



By any measure, Dawson was one of the kindest, happiest children you'd ever be fortunate enough to meet. He cared about everyone and everything – most notably his family, friends, and teachers and he loved nature as a whole. His infectious smile, huge laughs, quick wit, and compassion made him a joy to be around.

In early February, 2010, Dawson was diagnosed with a brain tumour. The surgery to remove it seemed to be a great success but he suffered a massive stroke during recovery that ultimately claimed his short life. He died on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at eight years old.

It wasn't often that Dawson cried. When he did, it was usually over something that affected other people or things. Like a deer on the side of the road or when he cried in the hospital for the little boy that no one came to visit.

But there was one time when Dawson cried for himself that we particularly remember. It was shortly after we drove to Saskatoon. We had to go through registration at the emergency triage desk – it was loud and crowded. The trip to the pediatric emergency department, though short, was down a hallway that could best be described as a tunnel – not very welcoming for a child. Finally, as he was lying in his bed in pediatric emergency, he started to cry. When asked why he was crying, he said that he didn't like this place and didn't want to stay there. Who would? It was bright, noisy, and cramped and all that separated him from the chaos outside was a curtain around his bed. We assured him that he wouldn't have to stay here long and that we were sure, when he got to his room, it would be much better. It was not.

On the pediatrics ward, Dawson was in a shared room with four beds. It wasn't a very warm or inviting place for a child to be. There was no room for his many visitors and certainly no room for us to stay there with him. We took turns sleeping with him in his bed or lying on an old mattress on the floor. All night long, there were caregivers coming and going, tending to others in the room and it made for fitful sleeps.

Throughout Dawson's time there, we learned that children have different fears than we, as adults do. They still need to be happy – they need to play – they need to have their parents near – they need to feel comfortable and they need to feel safe. As parents, we focused on getting the best care for Dawson. We have no doubt we had good people taking care of him but the facility made our short time there difficult. Looking back, it would be hard to imagine having a lengthy stay in that environment for either the child or the parents.

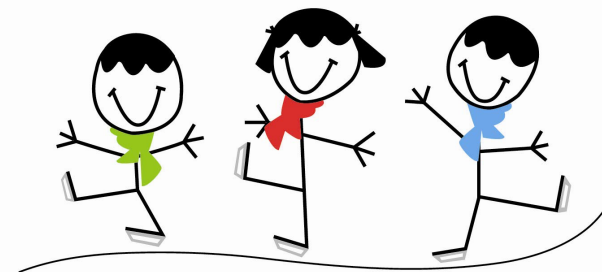
The new Children's Hospital will be designed from the ground up to address these issues. Not only will a new state-of-the-art facility be able to attract the best and brightest professionals to give the best possible outcome, but it will also provide for a stay that's as comfortable as possible for both the child and the parents. Children need a safe, comfortable place. Parents need to be there for the child and need to be capable of functioning at a time when their child needs them the most.

In Dawson's memory, his family would like to continue Dawson's love for life and his compassion for others. It is our intention, through events such as Skate4Smiles, to raise money and awareness for this important cause. All proceeds from this event will be donated, in Dawson's name to the Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan.

Please give generously . . .



PROCEEDS GO TO THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION OF SASKATCHEWAN



## Skate4Smiles

*In Memory of Dawson Ellert*

**March 27, 2011**

**2:30-4:30 PM**

*Registration begins at 1:30 PM*

COMMUNISKATE RINK  
201 Great Plains Road, Emerald Park, SK

**ACTIVITIES! FUN! FAMILY!  
DOOR PRIZES!**

### COLLECT AND WIN



**MOST NUMBER OF PLEDGES  
COLLECTED WINS AN IPOD TOUCH**

**MOST MONEY RAISED THROUGH  
PLEDGES WINS A SONY PS3**



**COLLECT A MINIMUM \$50 IN PLEDGES  
AND RECEIVE AN EVENT TSHIRT!**

**[www.skate4smiles.webs.com](http://www.skate4smiles.webs.com)**

**Name of Event:**      **Skate-4-Smiles**  
*In Memory of Dawson Ellert*



COMMUNISKATE ARENA  
 201 Great Plains Rd, Emerald Park, SK



Participants Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Proper skating attire and helmets  
 are mandatory**

**NOTE: Please print clearly and fill out all requested information. Illegible information will not be receipted.**

**\*\*\* All money raised for the Children's Hospital Foundation benefits pediatric health care in our province.\*\*\***

Name	Address	City/Province	Postal Code	Phone	Pledged Amount	Received Amount	
						chq	cash
EVENT DATE:						TOTAL	

Please make all Cheques Payable To: **Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan**      Tax Receipts will be issued for donations of **\$15 or more.**

For Office Use Only:		Received by: _____	
Pledges received \$ _____	Date: _____	Outstanding Pledged: \$ _____	Outstanding Received: \$ _____