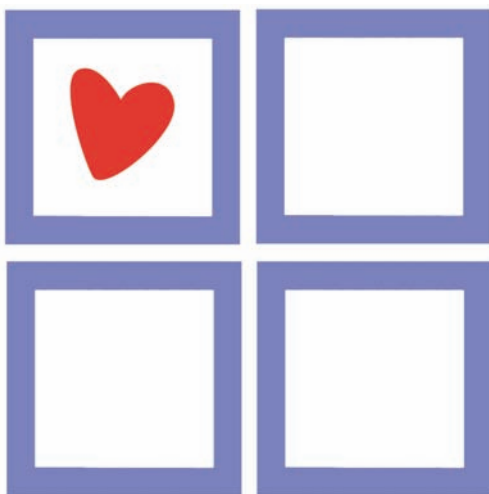


**Dr. Mark Montgomery
with Nicole, the first child
to test positive for
Cystic Fibrosis during his
research project.**



Celebrating a
Canadian first!

**Did you
know that
our hospital
helped
Alberta
become the
first province
in Canada to
test newborns
for Cystic
Fibrosis?**



Thanks to research funded by the community and led by experts here at the Alberta Children's Hospital, our province has become the first in the country to test all newborns for Cystic Fibrosis (CF).

CF is a life-limiting illness which attacks the lining of the lungs and the digestive system. The earlier it is detected and treated, the less long-term damage the disease will have on a child's body.

"In the past, many infants would have progressed well into the disease before they were diagnosed. This could result in failure to thrive, persistent lung infections or even learning disabilities," says Dr. Mark Montgomery, the CF specialist at the Alberta Children's Hospital who led the research project. "Now that we can diagnose cystic fibrosis earlier, we can give these kids a better chance at a longer, healthier life."

Community support for this research project was provided by the Kinsmen Children's Hospital Home Lotto.

Holly Wagner's daughter, Nicole, was the first baby to test positive for CF during Dr. Montgomery's research project. Although saddened by the news, Holly was grateful to know that her little girl was going to get the help she needed.

Thanks to the early answers provided by genetic testing, Nicole was able to begin treatment for cystic fibrosis long before the illness could begin to affect her little body. Early treatment helps her absorb more nutrients and protects her lungs from permanent damage. For the family, finding out early saved them a lot of stress and worry.

As Holly points out, "It would have been awful to see Nicole get so sick and wonder what was going on. It's good to know what we're dealing with. The doctors and nurses at the hospital have give us great support as we deal with the day-to-day life of having a child with cystic fibrosis."

Today, Nicole is a happy and thriving 2-year-old little girl. She chats endlessly on her pretend cell phone and enjoys bugging her big brothers.

"Now that we can diagnose cystic fibrosis earlier, we can give these kids a better chance at a longer, healthier life."

*Dr. Mark Montgomery,
lead researcher and CF specialist
at the Alberta Children's Hospital*

