



December, 2017

Reaching out a helping hand for sick kids

Thousands of sick and injured children turn to The Children's Hospital at Westmead for a helping hand every year. They rely on help from doctors for treatment, help from nurses for care and help from researchers for answers.

This March, the Bandaged Bear Appeal will rely on the help of the community to raise vital funds for the Hospital.

From 1 March – 31 March 2018, the annual Bandaged Bear Appeal will aim to raise \$1million to go towards lifesaving equipment, research into childhood diseases and deliver world class services for sick kids and their families, like 11-year-old Bandaged Bear Appeal ambassador, Seth.

Last August, Seth contracted a severe viral infection that saw him spend 10 weeks in hospital. The infection caused abscesses in Seth's brain, spine and kidneys and resulted in Seth losing the ability to walk, talk and eat on his own.

Seth required urgent lifesaving surgery to drain the abscesses in his brain and kidney followed by an intensive cycle of antibiotics and a strict rehabilitation regime. Slowly, over the weeks that follow, Seth began making small improvements and with the support of more than 10 teams behind him including speech, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, has continued to make a remarkable recovery that has defied the odds.

"The Children's Hospital at Westmead saved Seth's life. The services there are vital and if Seth didn't have that available to him, he wouldn't be with us today," said Seth's mum, Rebecca.

While Seth still has a long journey ahead of him, he is doing well and is getting stronger every day. He is now able to walk short distances and has returned to school a couple of days a week.

To support the Bandaged Bear Appeal and make a difference #forsickkids like Seth, the community can:

- Purchase Bandaged Bear Appeal merchandise on Bandaged Bear Day (Friday 2 March) from various train stations
- Make a donation by calling 1800 770 122 or online at www.bandagedbear.org.au
- Register to hold your own fundraising event in your school, community or workplace. Stuck on ideas? Head to www.bandagedbear.org.au for suggestions
- Become a corporate partner and show your support through your workplace
- Order merchandise to sell at your event, school, workplace or to friends and family

For more information, visit www.bandagedbear.org.au.

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