

# Just For Kids

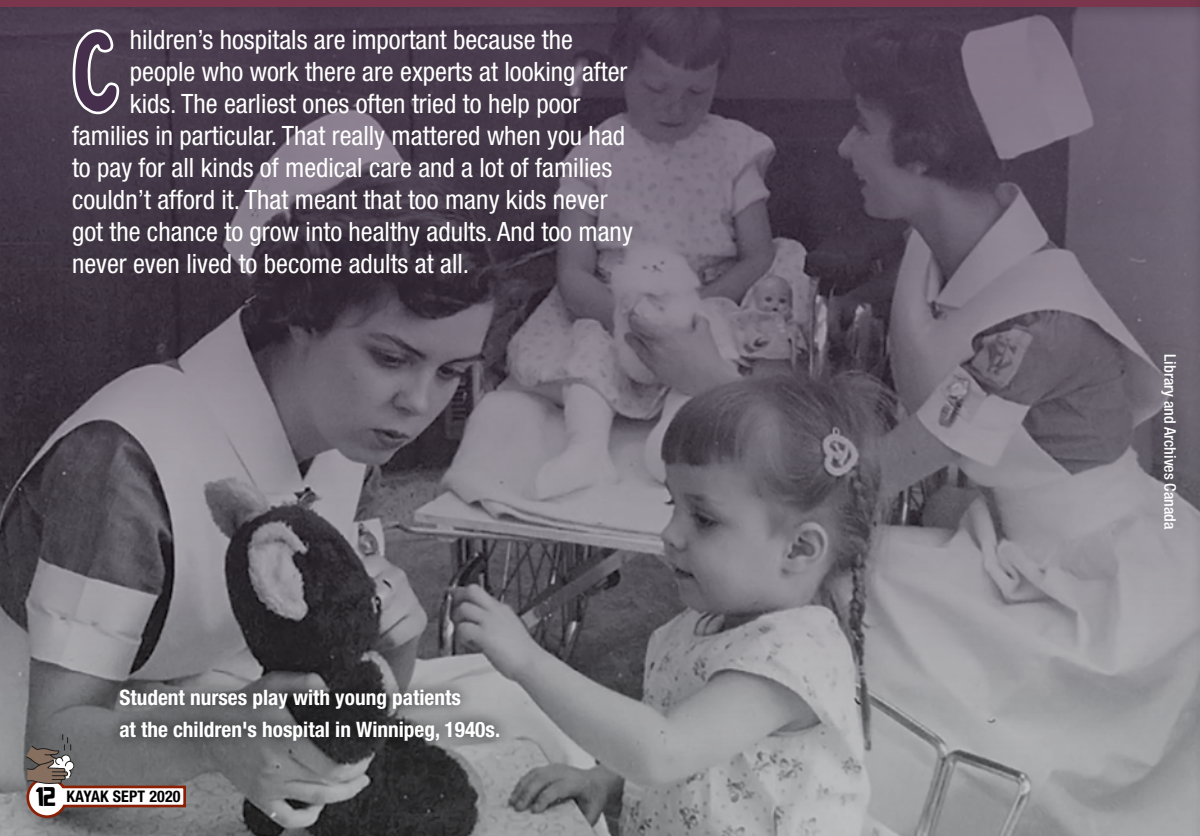
Thanks to the work of caring people, there are children's hospitals all over Canada.



Irma LeVasseur

Her home province of Quebec wouldn't let Irma LeVasseur study to become a doctor, so she went to the United States. Finally, in 1903, she became the first female French-Canadian doctor. Soon she saw how many children, especially from poor families, were getting sick or injured and dying because they didn't get proper care. She travelled to Europe to learn more about diseases that affect children. In 1907, back in Montreal, she met Justine Lacoste-Beaubien. They formed a group of women who set up the Sainte-Justine Hospital in Montreal in 1908 just to look after children. Now called the Centre hospitalier universitaire Sainte-Justine, it is a huge organization devoted to caring for tens of thousands of children, teenagers and mothers every year.

Children's hospitals are important because the people who work there are experts at looking after kids. The earliest ones often tried to help poor families in particular. That really mattered when you had to pay for all kinds of medical care and a lot of families couldn't afford it. That meant that too many kids never got the chance to grow into healthy adults. And too many never even lived to become adults at all.



Library and Archives Canada

Student nurses play with young patients at the children's hospital in Winnipeg, 1940s.



A doctor who specializes in treating children is called a pediatrician (PEE-dee-ah-TRISH-an).



The Hospital for Sick Children was the first of its kind in Canada. It opened in 1875, and is now known as SickKids.



There are no hospitals just for kids in the Yukon, Northwest Territories or Nunavut. Children who need special care have to fly somewhere else, like the Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton or Ottawa's Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.



One of the country's newest children's hospitals is Janeway Hospital in St. John's, NL. It opened in 1966, on the site of a former American air force base.

Although they had no children, Izaak Walton Killam and his wife Dorothy Killam left money when they died to set up a children's hospital in Halifax. It was named after Izaak, who was said to be the richest man in the country when he died in 1955.

