

Local support keeps kids safe at SAH

3-year-old Leah Sperry is one of many local children who gets care at Sault Area Hospital.

Heather Sperry has a lot of experience with medical care. Her daughter, Leah is just three years old, and together they have spent 1,012 days in hospital.

“Leah has 37 specialty teams looking after her.” Heather explains, “She is a special kid.”

Just like any toddler, Leah is figuring out how to navigate the world and never stops moving. The difference is that Leah can have up to six lines connected to her little body at once when she stays overnight in hospital, meaning that a fall can inflict life-threatening injuries.

“Leah has a central line that feeds directly into her heart – that is where she receives her medication, nutrition, and hydration.” Heather explains, “We thought, what are we going to do to keep her from falling out of her bed?”

Thanks to donations from our community, the Sault Area Hospital Paediatrics department has the answer. This year, SAHF funded a paediatric safety bed for kids with complex medical needs, like Leah. Its high walls prevent children from climbing over the top or falling out, and it is designed to let IV lines pass through without getting tangled.



Leah and her brother in the new paediatric safety bed at SAH.



3-year-old Leah needs additional care when she stays overnight in hospital.

“The bed is also a lot bigger. Sometimes, Leah’s brother has to come along to appointments with us – and it means that the kids can sit together,” Heather adds. During Leah’s last transfusion, her big brother was there to give her a cuddle.

Heather is thankful that Leah can receive a lot of her care at their local hospital in Sault Ste. Marie. “Having care close to home means that we can access support from our family, our friends and community. It means I can be a mom to my other child. He needs his mom, too!”

Your gifts are the reason equipment, like this safety bed, is here!

On behalf of Heather, Leah, and all the families that will use the paediatric safety bed, **thank you for your commitment** to making outstanding care possible at Sault Area Hospital.

“ I want donors to know the difference they make. For us, **just knowing that Leah is safe in her bed is huge.** ”
- Heather Sperry, Leah’s Mom

Your gifts have transformed Surgical Care!

New technology has modernized all six operating room (OR) suites at Sault Area Hospital, benefiting both staff and patients.

Ryan Crozier is the Surgical Program Business Analyst at Sault Area Hospital. Working with the surgeons and staff in the department, it's his job to make recommendations on equipment needed for the Surgical Department.

While it was a big investment, Ryan knew that a new 4K OR Integration System would have a huge impact for surgeons and staff at SAH.

“The OR Integration System has brought a new way for the surgical team to visualize, share and capture information. Now, every team member can see exactly what the surgeon is doing,” Ryan says.

“A picture is worth a thousand words.”

During surgery, a number of tools help the surgical team to understand what is happening inside the body. Microscopes help surgeons get a closer look at their work. Endoscopes show video footage from inside the body. X-ray machines show images of bone structure.

Previously, these machines all operated independently from one another. A surgeon using a microscope would describe what they could see through the device's lens, as there was no video footage available. Endoscopes and X-ray machines displayed information in SD & HD on much smaller screens.



The OR Integration System has brought new technology to the SAH Surgical Care.

In the OR, everyone must work as a team. Donors are a part of that team. **We couldn't do it without them.**

- Ryan Crozier, Surgical Program Business Analyst

You're making outstanding surgery possible!

Thanks to your donations, all six OR suites have undergone a huge technological enhancement. The OR Integration System connects the medical equipment in the OR. Its 4K camera system and wireless network of portable monitors help staff to view information.

From a single computer, a nurse or physician can display images from a microscope, endoscope, or x-ray machine on two or three monitors in the OR in vivid 4K clarity. The monitors can be moved so the whole team can view them during surgery, creating opportunities for teaching and learning.

Patient records are now accessible and easy to update directly from the OR. “Before we had the OR Integration system, we would have to print images and add them to physical copies of patient records.” Ryan explains, “Now we attach them directly to the digital medical record. This reduces the risk of losing images, which ensures that

everyone caring for a patient has the right information.”

This massive upgrade puts SAH in league with 10 other hospitals in Ontario who have made this critical shift. The new technology will undoubtedly help the hospital recruit new surgeons to our area, with the latest and greatest tools. None of this would be possible without your generous donations.

Thank you!



Franci Rogers and Lisa Shackleton with the new MRI machine at SAH.

Our new MRI is here thanks to your support

Thanks to you, Sault Area Hospital is now equipped with the latest MRI technology.

A final goodbye to our old MRI

Patient care is at the heart of every decision at Sault Area Hospital. That's why, when the Medical Imaging team predicted that installation of a new MRI machine would take three months, they found a creative way to continue providing care.

“If we had zero access to an MRI machine, hundreds of patients would have had to travel to Sudbury or Toronto,” explains Franci Rogers, Manager of Medical Imaging.

Sault Area Hospital reduced impact on patients by instating a specially-designed mobile MRI unit.

“The mobile unit helped in the transition to the new MRI,” Franci says. “It helped a lot of patients to access the care they needed through June, July and August.”

The upgraded MRI is now installed and serving the residents of Algoma.

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So many patients rely on Sault Area Hospital.

It is vital that we keep up with the latest technology to continue to provide an excellent standard of care.

I am so thankful to the donors who made this replacement possible.

- Franci Rogers, Manager of Medical Imaging

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Hello to our brand-new MRI!

When talking about the new machine, Franci and her colleague, Lisa Shackleton, light up with excitement. The new MRI benefits from ten years of technological advancement.

“The new MRI has sensors that can detect the patient's body and automatically move them into the best position for the scan. This saves time and improves accuracy – previously, positioning was done manually.” Lisa comments.

“The MRI offers artificial intelligence that helps the team swiftly identify internal organs and abnormal tissues that may be a sign of disease or injury,” Franci shares, “which means we can diagnose patients accurately and quickly.”

The new technology makes MRI scans more comfortable, for both patients and staff. The bore (opening) is wider, making the experience less claustrophobic. The table can be lowered further, helping patients to transition from wheelchair to bed more easily. Accessories that are used for imaging (RF coils) now weigh less, reducing the risk of injury for the staff who lift them every day.

Your donations funded this brand new and improved MRI machine.

On behalf of Franci, her team, and the thousands of patients who will benefit from this equipment: thank you for your continued support.

Don't forget! Please complete our donor survey. Go to www.sahfoundation.com/survey

UPCOMING NEED:

Help patients hear, breathe, and swallow!

Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) Surgery can improve a patient's ability to hear well, breathe comfortably, or swallow.

To perform these surgeries safely, our specialists need specific tools. Several of these have been prioritized for purchase or replacement this year:

A **Microdebrider** is used in surgery for patients who have chronic sinus problems that cause breathing difficulties. It looks like a thin tube, and works by slicing away small pieces of tissue and removing them with suction.

The **ENT Navigator** works with the microdebrider, showing the instrument's location within the skull with 3D pinpoint accuracy.

An **ENT Microscope** helps the surgeon see while they perform delicate, precision surgery on the middle and inner ear.



A new High-Speed Drill will help SAH to shorten waits, and serve more patients.

The **ENT High-Speed Drill** is used in middle ear and inner ear surgery, helping to improve or restore a patient's hearing. The new equipment is fine-tuned to enable better accuracy and handling. Dr. Rebello, one of our ENT surgeons, predicts that it will allow her to schedule two surgeries per day instead of one, helping to shorten the wait time for this procedure.

With your continued support, we can raise the \$297,900 needed to purchase these specialized tools. This equipment will be in use for the next ten years, meaning your support will make outstanding care possible for years to come.

THANK YOU!

You've helped bring
\$5.29+
MILLION
in critical equipment
to SAH in 2021/22.

The 2021/22 SAHF Annual Report is now available!

Thanks to your generosity, an incredible \$5.29 million of vital medical equipment has arrived at Sault Area Hospital.

Medical Imaging was our area of greatest need, and received over one third of all dollars disbursed. Almost \$2 million in new imaging equipment is allowing our care team to diagnose patients more quickly and accurately than ever before.

This, and so much more, is possible thanks to your commitment to SAHF.

[Read the full report at sahfoundation.com/report](http://sahfoundation.com/report)

We're back in office!

While visitor restrictions are still in place, we are happy to be back on site at Sault Area Hospital to assist patients, visitors and staff.

Office Hours:

Tues.-Thurs., 8:00am-4:30pm.
Still working remotely Monday/Friday.

When you give, you make outstanding care possible.



Visit our website:
sahfoundation.com

Make a secure gift, or find more information about our programs.



Call our main line:
705-759-3848

We'd be happy to chat, or you can leave a message for a call back.



Send us mail:

**750 Great Northern Road
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 0A8**

We've included a postage-paid envelope with this newsletter for whenever you need it next.

We look forward to the next time we see each other!

SAHF

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