



A Message from Jenna and Sara England

Sandra's Daughters

The past year was extraordinary for the Sandra Schmirler Foundation.

For the first time ever, we awarded \$1 million in grants to hospitals in every province and territory to support critically ill newborns.

None of it would have been possible without you. For that, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Knowing that our Mom's legacy of resilience and determination lives on in the lives of the tiny babies that are saved inspires us. Being Ambassadors of the Foundation gives us the priceless gift of talking to countless people who knew, loved, or were inspired by our Mom. We are very grateful for this priceless connection to her.

This year, the Foundation marked some remarkable milestones, and we are excited to tell you about them in this exclusive update. The fact that we achieved so much during a pandemic is a testament to the generosity of donors like you. At a time of great uncertainty, you made it possible to give certainty and peace of mind to many families who really needed it.

In 2021, the Sandra Schmirler Foundation celebrated its 20th anniversary. It is so moving to think about the number of babies that have been saved through donations to the Foundation during those 20 years.

Because of you, more Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) across the country have purchased state-of-the-art equipment that will mean the difference between life and death for babies born too soon, too small or too sick.

Just think about the difference your support of the Sandra Schmirler Foundation and \$1 million in grants will make to frightened, worried parents in their darkest hour.

The 19th annual Sandra Schmirler Foundation Telethon was held virtually this year. But that didn't dampen the country's enthusiasm for this great cause. **The 2021 Telethon raised an incredible \$700,758! That smashed**



Sandra's daughters, Jenna and Sara

the previous record and exceeded our target goal – even with COVID-19 restrictions in place.

We are so thankful for this amazing outpouring of support. We know it wouldn't be possible without the generous support of the Foundation's Telethon partners, TSN, Curling Canada and Net2Phone.

We were very young when cancer took our Mom from us. But we know she was special. We understand that she was a skilled curler who made history in the sport she loved.

But each year, we gain a deeper understanding of the impact our Mom's spirit and character had on the entire country. More than 20 years after her death, she is still a force to be reckoned with and a beacon of hope to the families of premature and critically ill babies.

We often wonder what our Mom would think about the success and remarkable impact of the Sandra Schmirler Foundation. We are certain she would be humbled that so many people like you honour her memory through their generosity.

**Thank you for supporting our Mom's mission.
Thank you for supporting the Sandra Schmirler Foundation.**

--- Jenna and Sara England

You Helped Award \$1 Million for NICUs from Coast to Coast to Coast

Every year, the Sandra Schmirler Foundation is proud to tell generous donors like you how your donations helped to purchase state-of-the-art equipment for NICUs in hospitals across Canada.

This year, we are thrilled to tell you that you helped us award an astounding \$1 million in grants to hospitals in every province and territory in Canada for the first time. This year you have helped to save the lives of vulnerable babies all across the country.

Your donations have transformed crucial care for babies who need it most.

“Thanks to the Sandra Schmirler Foundation, our hospital was able to purchase a Giraffe OmniBed Carestation. This machine helps critically ill and premature babies in our NICU get well and have the chance to grow up to be champions in their own right.”

The Ottawa Hospital

This year, your support helped us award an incredible \$1 million in grants to support NICUs in these Canadian hospitals:

- \$25,000 to the Foothills Medical Centre Hospital in Calgary, Alberta
- \$10,890 to the Thunder Bay Regional Hospital in Thunder Bay, Ontario
- \$50,000 to the Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- \$20,000 to the Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre in Amherst, Nova Scotia
- \$10,000 to the IWK Health Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia
- \$10,000 to Bluewater Health in Sarnia, Ontario
- \$10,000 to the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital in Grande Prairie, Alberta
- \$10,000 to the Peter Lougheed Centre in Chestermere, Alberta
- \$10,000 to the Credit Valley Hospital in Toronto, Ontario
- \$10,000 to the Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre in Red Deer, Alberta
- \$13,000 to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
- \$60,000 to the Stollery Children’s Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta
- \$58,000 to the Victoria Hospital in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
- \$42,700 to the Grey Nuns Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta
- \$50,000 to the Headwaters Health Care Centre in Orangeville, Ontario
- \$59,200 to the University Hospital in Kingston, Ontario
- \$20,500 to the Burnaby Hospital in Burnaby, British Columbia
- \$90,000 to the Manitoba Children’s Hospital in Winnipeg, Manitoba
- \$18,130 to the Saint John Regional Hospital in Saint John, New Brunswick
- \$32,217 to L’hôpital Maissonneuve-Rosemont in Montreal, Quebec
- \$45,000 to the Stanton Territorial Hospital in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
- \$50,000 to the Qikiqtqani General Hospital in Iqaluit, Nunavut
- \$44,000 to the Yukon Hospital in Whitehorse, Yukon
- \$50,000 to the Janeway Children’s Health and Rehabilitation Centre in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador
- \$7,921 to the Winchester District Memorial Hospital in Winchester, Ontario
- \$42,700 to the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta
- \$19,575 to the Royal Alexander Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta
- \$45,000 to 13 NICUs in BC, British Columbia
- \$80,000 to The Ottawa Hospital in Ottawa, Ontario

Impact Spotlight: Shanna Toews



Triplets Natalie, Rebecca & Lauren along with their big brother Adam

Shanna Toews was exhausted. It was only a few days earlier that she gave birth to triplets. All girls – Natalie, Rebecca, and Lauren.

None of them weighed more than five pounds. One was having trouble breathing and struggling to maintain her body temperature. Another refused to eat, requiring her to be fed through a tube.

Any wonder Shanna, who found herself staring blankly at the waiting room wall while one of her little ones was under medical evaluation, was tired.

It was at that moment that her eyes wandered to a plaque adorned with a picture of the late Sandra Schmirler, the famous Canadian curler and Olympic gold medalist.

The plaque was placed to commemorate the Foundation established in her memory, which had recently awarded a grant to the Regina Hospital to support the purchase of much-needed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) equipment.

That's when it hit her.

"It was like a lightbulb went off," she recalls. "I'm a big curling fan, so of course I knew Sandra

Schmirler. But it just hit me – if it weren't for the Foundation and what they did for the NICU at the Regina Hospital, who knows what could have happened to our family?"

One of the items donated to the Regina Hospital was a kangaroo warmer, a high-tech piece of equipment that provides thermal support to newborns struggling to maintain a healthy body temperature.

It was the kangaroo warmer that finally enabled baby Rebecca to get her body temperature under control.

But that's not the only way the Foundation made a difference to Shanna and her family during trying times.

"Because of the equipment donated by the Foundation, we were able to be closer to home while our babies got the care they needed," she explains. "If it weren't for the Foundation, we probably would have had to go to Calgary."

With a young son at home and a husband who needed to go to work, that would have been a big problem for Shanna.

"We were already eight hours from my parents, our close family. To

have to go even further west would have been a huge challenge" she says. "I probably would have been all alone – I can't imagine it."

Such a long haul, Shanna points out, would have had an impact on her sick babies, too.

"It was the dead of winter and it was really cold that year plus the travel time wouldn't have been good for my babies."

So, how are Natalie, Rebecca, and Lauren doing today?

"My girls are doing great – no problems at all, just normal girls loving grade two!" Shanna exclaims. She adds, "And they're about to start curling."

However, even though her girls overcame their challenges, Shanna can't help but be reminded of her NICU experience – and the families who may not have been as fortunate as her own.

"There were so many sick babies," she says, fighting back tears. "Their lives aren't what they should be. It's just so sad."

Shanna's message for Sandra Schmirler Foundation donors is crystal clear:

"Please keep donating because the nurses and the doctors are amazing, but without the equipment they need they can't do their jobs to help these babies," she says. "This Foundation has been a godsend for millions of parents. You'll never regret donating because it helps such vulnerable little babies."

When asked if she has anything else she wants to say to Sandra Schmirler Foundation donors, Shanna takes a deep breath and pauses for a moment.

"Thank you."

Thanks to our Partners

The Sandra Schmirler Foundation would not be able to keep Sandra's legacy alive after 20 years without the support and compassion of donors like you.

Our life-saving support for sick babies and their families would be much more difficult without the generous support of our partners.

The Sandra Schmirler Foundation would like to extend our most sincere thanks to:

- The Community Fundraiser
- Hilberg & Berk
- Asham
- Goldline
- Dynasty Curling
- IKS Media
- Hardline

Special thanks this year to Meagan Duhamel, World and Olympic Champion figure skater. Meagan and her partner Wojtek Wolski won CBC's Battle of the Blades last fall. Her journey as a NICU mom led her to choose the Sandra Schmirler Foundation to receive her winnings of \$50,000!

2021 Telethon Goes Virtual, Breaks Records

Over the last 18 months, Canadians have stayed safe and healthy by celebrating birthdays, holidays, and other important occasions online.

The 19th annual Sandra Schmirler Foundation Telethon was no different. This year the Telethon was completely virtual.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, volunteers answered donor calls from their homes and in socially distanced spaces around the country.

And, for the first time, the Sandra Schmirler Foundation video streamed a Facebook Live Event before and after each draw, allowing donors to experience the Telethon in a different way.

But not everything was different. Like always, the Telethon was held during the Scotties Tournament of Hearts and featured on TSN.

And as usual, generous friends of the Sandra Schmirler Foundation, like you, stepped up to support the Foundation's mission to buy lifesaving equipment for Neonatal Intensive Care Units across the country for babies who are born premature and critically ill.

This year's Telethon smashed the \$500,000 fundraising goal and set a record of \$700,758. The previous fundraising record at the Telethon was \$450,000.

The Sandra Schmirler Foundation is grateful to TSN, Curling Canada, Net2Phone, and our partners and many volunteers who contributed to the amazing success of the Telethon during a pandemic.

Right Now, More Babies Need Your Help

The Sandra Schmirler Foundation relies on donations from generous supporters like you to purchase the life-saving NICU equipment that gives babies the fighting chance they need.

If you are able, won't you please consider sending a much-needed donation to the Sandra Schmirler Foundation today?

Sandra Schmirler Foundation

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