us by being our star partner by offering gifts to the guests of our events, contributing generously to the success of our activities.

BALLONS GRANGER BALLOONS INC.

For several years now, Granger Balloons has been a proud partner of the Foundation of Stars by offering us balloons for our various events. We thank them very much for their generosity.

OTHER PUBLIC EVENTS

Sale of promotional items Congrès Lions Québec (April 30, 2016)
Soirée Country Western Lachine (May 22, 2016) - Ghislain Leblanc
Armenian Bicycle Association (September 24, 2016) - Mirna Foudouljian
Oktoberfest / Marché de l'Ouest (October 15 & 16, 2016) - Steve Sidéris
Tournoi de fléchettes Légion 120 Mascouche (October 22, 2016) - Marcel Rolland
Salon de la bière, Club Lions Lévis (October 22, 2016) - Colombe Roger Côté
Sale of promotional items, CHUL Québec (November 9 & December 7, 2016) - Colombe Roger Côté
Sale of promotional items, Hôpital St-Sacrement Québec (November 16 & 17, 2016) - Colombe Roger Côté
Sale of promotional items, Hôpital Hôtel-Dieu Québec (November 24, 2016) - Colombe Roger Côté
Sale of promotional items, Hôpital St-François d'Assise (December 1, 2016)
Community Day, École John Caboto, Montréal (December 3, 2016)
Mont-Arthabaska Winter Race Victoriaville (January 14, 2017) - Jolianne Blanchette
Quille-o-thon, St-Jean-sur-Richelieu (march 4, 2017) - Richard Bricault

Bursary recipients



Since the 2014-2015 fiscal year, The Foundation of Stars is proud to be associated with the "Fonds de recherche Québec-Santé (FRQS)" in order to contribute to the development of pediatric research, primarily in the field of diagnosis of childhood diseases.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE FOUNDATION OF STARS AND THE FRQS

From 2014 to 2016:

- ★ 6 bursaries co-financed of master's students
- ★ 12 co-financed PhD scholarships
- \$859,196 collectively invested**

In 2016-2017:

- ★ 3 co-financed master-student scholarships
- ★ 6 co-financed doctoral student scholarships
- \$442,640 collectively invested**

Since 2014:

- ★ A total of 27 co-financed student and youth scholarships
- ★ A collective investment in child health research that will total by 2020:
\$1,360,949 over a 6-year period

CYBELLE ABATTE

CR CHU Ste-Justine
Formation:
Ph.D. Student
Field: Cancer

Development of an intervention to enhance quality of life in young survivors of acute lymphoblastic leukemia

Cancer treatments are associated with the development of problematic sequela for survivors of acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Survivors report secondary effects such as concentration difficulties, chronic fatigue, anxiety and depression. These effects can be harmful to their overall quality of life and their long-term development. Our project aims to create a short-term noninvasive intervention adapted to the specific needs of these young survivors. The intervention is inspired from neurofeedback training techniques and resembles a form of mental exercise. An electrode placed on the head registers the brain's neuronal activity. When the activity is undesirable, a visual/auditory feedback is issued with the goal of enhancing attention and emotional regulation. This intervention will be an important addition amongst the few psychosocial treatment options offered to prevent and treat sequela in young survivors of pediatric cancer.

HEATHER DUNCAN

McGill University
Health Centre (MUHC)
Research Institute

Formation: Ph.D.
Student
Field: Cancer

G protein-coupled receptor 56 (GPR56) as a potential regulator of leukemic stem cells

The various cells that make up our blood originate in bone marrow stem cells. Cancer cells of patients with acute myeloid leukemia (AML), a type of blood cancer, share a number of characteristics with healthy blood cells, as well as also being organized hierarchically. This being said, the stem cells that result in AML are resistant to treatments such as chemotherapy, in addition to being responsible for relapses of the disease in patients who have undergone therapy. Eliminating these cells is thus necessary for patients to achieve a long-term cure. A specific gene, called GPR56, produces a protein that supports communication between cells and is involved in the onset of certain diseases, including various cancers.

Nearly 40% of all available medication targets proteins in this family. The results of our research regarding AML indicate that the GPR56 gene is increasingly present (high expression) in patients, both young and old, with a poor clinical course and an unsatisfactory response to chemotherapy. I proceeded to genetically alter human cancer cells so that this gene would have a higher or lower expression, with the aim of assessing the impact of the level of GPR56 expression on the ability of cancer cells to spread, migrate and create different subtypes of AML cancer cells. Using a similar approach, I will also be studying the impact of this gene on healthy blood stem cells, and drawing comparisons in order to determine its influence on cancer occurrence and response to treatment. These experiments will be conducted in vitro and using mice. We hope our research will enable us to better understand AML and as a result, improve available treatments and patient survival rates.

Regulation of the CXCL11 and CXCL10 chemokine gradients by means of the CXCR3 receptor

Chemokine receptors are cell-membrane proteins that induce immune cell migration towards increasing chemokine gradients. This project seeks to better understand the mechanisms that allow cells to regulate chemokine gradients, a step that is critical to an adequate immune response. We have discovered that T cells can, thanks to the CXCR3 receptor, eliminate the CXCL11 and CXCL10 chemokines. This discovery supposes that immune cells can influence their own migration by modulating chemokine gradients. This work is helping us to better understand the fundamental mechanisms that control our immune system.

MÉLANIE GIRARD

CR CHU Ste-Justine

Formation: Master's
Student

Field: Infectious and
autoimmune diseases

**KIMBERLY ANN
MILTON MCSWEEN**

CHU Ste-Justine
Formation:
Master's Students

Field: Infectious and
autoimmune diseases

Implication of the antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) in pregnant women infected by the hepatitis C virus

More than 170 million people worldwide are infected with the hepatitis C virus (HCV) and are at risk of developing cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. In developed countries, the major cause of infection in children is mother-to-child transmission (MTCT), which occurs during pregnancy or at delivery. Within some individuals infected by HCV, a small portion of them mount an immune response against HCV which enables the spontaneous clearance of this virus. The aim of this study is to characterize how ADCC (antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity), a specific branch of the anti-HCV immune response, is implicated in the control of HCV infection in pregnant women. In ADCC, antibodies recognize HCV infected cells and recruit white blood cells named Natural Killer (NK) cells whose role is to destroy these infected cells. The presence of specific antibodies against HCV able to initiate an ADCC response in women infected by HCV will be quantified with state-of-the-art flow cytometry technologies.



JEREMY MOREAU

MUHC-Montreal
Neurological Hospital

Formation : Ph.D. Student
Field: Neuroscience,
mental health and drug
addiction

Preoperative assessment in pediatric epilepsy cases: locating the seizure zone through a magnetoencephalography of spontaneous brain activity

Epilepsy affects over 10 million children worldwide. Despite the availability of several pharmacological treatments, about one child in three will not have his or her seizures controlled by antiepileptic drugs. Nonetheless, surgical treatment of the brain regions from which seizures originate can help these patients. Several medical imaging techniques are used to localise affected brain regions. Amongst these, magnetoencephalography (MEG) shows particular promise because of its ability to detect abnormal patterns not visible to current imaging modalities. The objective of our research is to devise new approaches that could facilitate the adoption of MEG in routine clinical practice and improve its diagnostic value in the context of the presurgical evaluation for children suffering from epilepsy.

Impact of a continuous walking exercise on crouch gait: Biomechanical analysis and training effect in children with cerebral palsy

Cerebral palsy (CP) is one of the most common motor disorders in children. It is related to posture and movement disorders, which lead to functional abilities deterioration, including walking. Flexed knee gait is the most reported walking pattern in children with CP. It may results in negative joint stress and limits the ability to walk. The first objective of the present study is to identify the contributors to gait deterioration during a walking exercise representative of daily activities. We hypothesized that knee extensors muscle fatigue would be related to gait modifications. The second objective is to evaluate the impact of specific muscle training on gait. We hypothesized that an improvement of knee extensors muscle strength would lead to a better resistance to fatigue, which would result in a reduced knee flexion. Joint angles and muscle activity will be measured during gait before and after the strength training.

AUDREY PARENT

CR CHU Ste-Justine

Formation : Ph.D. Student

Field: Musculoskeletal
system and arthritis

CHLOÉ ST-CYR

CR CHU Sherbrooke

Field : Master's degree
training for health
professionals

Field: Maternal, Child and
Adolescent Health

Collaborating with community and health care service providers: a community-based screening program for identifying toddlers with autism spectrum disorder

Despite initial concerns of parents with 12 to 18 month old children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), the average age of diagnosis remains late, at around 4 years of age. It is essential to establish screening programs based on existing community resources. This study is part of a major research project aiming to document the implementation of a regional community-based population and systematic screening program for young children at risk of ASD in the Eastern Townships, Quebec. The study will document the profile of at-risk children screened as part of the project and the effectiveness of the screening methods used. To this day, more than 650 self administered questionnaires have been collected, 60 of which led to the identification of ASD. This project will measure the effectiveness of the screening methods used and thus contribute to the improvement of similar screening programs to be implemented in the future.

ARMIN YADANI

McGill University Health
Centre (MUHC)
Research Institute

Formation : Ph.D.
Student

Field: Maternal, Child
and Adolescent Health

Sildenafil to repair the brains of babies who experienced birth asphyxia

Babies whose brains and other organs do not receive sufficient air and blood at the time of their birth are at risk of suffering brain damage. There is also a very high risk that these babies will develop neurological problems such as cerebral palsy; in some cases, the babies involved may even die. There is currently no treatment to repair this type of brain damage. My research project is designed to test and better understand the possible role of sildenafil in repairing the brains of babies who suffered from birth asphyxia. Preliminary results indicate that sildenafil decreases the scope of the brain damage and increases the number of nerve cells; it also appears to reduce inflammation, which is detrimental to the brain. The next step in my research will consist of testing the effect of sildenafil when combined with cooling, in the hopes that this will generate even more positive results. The data obtained should make it possible to develop additional treatments for babies who have experienced birth asphyxia.

REAL AND PROJECTED INVESTMENTS FOR THE SUCCESSION

Partners	2018-2019 (projected)	2017-2018 (projected)	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015
Foundation of Stars	\$60,000	\$208,026	\$221,320	\$178,986	\$58,358
FRQS	\$60,000	\$208,027	\$221,320	\$144,911	
TOTAL	\$120,000	\$416,053	\$442,640	\$323,897	\$58,358

Only financial commitments from previous contests are recorded here. New grants will be added in 2017-2018 according to the results of the last FRQS contests.





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Without the continued support of our volunteers, regional directors, governors, ambassadors and event committees, the success of the Foundation of Stars would not be as resounding.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO THESE BIG-HEARTED PEOPLE!



Financial Highlights

A UNIQUE POSITION

For 40 years, the Foundation of Stars has been recognized as the only organization that funds only pediatric research in Québec. With close to \$70 million given to for researchers, it is one of the largest non-governmental sources of funding in Québec. Every dollar allows the Foundation to move closer to its ultimate goal: to provide children with a future free of illness and suffering.

FROM CONCEPTION TO ADULTHOOD

The Foundation of Stars is present at every stage for a child's life. From childhood, to adolescent to ensure that they benefit from the latest advances in childhood disease research. We seek to intervene within the broad areas of excellence in pediatric health, as well as in relevant scientific areas, where the needs are most felt. In the fiscal year of 2017-2018, the four major pediatric research centers in Québec will receive a significant financial support of \$1.2 million from the Foundation of

Stars. It will allow physicians and researchers to focus on specific topics such as perinatal health, rare diseases, inflammation / infections, neurodevelopment, mental health and brain cancer.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE, SUPPORTING THE SUCCESSION

Since 2014, the Foundation of Stars has supported the province's most promising students and young researchers by supporting their innovative and far-reaching research projects. The 2017 cohort dedicates its research projects to, among others, autism, asthma, brain development, cancer, leukemia, infections, etc.

Here are the universities participating in this funding: McGill, Concordia, Laval, Montréal, Sherbrooke and UQAM.

FUNDS DISTRIBUTION FOR PEDIATRIC RESEARCH

Partners	2017-2018 (projected)	2016- 2017	2015- 2016	2014- 2015	2013- 2014	2012- 2013	Cumulative March 31st, 2012
Montreal Children Hospital (CUSM) Pediatric Research Institute	\$392,500					\$603,422	\$28,304,217
CHU Sainte-Justine Pediatric Research Center	\$392,500					\$603,422	\$28,304,217
Centre hospitalier universitaire de Québec (CHUQ) Pediatric Research Center ⁽¹⁾	\$126,500					\$257,098	\$6,504,758
Centre hospitalier universitaire de Sherbrooke (CHUS) Pediatric Research Center ⁽²⁾	\$91,500	\$83,256 ⁽³⁾			\$80,000 ⁽⁴⁾	\$136,058	\$2,859,863
Co-financing in partnership with the FRQS	\$208,026	\$221,320	\$178,986	\$58,358			
Special Project (Brain Cancer)	\$200,000						
Child and Youth							\$100,000

⁽¹⁾ Since 1985, ⁽²⁾ Since 1999, ⁽³⁾ Funds raised during the 4th Encan des vins de Sherbrooke, ⁽⁴⁾ Funds raised during the 3rd Encan des vins de Sherbrooke. The fiscal year ends on March 31, 2017.

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For Montréal: 514-595-5730
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