

Impact Report General



As CHEO evolves to meet the growing needs of children and youth, donor support has been instrumental in advancing its holistic and innovative approach to healthcare. While the construction of the Integrated Treatment Centre (ITC) and redevelopment of existing infrastructure are underway, CHEO understands it can't be complacent—**it needs to act now, because children shouldn't have to wait for better care.**

To meet this urgency, teams across CHEO, the CHEO Research Institute, and Roger Neilson Children's Hospice worked toward shared goals: improving outcomes, advancing innovation, and strengthening care for patients and families. During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, CHEO reported over 465,000 in-person interactions, over 70,000 Emergency Department visits, facilitated close to 70,000 virtual communications between patients and healthcare providers, and performed

over 7,400 surgeries. Research activity was robust, with more than 600 research articles published and 935 studies underway, including 90 active Health Canada-regulated trials for new drugs, devices, or health products, positioning CHEO as one of the leading pediatric hospitals in the world.

None of this work would have been possible without your dedicated support—thank you.

But the impact of your generosity extends far beyond these numbers. This report explores how CHEO is responding to the complex and evolving realities facing children and youth today, and how your support is helping turn urgency into meaningful action.

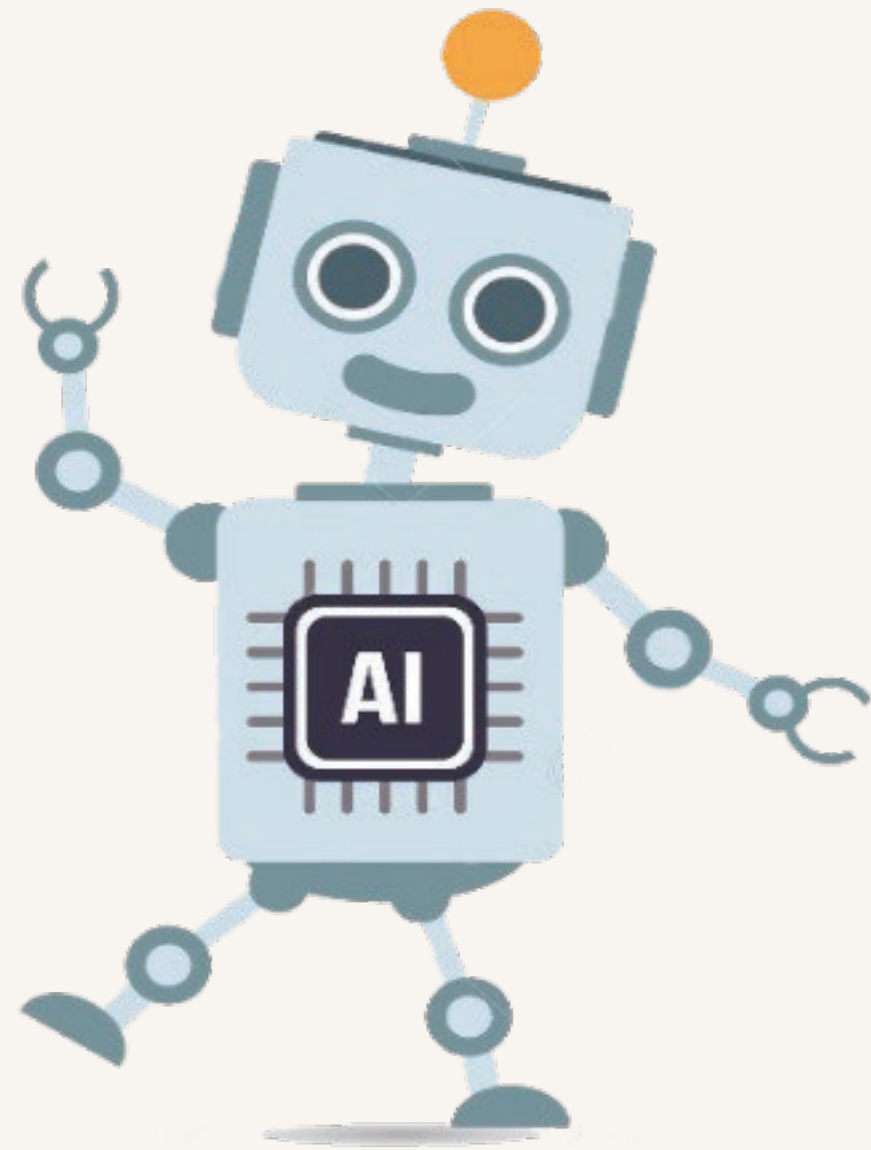
Innovative research and uses of technology

In its quest to innovate pediatric healthcare, CHEO has leveraged its world-leading talent to advance promising research and harness emerging technologies to better serve children and youth. Here are a few ways in which CHEO did so last year:

Groundbreaking oncology research

When a child is diagnosed with glioblastoma, the most common and aggressive type of brain cancer, it marks the start of a long and difficult journey. After undergoing neurosurgery to remove as much of the tumour as possible, the child begins a standard treatment of radiation and chemotherapy. This phase can take many months and present physical and emotional challenges for these young patients and their caregivers. While these treatments target cancerous cells, they can also cause side effects. Dr. Nirav Thacker, a Pediatric Oncologist at CHEO and a Researcher at the CHEO RI, is leading the first ever clinical trial exploring new approaches to childhood brain cancer treatment. His groundbreaking study investigates using immunotherapy alone to treat glioblastoma brain tumours, potentially sparing children from the harmful side effects of radiation and chemotherapy. These kinds of innovative research projects are, in part, funded thanks to your generosity.





ThinkRare

World-first research strategy

Across many clinics, departments, labs, and administrative branches, CHEO and the CHEO RI have employed AI to achieve groundbreaking and world-leading results in administrative operations, research, and patient care. One specific example is CHEO's world-first ThinkRare search algorithm that identifies children and youth who may have an undiagnosed rare genetic disease and refers them for genetic testing—putting an end to their diagnostic odyssey. About one to three per cent of children live with a rare genetic disorder. Early identification matters for their care and daily life. ThinkRare has achieved a diagnostic rate of 71%, compared to about 33% for patients referred through the conventional pathway. One child reached a confirmed diagnosis at five months of age, which meant earlier clarity for the family and quicker implementation of informed care. The goal is to make ThinkRare available across Canada and internationally so that the benefits reach other families and hospitals. ThinkRare is a CHEO innovation that could scale from a single-centre success to an international asset.

Holistic approach & cooperation

To keep up with the growing needs of children and youth, CHEO has embraced a coordinated approach to pediatric healthcare. By working with other health professionals and institutions, it's ensuring the medical community is coming together as a team to do all it can to help the most vulnerable. Here are a few ways in which CHEO has done so in 2025:

Lessening the burden on CHEO's operation rooms to care for more kids

Children and youth are waiting too long for surgeries. To address this, CHEO is finding innovative ways to decrease its surgical waitlist. A current program that is showing success is a surgery partnership with other hospitals. During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, **287 scheduled surgeries were performed in one of the four partner hospitals:** Hawkesbury General Hospital, Pembroke Regional Hospital, Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital, and Brockville General Hospital. These surgeries lowered some of CHEO's waitlists and enabled pediatric training in regional hospitals all while keeping patients closer to home.





Safety. **I**nnovation. **M**astery.
Sécurité. **I**nnovation. **M**aîtrise.

Bringing CHEO's emergent care expertise into the community

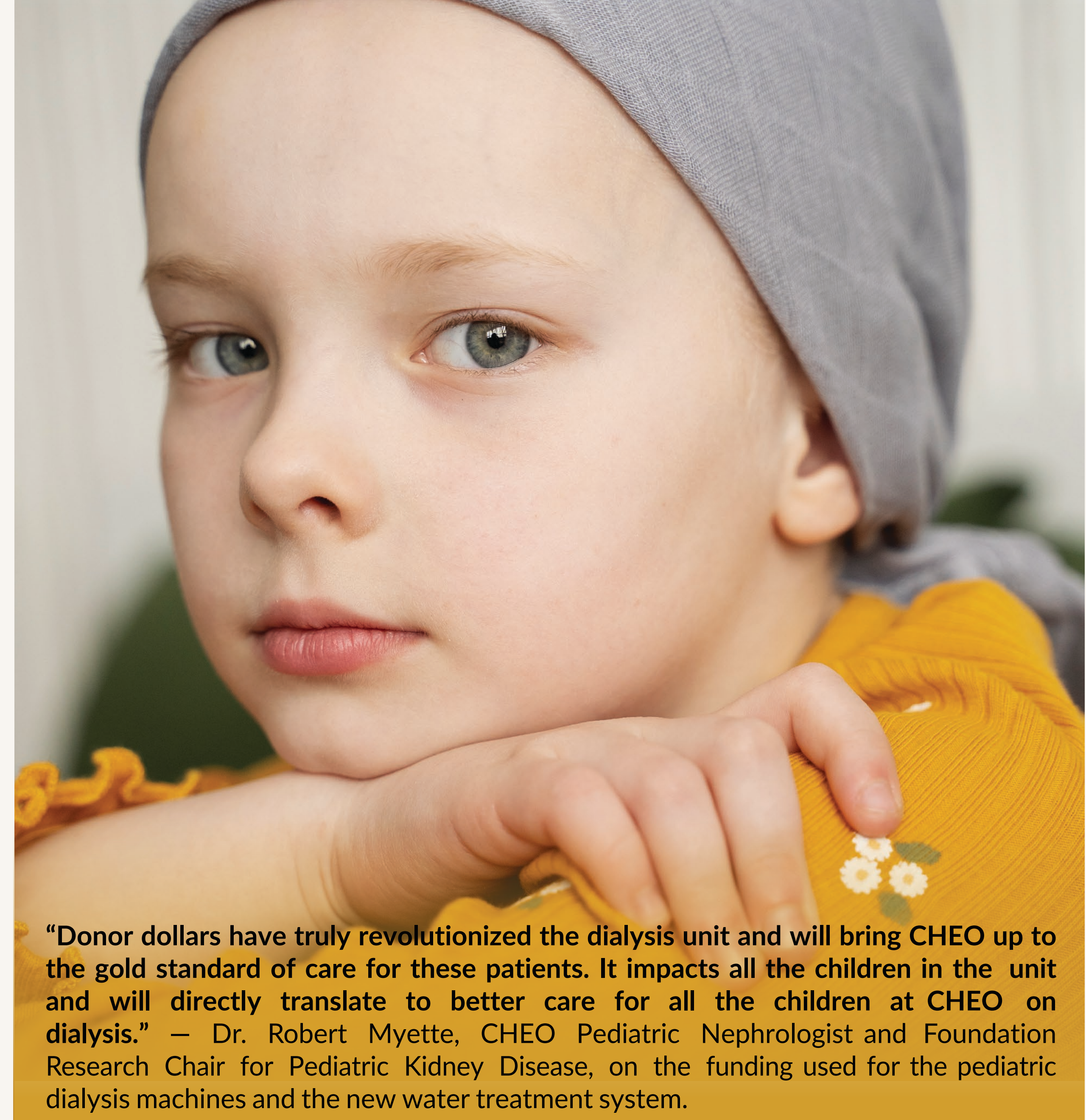
CHEO runs a crucial program known as the Simulation (SIM) lab, where health professionals from all disciplines share, learn, and master essential skills in a safe and collaborative environment. CHEO SIM is an innovative program that combines in-situ (i.e. inpatient units, ICU, Emergency Department etc.) and lab-based experiences for CHEO healthcare providers, community partners, and families. It delivers high-quality educational programs and is committed to engaging in research to improve educational experiences, patient safety, and care delivery. In 2025, the CHEO SIM lab was able to purchase two new high-fidelity mannequins for these simulations. These mannequins breathe, speak, have a pulse as well as other functions that mirror those of a living patient. One mannequin is used in the CHEO SIM lab for onboarding new clinical and nursing staff, including monthly Code Blue training (life-threatening medical event), anaphylaxis, and a wide variety of Emergency Department (ED) and Pediatric resident simulations each week. The second mannequin supports simulations happening at CHEO outside of the SIM lab such as a mock Code Blue, OR and Trauma practice, and ventilator training for critical care and respiratory therapy staff. This mannequin also travels to support outreach education at regional hospitals for pediatric focused simulations and skills. The Hawkesbury, Renfrew, Carleton Place, Almonte and Cornwall ED departments have all been able to build confidence and competency in caring for pediatric patients through training with the CHEO mannequin, which you have helped provide.

Equipment and therapeutic services

Every year, new medical equipment and improvements to therapeutic services are required to offer children and youth the best care possible. Here is what CHEO accomplished last year thanks to your donor dollars:

Donor-funded crucial equipment upgrades

Being on dialysis can be overwhelming for patients and their families. Children and youth with kidney problems that require dialysis spend many hours over weeks, months, and years at CHEO, going through uncomfortable treatments that physically tie them to a machine. In 2025, CHEO was able to upgrade the water treatment system, which greatly improves how dialysis machines function, making the experience faster and more efficient for patients. CHEO was also able to purchase specialized dialysis machines for children who weigh less than 20 kg. These machines are in high demand and are very important for babies who require dialysis. Dialysis machines are not one size fits all—smaller patients require specific machines that include smaller parts like tubing and filters. A regular adult dialysis machine could not be used for a baby, but CHEO is able to provide these specific services thanks to your donations.



“Donor dollars have truly revolutionized the dialysis unit and will bring CHEO up to the gold standard of care for these patients. It impacts all the children in the unit and will directly translate to better care for all the children at CHEO on dialysis.” — Dr. Robert Myette, CHEO Pediatric Nephrologist and Foundation Research Chair for Pediatric Kidney Disease, on the funding used for the pediatric dialysis machines and the new water treatment system.



Child Life practices heal body and mind

Music Therapy is the use of music and musical elements to accomplish therapeutic goals. Having a music therapist as part of the medical team at CHEO creates an opportunity for creativity and healing. For example, CHEO offers Music Therapy in the Eating Disorders and Inpatient Mental Health units to teach healthy coping strategies and promote self-expression. Patients, families, and staff found this to be a very helpful and positive way to approach illness and hospitalization. **In 2025, CHEO was able to expand the Music Therapy program from one part-time therapist to two.** This second therapist now works four days per week and provides music therapy in the CHEO school, preschool, and in-patient units.

These are but a few ways in which your dollars are at work each and every day. From finding new ways to alleviate pressure on CHEO's operating rooms, to purchasing new equipment and funding groundbreaking research and world-first applications of technology, you can rest assured that CHEO is doing all it can to deliver on its promise of better healthcare for children and youth in Ontario, western Quebec, Nunavut, and beyond.

Thank you for helping CHEO build a better, healthier future for kids these days.



CHEOfoundation.com



[CHEOfoundation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/CHEOfoundation)



[@CHEO](https://www.youtube.com/@CHEO)



[CHEOhospital](https://www.instagram.com/CHEOhospital)



[CHEOkids](https://www.facebook.com/CHEOkids)