Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canadian superstar athlete siblings Kia and Darnell Nurse announce major gift in support of new teen recreation and therapeutic outdoor space at McMaster Children's Hospital

HAMILTON, Ont., Nov. 26, 2026 — MacKids announced today that renowned professional sports siblings Kia and Darnell Nurse have committed a major gift to McMaster Children's Hospital (MCH) to help support the creation of a new teen-dedicated outdoor recreation and therapeutic space. During the announcement at MCH, Kia shared the siblings' joint vision for an inclusive space where patients and their families can play and connect, supported by specialist care teams during their medical journey.

"Hamilton is my home and this community has meant so much to my family and I for generations. My parents always taught me that family comes first. And this is a belief I still hold dear. My brother and I are thrilled to be making this contribution to McMaster Children's Hospital - an organization that does so much for families in our community. Through the development of a basketball and hockey sport court, we'll enable kids to enjoy outdoor play in new ways." - Kia Nurse, WNBA guard.

The concept for the new space reflects the values the siblings were raised to uphold: the importance of family, education, sport and giving back. It is envisioned as a multi-purpose outdoor recreational space with different therapeutic options and activities geared towards the teen patient population. The space will include elements of basketball and hockey to represent both Kia and Darnell's professional passions and will give patients and their families a place to play and connect while supporting physical activity, connection to the outdoors and social interaction.

Raised in Hamilton, Kia and Darnell have reached the highest levels of their respective sports. Kia is a WNBA all-star, three-time Olympian and member of the Toronto Tempo, while Darnell is an NHL defenceman with the San Jose Sharks. Now, they are giving back to the community they call home by creating opportunities for patients and families across our region to bond through sport, play and shared experiences at MCH.

"Hamilton is our home, and McMaster Children's Hospital is such an important part of this city," says Darnell Nurse. "I'm grateful to be able to not only give back, but to do it alongside my sister. Kia and I want teens going through a tough time to have a place where they can get outside, play, and just be kids. If we can help bring a little joy and normalcy to those kids and their families, that's a win for our whole team." - Darnell Nurse, NHL defenceman.

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The new space will reflect Kia and Darnell's vision for a safe, inclusive environment where kids can be kids, move their bodies and strengthen relationships with family and friends. The space will evoke a clear message: two sports legends coming together to stand as one team supporting MacKids.

"Our children's hospital continues to make improvements and enhancements to ensure patients of all age groups have dedicated space to enjoy," says Anissa Hilborn, CEO of Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation. "Thanks to the generosity of Kia and Darnell, we're thrilled to have the opportunity to build another space for MacKids within our hospital, adding to our existing teen spaces available for play, therapy and connection."

Further details about the design of the new recreational and therapeutic space are expected to be shared in spring/summer 2027.

To learn more about McMaster Children's Hospital or support the hospital through a donation, visit mackids.ca

About MacKids

Through the compassion and generosity of its donors, MacKids makes exceptional care possible at McMaster Children's Hospital.

As one of Canada's leading pediatric hospitals, McMaster Children's Hospital, including Ron Joyce Children's Health Centre and McMaster University Medical Centre, provides care that's world-class, innovative, and full of heart. As a women's and children's hospital, the site offers an integrated approach to care, supporting families with specialized care throughout pregnancy, delivery, childhood and beyond. The hospital is home to leading programs in neonatal care, pediatric mental health, and childhood cancer. It is also a renowned academic teaching hospital and an international leader in hospital-based research.

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