FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PETERBOROUGH, ON, August 21, 2018 – Max Doyle will celebrate his fourth birthday on Saturday, Sept. 8 with thousands of shoppers and his family who are grateful to see him reach this milestone.

Max was born in Lindsay with a chromosome microdeletion, which means he’s missing a piece of a chromosome, which contributes to one’s ability to swallow and also affects physical and cognitive development. Max’s first three weeks were spent at Orillia Soldier’s Memorial Hospital in the neo-natal ICU where he overcame breathing challenges, a serious blood infection and issues with the left side of his body. The Doyles were told Max would require a feeding tube and may never walk or talk.

While one month old, he started aggressive physiotherapy, respiratory therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy at Five Counties Children’s Centre to overcome the choking issues and to support his development.

“Max wouldn’t be here without Five Counties Children’s Centre,” his father Tony Doyle says. “He was months behind in his development and now he’s caught up and no longer has any issues with swallowing, thanks to the staff at Five Counties Children’s Centre. They gave him the best shot at having a normal life.”

more...
By getting treatment early, Max responded quickly. He even had two Five Counties’ team members travel to Toronto to be part of swallow tests so they could better work with Sick Kids on Max’s care and rehabilitation. They also gave the Doyle family exercises and activities that his four older siblings could do at home with him. Max’s siblings were also a huge part of his recovery.

“In addition to the amazing support Five Counties provided to Max, they also provided emotional support to our family,” his mother Kelly Doyle says. “Most often the appointments would start with asking how we were doing with all of this and offer a hug. It was such a scary time for all of us with not knowing Max’s fate and we felt so much support from the therapists and are truly thankful for them.”

This year, the couple and Max’s four siblings will join staff and volunteers from the children’s treatment centre at Behind Closed Doors, a private shopping event at Lansdowne Place, to mark Max’s birthday with blue cupcakes. Shoppers will be invited to sign his birthday card as a memento from the evening.

Behind Closed Doors is an annual event where Lansdowne Place opens up on a Saturday evening to shoppers who buy tickets in support of 12 local charities. Five Counties is one of this year’s charities, selling tickets $5 in advance at the Centre or at the mall. All ticket proceeds sold for Five Counties goes directly back to their organization.

Tickets at the door are sold for $10 each (while supplies last) at Lansdowne Place when the doors open at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 8. The event runs until 10:30 p.m. with exciting discounts and promotions offered throughout the mall for one night only alongside entertainment based on a Mardi Gras theme.

Visit lansdowneplace.com for full event details.

To buy ticket or find out more about Five Counties Children’s Centre, contact Lois Tuffin, Fund Development Co-ordinator, at 705-748-2337, ext. 380 or ltuffin@fivecounties.on.ca.

###
Five Counties Children’s Centre is an outpatient treatment centre for children from birth to 19 years of age in Peterborough, Northumberland and Haliburton counties and the City of Kawartha Lakes with physical, developmental and communication needs. Since 1976, Five Counties Children’s Centre has been working with children, adolescents and their families, along with the community, to support their participation as active members of the community. In partnership with families and communities we strive to enrich their independence and quality of life. For more information please visit www.fivecounties.on.ca.

For more information contact:

Lois Tuffin  
Fund Development Coordinator  
Five Counties Children’s Centre  
Phone: 705-324-9320 ext. 585  
Email: ltuffin@fivecounties.on.ca

Stephenie Bowie  
Executive Assistant/Communications Support  
Five Counties Children’s Centre  
Phone: 705-324-9320 ext. 200  
Email: sbowie@fivecounties.on.ca