



JACC News

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905.852.1799
www.JenAsh.org

SPRING 2019

Giving hope... when love is not enough

Four Open-Heart Surgeries Later...and Ariana is Thriving!



Ariana, 4-years-old, has a Congenital Heart Defect

heart condition constantly left her either too exhausted or too nauseous to eat.

Just when they thought that things couldn't get more stressful, Ariana developed a severe virus in her lungs and had to be airlifted from Windsor to Toronto for urgent care. Doctors gave Ariana a 10% chance of surviving.

When you see Ariana's smiling face, it's hard to imagine just how much she has been through.

At birth, she was diagnosed with a rare Congenital Heart Defect. The left side of her heart was severely underdeveloped, and there were holes between her heart's left and right chambers.

Ariana's mother Brittany was given the terrifying news that her baby girl would need her first open-heart surgery at just 4 months old. In the meantime, Ariana had to be fed through nasal tubes, as her

Despite the odds, this brave little girl conquered the virus, but rather than getting to go home, Ariana and her Mom had to stay in Toronto in preparation for her open-heart surgery just 2 weeks later. In total they were there for 3 months straight... and this was just the first of four open heart surgeries Ariana would need to have.

Thanks to our incredible donors, Ariana and her Mom received support for the cost of transportation to her many hospital visits, and nutritious groceries while she was healing. **THANK YOU** ❤️

Life before contacting the charity was very stressful. As a single mother, I couldn't work, as Ariana needed my full time attention. Most of her life has been spent in hospital between appointments and surgeries. To the supporters, I would just like to say thank you. There are no words to express how thankful we are. - Ariana's Mom



Read more about Ariana's long journey on pg. 4

Follow us on Social Media!



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When GREAT people like you come together...



Nooha and her Mom, happy to be home

...**ANYTHING** is possible!

Thanks to incredibly generous people like YOU, over \$ 315,000 was raised during the 2018 Holiday Season.

Thank you to some very generous donors who also created a matching gift program this year. This meant that all donations made before December 31st were doubled!

A few months back, we shared a story with you about a brave little girl, Nooha. We are happy to share that Nooha has recently received the news that her brain tumour has diminished...and yes, she is cancer free!

Although she will begin intensive rehab to help her walk again (because the tumour severely affected her mobility), her Mom assures us that she is on the road to recovery and they are looking forward to a healthier 2019.

Thank you for helping Nooha and her Mom, and so many other seriously ill children and their families who are struggling.

We couldn't do this important work without YOU!



Follow the Yellow Brick Road... To JACC's Auction & Dinner Gala!



There's No Place Like Home...

...especially for a sick child. We invite you to join us for a special evening in "Oz" as we raise funds for children who are away from the comforts of home all too often. This is JACC's biggest fundraising event of the year and we would absolutely

love it if you'd join us! Please see this year's event details below:

When: May 9th, 2019

Where: Angus Glen Golf Club in Markham

Who: You! (and your friends or colleagues)

Why: For a special night out, to raise funds that will help sick children in Ontario

For tickets, [click here](#) or contact Ashley at: galarsvp@jenash.org or 905 - 852 - 1799 x32

(Ruby slippers welcome.)

Thank You From The Families



Tevy, 4-years-old, looking adorable in her holiday outfit!

Sweet little Tevy was born with Cerebral Palsy. With the help of donors like you, her family was able to hire a respite worker to help out in their home with

Thanks for Helping Make their Lives a Little Bit Easier

Tevy's care. Respite care workers give parents a mental and physical break so they can recharge and be their best selves for their children. You also helped this family with the cost of groceries to ensure that Tevy gets the nutritious meals she needs.



Aslam and Farheen enjoying a day at the pumpkin patch

Twins Aslam and Farheen were both born with a rare genetic disease, Sanfilippo Syndrome. This condition causes brain damage leading to a loss of speech, cognitive skills, and mobility. Their Mom reached out to JACC when she was struggling to afford their care after having to resign from her job to accommodate their high needs. With the help of our amazing donors, they received support for transportation to medical appointments and nutritious groceries. We can not thank our incredible supporters enough for your compassion towards families who are coping with so much.



5-year-old Avery loves Paw Patrol!

Avery was born with Down Syndrome and a Congenital Heart Defect. At 4-months-old he had his first open-heart surgery and following complications, had a second surgery just weeks later. Donors like you helped his parents stay by his side during these surgeries, and more recently, have supported Avery for the costs of Speech Therapy. His Mom sent us a note to share on his behalf...

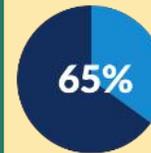
"One of my biggest developmental delays has been my speech. Speech therapy can be quite costly and JACC has provided support with this heavy cost. A year ago, I had limited words and sounds, but today, I can better communicate with my parents, teachers and peers. And I'm not done yet, as I still have much to learn!"

"My family and I cannot thank this wonderful charity and your donors enough for the support you have provided. You help make things that feel impossible, possible!

- Avery's Mom, Melanie

Will my employer double my donation?

Did you know...



of Fortune 500 companies **match** employee donations to charity? And many smaller businesses do as well!

So, next time you make a donation...



1 Check with your company's HR department to see if they have a matching gifts program

Fill out and submit the matching gift request to your HR department



3 Your company will send us a cheque, **doubling your donation!**

Examples of some companies that match employee donations:

- [IBM](#)
- [Microsoft](#)
- [Telus](#)
- [LifeLabs](#)
- [Starbucks](#)
- [Home Depot](#)
- [Smucker's](#)
- [Craigslist](#)
- [Most pharma companies](#)
- [Johnson & Johnson](#)
- [Sunlife Financial](#)
- [Rogers](#)
- [Labatt](#)
- [BMO](#)
- [RBC](#)
- [H&R Block](#)

Community Events

Stoney Creek Bowl-A-Thon



Some of the wonderful volunteers who organize the Bowl-A-Thon each year!

For 12 years, Amanda and her closest family, friends & colleagues have gathered to plan and host third party events benefitting JACC. For the last 3 years, they have organized a friendly competition... a Bowl-A-Thon! This year they raised a total of \$4,540.00 and had over 80 people participating! Thank you to everyone who attended this fun event, and way to go Amanda and team - we are so grateful for your continued dedication to the children & families of JACC.

To host a Bowl-A-Thon or 3rd party event of your own, contact Andrea at events@jenash.org

Bay Street Fore a Cause

JACC was honoured to be one of 70 charities to receive toys from [Bay Street Fore A Cause](#), a caring group of executives committed to enriching the lives of children in need. Teaming up with Toys“R”Us, who donated over 100,000 toys, this group sorted, warehoused and repackaged 340 skids of toys! Transportation companies like Rosedale Group and Charger Logistics Inc. generously donated their services to deliver the toys. Thank you for bringing smiles to these very deserving children.



Bay Street Fore A Cause volunteers sorting 100,000 toys for charity

100 Women Who Care, Stouffville Chapter

Thank you so much to [this very generous group of women](#) for selecting JACC as the charity of choice in



October. We were grateful to receive an incredible \$6,150.00 from these women, who are passionately dedicated to helping their community. It was our honour to use these funds to support children and families through JACC's holiday program.

Mark Your Calendars!

May 9 - [Auction & Dinner Gala](#) (Angus Glen Golf Club)

June 22 - Yoga in the Park (Uxbridge)

Sept 7 - Country BBQ (Prince Lee Acres, Uxbridge)

Ariana's Story continued...

Following her first open-heart surgery (and lengthy hospital stay), Ariana and her Mom headed home for a short reprieve. However, during this time, Ariana was still struggling to eat, and needed a g-tube inserted into her stomach.

A short 5 months later, it was time for her second open-heart surgery, meaning another long stay in Toronto - this time for 1 month. One of the scariest moments of Brittany's life happened while Ariana was recovering from this

surgery. Brittany was staying just down the street from the hospital and received a call saying that Ariana's oxygen levels had plummeted so low that they declared a "code blue." This means that a person's heart is pumping so little oxygen around their body that their skin turns blue. Brittany recalls sprinting to the hospital as fast as she could. Thankfully, doctors were able to stabilize Ariana, and she made a healthy recovery.

Most recently Ariana underwent her

third and fourth open-heart surgeries. Brittany shared the following update on her:

"Ariana is loving the new energy she has after these heart repairs. She is a thriving 4-year-old. In June, she had her "Minions" birthday party and has recently started tap dance classes. She also started JK in September and is loving her new friends and teachers."

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for helping children like Ariana during times of great financial stress for their families.