

The Cause with a Community Connection

A sick child; your sick child.

A million questions, uncertainties and challenges you never dreamed you'd have to face.

Three years old.

100 seizures a day.

Not long ago that was reality for young Brock Kolibab, and his parents Shantel and Curtis along with big sister Kylie had to face the fact that a future with Brock was uncertain. Then in 2011, Brock spent three days in the only dedicated telemetry (epilepsy-testing) bed at RUH. He was closely monitored then diagnosed with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, a type of epilepsy.

Diagnosis led to treatment, and today Brock is seizure-free.

Shantel and Curtis wanted to "give back" for the treatment and compassionate care that Brock received at RUH, and learned that the Royal University Hospital Foundation was raising \$100,000 to purchase a second telemetry bed and related equipment. This news ignited their dream of raising money to help others with epilepsy, so they decided to hold a small fundraising gathering in the form of a steak night and invited family and friends.

On June 20th, 320 people joined the Kolibab's "small" fundraising gathering! What unfolded was a magical night of love and giving; a community supporting a dream that will change the lives of Saskatchewan patients and their families living with epilepsy. Their fundraising goal



One little boy, a family with a dream and a community on a mission.

for the steak night had been \$10,000 but by the end of the evening, family, friends and business partners together donated \$66,865.00!

While the Kolibabs were overwhelmed by everyone's generosity, they were particularly curious about the business community's strong support. Curtis asked business associate Gayle MacDonald to elaborate on why a business might choose to participate in such fundraising events.

Often a business is made aware of a cause as a result of something that happens to one of its employees or other associates. Such was the case with MacDonald: "Curtis and Shantel brought the need for a second telemetry bed to my attention. I was happy to support the event, as it would benefit both Brock and his entire family."

People are a business's greatest asset because they give of their time, talent,

energy and ideas. In MacDonald's words, "People can work anywhere, but when they choose to work for you, you need to support them as well. Many Saskatchewan residents are born and raised in small towns and understand that everyone helps each other. It's easy to recognize this same mentality in communities in urban centres as well, with respect to fundraising events. Communities just come together to fill the immediate need, whatever it is."

We have all heard that time is our most precious gift. Saskatchewan is home to many volunteers who give of their time to ensure specific needs are met, and many of these are employees of both small and large businesses who view fundraising events as a good way to support causes they believe in. Royal University Hospital Foundation thanks Curtis, Shantel, Brock and Kylie for their passion and commitment to give back, and also the individuals and businesses that so willingly supported the Kolibabs' initiative. The new equipment has now been ordered and by fall, patients with epilepsy will have to wait only half as long as they do now for telemetry monitoring.

