



NATIONAL UPOPOLIS PROGRAM LEADER

FUNDING REQUEST

Upopolis® is a private and secure community for hospitalized children. It helps alleviate fear and anxiety, impacting treatment outcomes by enabling kids to:

Stay connected

- connect with friends, family & invited contacts
- instant message chat with Upopolis members

Stay up to date

- read kid-friendly medical information
- learn about hospital events & information

Share experiences

- upload photos
- create/join discussions with other Upopolis members



Overview:

Upopolis provides pediatric hospital patients with a private, safe and secure network where they can communicate with friends and family, and connect with other youth across Canada in hospital. One of the most popular features of Upopolis is the opportunity to express individuality, be creative and be active content contributors to the site through the creation of "spaces". These spaces may feature personal blogs, private forums to discuss diagnoses and medical experiences, hospital specific information and activities or fun and entertainment.

Need:

Upopolis began in 2007 at McMaster Children's Hospital and has since grown to include a network of 13 hospital and health care centres across Canada. With the growth of Upopolis and the number of youth with hospital experience accessing the site, comes the need to provide dynamic and engaging therapeutic programming and continued monitoring by an experienced health care professional. Each hospital and health care center has a designated staff member to be the Upopolis Super User who registers users, creates hospital specific content and monitors content. To keep users engaged, there is a need for the development of new content and programming that is consistently updated and relevant to today's youth.

"I think not having UPOPOLIS would make the time go by really slow, especially if you're in here for a long time...If you have this it's easier to stay in touch with people and do games and stuff like that"
Curtis, 14

"Upopolis has really helped me get through a lot! Being able to connect with other kids and teens going through treatment has really opened my eyes. Always knowing I have support from all the Upopolis users and that I support everyone is a really great thing to be able to turn to during treatment." – Maggie, 13

"I don't have any other social media than Upopolis so I really like using it because it is kinda like Facebook but better, LOL. Also on Facebook, you can't go to someone directly for advice because they could be someone you don't want to meet but on Upopolis you can trust." – Maria, 13

Solution:

Fund a **National Upopolis Program Leader** who is an experienced clinician and Certified Child Life Specialist (www.cacll.org) to expand the therapeutic outreach of Upopolis, create new programs and content, provide daily support, mentoring and develop best practices and unique programming for the use of Upopolis as a therapeutic modality.

The National Upopolis program leader will:

- Collaborate with designated healthcare staff at each Upopolis location to provide support and consultation in posting unique and interactive content.
- Engage Upopolis users and staff in quality improvement measures to ensure Upopolis continues to reflect the needs of today's pediatric healthcare landscape.
- Create and update therapeutic programming, interactive games and events and facilitate connections between users through the use of technology.
- Monitor blog and board discussions as patients link with their peers in hospital and across Canada for peer support. Facilitate live group sessions with guest speakers on topics voted on by Upopolis users.
- Develop the child friendly and interactive online medical content regarding medical procedures and illness to augment the education, preparation & support that allows healthcare professionals to build trusting relationships with pediatric patients and their families.

Benefits:

The Upopolis National Program Leader's expertise and focused attention will continue to expand Upopolis nationally and maximize Upopolis impact in enhancing and improving the quality of life of hospitalized children.

NATIONAL UPOPOLIS PROGRAM LEADER FUNDING REQUEST:

\$50,000 per year
for 3 years

3 year commitment: \$150,000

This represents the total cost to Kids' Health Links Foundation. For a 3-year commitment, KHLF will provide a 1/3 match for a net donation by donor of \$100,000.

About Kids' Health Links Foundation

Kids' Health Links Foundation (KHLF) is a registered Canadian charity that, through the use of technology, helps young hospital patients stay connected to their family, friends and schools, and with other patients across Canada (www.upopolis.com) Upopolis was developed in partnership with TELUS. KHLF has also developed and offers online resources for front line pediatric care professions (www.upedia.ca) and child and youth mental health professionals (www.UMIND.ca), across Canada. Find out more at www.kidshealthlinks.org. UPOPOLIS®, UPEDIA®, and UMIND® are registered trade-marks of Kids' Health Links Foundation.

