

# Golden smiles for athletes

Olympians spread Sunshine at Hospital for Sick Children

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 Sun Media

Two Olympic hockey gold medallists scored big, shy smiles yesterday from youngsters at Sick Kids hospital.

Jennifer Botterill and Jayna Hefford, members of the Canadian's Women's Hockey League, even met two fans.

"They're cool," Sebastian Stawiarski, 16, said after receiving medallions from the pair, who play for teams in Peel Region.

Undergoing treatment for Chron's disease, Sebastian said the brief interlude was his "first time" with hockey stars.

A keen TV hockey viewer, he loves the Leafs but suggested the women "work harder."

### Volunteer helpers

Ryan Hall, 9, of East York, liked the pair, who joined about a dozen volunteers helping kids colour Halloween art as part of Project Sunshine's fall sun fair.

Ryan, who is undergoing chemotherapy and also enjoys the game on TV, confided his favourite star on ice is Sidney Crosby, captain of the Pittsburgh Penguins.

The lad also quickly named double Olympic gold medalist Hayley Wickenheiser, the first woman to play full-time professional hockey at a position other than goalie.

Going home today after having her appendix removed, Kathy Ayala, 8, of North York,



MARK O'NEILL/SUN MEDIA

Canadian Hockey Olympians Jennifer Botterill, left, and Jayna Hefford have a warm visit with Maia Davies, 3, at Sick Children's Hospital yesterday. The two were pitching in at the hospital with about a dozen Project Sunshine volunteers.

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have the two autograph their photos.

A non-profit organization, Project Sunshine provides children and families facing medical challenges with free educational, recreational and social programs at hospitals and said she was happy to

After collecting more than \$225,000 in its first Toronto fundraiser last year, the group opened an office here in February.

"We tried to bring a few smiles to the kids' faces," said Botterill, who is a five-time world champion and three-

time Olympic gold medalist.

"It's always fun to meet young hockey fans," added Hefford, a six-time world champion and double Olympic gold medalist.

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