

Media Release

“His fight wasn’t, and will not be, in vain,” says grieving mom

Evan’s Legacy to donate \$70,000 to ground-breaking childhood brain cancer research

LONDON, CANADA, May 2 2016 – For Nicole Wellwood, it’s been five months since her 7-year-old son Evan passed away. And while every day is a challenge, the incredible support shown to Nicole’s family and children during this time has allowed the grieving mother to keep a promise she made to Evan: To help put an end to brain cancer so no other child goes through what Evan did.

First introduced to the world as the young boy who celebrated Christmas in October 2015 ([link](#)), the Wellwoods’ hometown of St. George, ON, rang in the winter festivities last fall to ensure Evan could experience his favourite holiday one last time. Less than two months after that special occasion, Evan died from the brain cancer he battled for most of his short life. Since October, donations have come in from across Canada and the world for *Evan’s Legacy*, a fund set up to support breakthrough brain cancer research. The almost \$35,000 raised so far will turn into \$70,000 as part of a special matching gift campaign through Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada.

“I don’t even know how I could possibly thank everyone who’s been a part of Evan’s journey. I feel so blessed to have had my sweet little boy in my life for 7 years. While my heart is broken, it’s slowly being mended by the outpouring of love and support we’ve received,” says Nicole.

The money donated to *Evan’s Legacy* is funding a special childhood brain cancer research project led by Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada, in partnership with Brain Canada and the Canadian Cancer Society, with the initiative between the three health organizations matching these contributions dollar-for-dollar. The project is helmed by world-renowned researcher, Dr. Michael Taylor, at SickKids in Toronto, ON, and focuses on finding better treatments for aggressive pediatric brain cancer. “Generous people are helping Nicole and her entire family fulfill their promises to Evan. The donations are going directly to life-changing research and are being matched at the same time, which is something really special,” says Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada CEO, Susan Marshall. “It’s imperative we help our kids not only survive, but thrive after a brain cancer diagnosis.” For more information, visit www.BrainTumour.ca/EvansLegacy.com.

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About the Childhood Brain Cancer Research

Medulloblastoma is the most common childhood brain cancer. While 40% to 90% of children diagnosed may survive (tumour subtype dependent), kids who do and are treated with chemotherapy or radiation are more likely to develop severe health and learning problems post-cancer. Renowned researcher, Dr. Michael Taylor (Toronto, ON), was the first to discover that medulloblastoma wasn’t just one form of brain cancer, but four distinct subtypes – each with their own DNA footprint. Now Dr. Taylor and his team want to know how each type of medulloblastoma changes in response to treatment, and how to develop personalized care for everyone diagnosed – so that children not only survive, but thrive.

About Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada

Every day in Canada, 27 people are diagnosed with a brain tumour. That’s 10,000 new diagnoses each year. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is the only national charity that offers information and support to patients affected by any kind of brain tumour – be it cancerous, non-malignant or metastases. The organization also funds ground-breaking research across North America and, since 1982, has dedicated over \$4 million to finding a cure and improving treatment for brain tumour survivors. Learn more at Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada’s website: www.BrainTumour.ca.

To schedule an interview with Nicole Wellwood or for further information, please contact:

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