

In research, your donations get twice the mileage!



Meet Simon and Daniel, 15-year-old fraternal twins from Saint-Prime, a town in the Lac-Saint-Jean region.

They are the poster boys for the fall campaign of the Foundation of Stars, which you formerly knew as the Foundation for Research into Children's Diseases.

But Simon and Daniel are more than that: they are kidney transplant patients, and more importantly, they are survivors. They are living proof that pediatric research can lead to life-saving medical advances and open doors to a once-impossible world, the world of recovery.

Let's not let sick children fight alone!

When we were asked to be the hosts of the Telethon, we immediately said yes! Then we met with sick kids and their families. Now, more than ever, we realize just how important donations are. We know that, given the funding, researchers can sometimes work miracles.

**Won't you come along on this great adventure by renewing your gift?
Thank you in advance!**

We probably don't need to remind you of how effective your donation can be. Just look at Simon and Daniel! When you give, you're saying that you're committed to the kids, that you're in the ring with all those children who are fighting their illnesses... and winning!

We need donations all year long!

By making a donation to the Foundation of Stars, you're supporting the vital efforts of those we like to call our 'heroes in white lab coats', the people who are determining tomorrow's medicine. We're talking about the researchers at the Montreal Children's Hospital, the Sainte-Justine Hospital, the "*Centre hospitalier universitaire de Québec*", the "*Centre hospitalier universitaire de Sherbrooke*" and the Maternal, Infant, Child and Youth Research Network (MICYRN).

Every week, we hear touching personal accounts from people who are dedicated to research, who truly believe in it, and who know how fundamental it is. Those people include Lise Vandal and Claude Gosselin, Simon and Daniel's parents, who suffer from a rare genetic disorder called cystinosis.

The Foundation
for Research
into Children's
Diseases is now the
**FOUNDATION
OF STARS!**

"We can't just do the impossible, we can outdo it. When we agreed to be hosts of the Telethon of Stars, we set ourselves a lofty goal: to increase our fundraising objective. Join us and many other generous donors in helping make many more crucial research projects happen, so that more children can be cured."

*Lori Graham
Randy Tieman*



See Simon and Daniel's story
of hope overleaf ➤

WHY DONATE? Read on. You'll understand!

- In Quebec, children 0 to 19 years of age have a 1 in 400 chance of developing cancer. Each year, Quebec's pediatric oncology centres treat 250 to 300 new cases of juvenile cancer.
- Of every 100 Quebec children with cancer, 35 have leukemia, 18 have brain tumours, 39 have solid tumors and 8 have other forms of cancer.
- Heart malformations affect 1% to 2% of Quebec's children.
- Autism affects between 3,000 and 4,000 people in Quebec. In fact, more children are diagnosed each year.

Pas pareils, mais pareils...

When they were born, Simon and Daniel were little bundles of health, the apples of their parents' eyes.

At the age of three and a half, Daniel had to be hospitalized. Something wasn't right. Doctors discovered that his cells contained too much cystine, an amino acid that prevents the cells from functioning normally when in overly high concentrations. Cystinosis is a rare metabolic



En avion

disorder, with some 90 cases in Quebec, 15 of which are in the Lac-Saint-Jean region, an incidence rate 10 times greater than the average in the world. The illness affects the kidneys, eyes, muscles, pancreas and brain to varying degrees, explained the twins' mother Lise. "Both my husband and I carry the gene."

It wasn't long before the family was hit with a second bombshell. "We were worried that Simon might also have been affected, and he was."

Until they were 10, everything went relatively well. The brothers made frequent visits to the hospital, took some 20 medications a day and were often dehydrated, but overall, they managed to live a relatively normal life.

However, in 2001, things took a turn for the worse. Simon's kidneys began showing signs of exhaustion, and so the doctors started him on dialysis. "Every night, often after school, Simon was hooked up to his machine at home. My husband and I basically became his nurses! For Simon, it was a difficult time. He wanted to be just like his friends. It was clear that a transplant had become necessary. And we knew full well that Simon's odds of survival would improve if he received a kidney from a living donor."

2 transplants, 2 success stories!

After a year of tests, the results were positive: their mother Lise was a compatible donor. "My husband was as determined as I was to donate a kidney, but his blood type didn't match the twins.'" You can probably see where this story is heading. "The dilemma was heart-breaking. Who would get the kidney? We had a painful choice to make. We knew that Simon's brother Daniel would also need a new kidney soon. But for Simon, the need was more urgent, so I gave him my kidney."



Fête à 9 ans



Arbre en arbre

The operation was a complete success: Both Simon and Lise recovered quickly.

And because life is full of surprises both bad and good, one year later, Daniel also received a brand new kidney. "It was a real gift from above. In fact, the generous donor was my sister Diane, who I like to call my little miracle! And although my brother had also secretly gone through all the testing, he wasn't compatible. In the end, I guess you could say it was a family affair!"

Please give!

Today, the brothers are 15 years old, and like other kids their age, they argue, go to school and do what kids do.

"Just looking at them, you'd never know what they've been through. Of course, they still have to take medication and continue to be monitored by the doctors, but overall, they're doing great. They're a bit smaller than other kids their age, and their eyes are sensitive to sunlight, but they're still very much alive and living every day to the fullest! They know the routine. For one thing, they have to drink a lot of water. Because their kidneys aren't linked to their brain, they never feel thirsty. But by drinking a lot, they keep their kidneys from getting lazy."


So when it comes to the twins' kidneys, it's a happy ending. But cystinosis is an illness with no cure, so they'll never be able to truly declare victory. At least not yet.

"Research is fundamental," says Lise Vandal. "It's the only way to attack an illness on several fronts, to try out new possibilities to make advances. They have to keep at it, to continue to make progress and never ever give up!"

Thanks to donations like yours, researchers can win more battles and save even more sick children.

In closing, we feel compelled to remind you that, if you're lucky enough to have a healthy child or grandchild, then you should thank your lucky stars and please make a donation to the Foundation of Stars.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for donating today!


Lori Graham
Telethon of Stars host


Randy Tieman
Telethon of Stars host



THANKS TO
RESEARCH,
THE SUCCESS RATE
FOR KIDNEY
TRANSPLANTS
IS NOW BETWEEN
85% AND 95%!

Help us let research take another step forward

Good reasons to give



LEUKEMIA

The survival rate of children with lymphoblastic leukemia has skyrocketed from 20% to 80% today. This particular type of leukemia is the most common form of cancer in children. The significant increase in cure rates is a direct result of clinical research, which provides patients with access to the best treatment protocols and the most innovative treatments in existence.

CYSTIC FIBROSIS

In 45 years, the median life expectancy of children suffering from cystic fibrosis has jumped nearly tenfold from 4 to 37 years!

PREMATURE BABIES

Thanks to research, doctors can now save the lives of premature infants weighing as little as 500 grams.

PEDIATRIC CANCER

Thanks to advances in the treatment of pediatric cancer, over 82% of children stricken with cancer survive at least five years after being diagnosed.

TRANSPLANTS

The success rates of liver, heart and lung transplants in children have improved considerably in the past few years. In the case of kidney transplants, it has reached 85%.

**A passion for discovery. A passion for recovery.
A passion for life.**

SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME

Cases of sudden infant death syndrome have been cut in half.

HIV

In 1993, the rate of mother-to-child HIV transmission during pregnancy was over 30%. Today, thanks to the combination therapies that have been developed, the transmission rate is 0%!

SPINA BIFIDA

Each year, researchers catalogue major technical, surgical, therapeutic and pharmacological innovations relating to neural tube malformations and spina bifida.

\$ 56,314,000 IN 31 YEARS!

Since its first telethon in 1977, the Foundation of Stars has become the largest source of non-governmental funding for pediatric research in Quebec. To date, the Foundation has distributed \$56,314,000 to four leading-edge hospital research centres as well as to the MICYRN.

- The Montreal Children's Hospital
- The Sainte-Justine Hospital
- The « *Centre hospitalier universitaire de Québec* »
- The « *Centre hospitalier universitaire de Sherbrooke* »
- The Maternal, Infant, Child and Youth Research Network (MICYRN)



*A donation makes the stars shine
for children's health! Thank you for donating!*