

Introduction – Why Support George Jeffrey Children’s Foundation?

Hundreds of children in Thunder Bay and across Northwestern Ontario are dealing with physical and developmental disabilities. In many cases, children can be taught to overcome their disabilities or compensate for them through specialized programs for development; however, these programs involve trained multi-disciplinary teams, specialized equipment, and dedicated learning spaces.

Imagine living in a body that you cannot fully control. You find it difficult to pick up a pencil or even catch a ball. Your legs won’t allow you stand or walk without assistance. You can’t speak as naturally as all the other kids around you seem to be able to do. You may even have trouble understanding the world around you, making it very difficult to communicate with others.

Now consider how you would feel if you found out that – with a little help – you could overcome many of these difficulties.

The truth is that in the vast majority of cases, children with physical and developmental disabilities can learn how to overcome their challenges. Just as every child is taught how to speak and walk, children with special needs can learn how to become better communicators and how to become more mobile despite these challenges. The only difference is that they may require more time and specialized learning and equipment to do the things that most children learn naturally.

That’s where George Jeffrey Children’s Centre comes in. The Centre provides a wide range of programs and services to help children in Thunder Bay and throughout Northwestern Ontario overcome difficulties with speech and communication, seating and mobility, fine and gross motor skills, and cognitive learning and behaviors. Some of our children will become independent in certain areas of their lives. Some will always require specialized, long-term rehabilitation.

But the Centre couldn’t provide the support they do without help from the Foundation – without help from our generous donors and volunteers.

Thanks to our generous donors, George Jeffrey Children’s Foundation is able to help provide funding so that these children have their best opportunity to succeed and reach their fullest potential.

Together, George Jeffrey Children’s Centre and George Jeffrey Children’s Foundation are committed to ensuring that all children and youth in Thunder Bay and across Northwestern Ontario get that chance to succeed and reach their potential.

The specialized programs that our children require are expensive to maintain. The Government of Ontario subsidizes the costs of therapy services, but funding is not

enough to meet the growing needs of children in Northwestern Ontario. We rely on donations to the Foundation from generous supporters like you to provide the Centre with that extra funding for the latest equipment and programs that really make the difference in our children's lives. With your support, we are able to provide the best care for over 1,200 children in the region. Your donations will also help us reach **the hundreds of other children still on our waiting list.**

Most importantly, you'll help our kids, just be kids.

"We don't see our children as incapable. They simply need more time and attention to reach their fullest capabilities. The programs needed to provide that level of learning require money. Thanks to your support of the George Jeffrey Children's Foundation, we continue to improve and expand our services for the hundreds of children who need us."

George Jeffrey Children's Foundation is the autonomous fundraising arm of George Jeffrey Children's Centre. Together, we both share the same basic goal: to enrich the lives of children in Northwestern Ontario living with developmental and physical disabilities so that they can reach their fullest capabilities.