



**Hôpitaux Shriners**  
pour enfants®  
**Shriners Hospitals**  
for Children®

**Canada**

## **12 year old Mykola, Casualty of War, Gets Care in Montreal Thanks to Shriners Hospitals for Children – Canada**

MONTREAL, May 19, 2016 – 12 year old Mykola lost both legs and his right arm when he innocently stepped on an undetonated grenade in his Ukrainian hometown last year on the Russian border. He has undergone several surgeries, is now walking unaided and has received his new prosthetic arm, thanks to Shriners Hospitals for Children® – Canada. His story exemplifies the devastating effects of war on children and families. Yet Mykola's story has a positive twist as Canadians have come forward to help him. His story would not be the same without Canada-Ukraine Foundation and Canada Shriners Hospital, which provides life-changing orthopaedic care not only to children from this country, but to kids from around the world regardless of the family's ability to pay.

We are inviting you to come meet Mykola and his mother, Alla, learn more about his story and witness his progress.

You will be invited to film an occupational therapy session (arm) and a physiotherapy session (walking). You may also choose to film a physiotherapy session in our therapy pool.

**DATE:** Thursday, May 19, 2016

**TIME:** 9:50 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. (pool physiotherapy session starts at 1 p.m.)

**WHERE:** Shriners Hospitals for Children – Canada  
1003, boul. Décarie, Montreal, QC H4A 0A9

**PARKING:** See attached parking instructions

### **ON HAND TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS:**

**Patient:** Mykola; Alla Nyzhnykovskya, mother

#### **From Canada Shriners Hospital:**

Christine Boyle, Administrator;

Reggie Hamdy, M.D., Chief-of-Staff and Orthopaedic Surgeon;

Marie Laberge-Malo, M.D., Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation;

Rochelle Rein, Physiotherapist; Stephanie Gould, Physiotherapist; Sarah Cachecho, Occupational Therapist

**From Canada-Ukraine Foundation:** Tanya Bednarczyk

### **More about Mykola's Story**

On August 24, 2015, Mykola and his 4 year old brother Danyo were playing with two other friends near their home in Eastern Ukraine on the Russian border. When Mykola

stepped on an undetonated grenade, the blast immediately killed Danyo and left Mykola as a triple amputee. He also sustained severe injuries to his skull, face, teeth, eyes, and other parts of his body.

In the midst of tragedy, there was luck. Canada-Ukraine Foundation (CUF) had organized a medical mission in Kiev with Canadian doctors. When they got wind of his case in November 2015, they treated Mykola's skull injuries. Following the surgery, CUF decided to continue helping Mykola and find him care for his numerous other injuries.

Canada-Ukraine Foundation contacted organizations around the world asking for help. Immediately, Chief-of-Staff at Canada Shriners Hospital, Reggie Hamdy, M.D., answered their urgent plea. Shriners Hospitals for Children – Canada was the only organization to commit help. Upon seeing him for the first time on December 7, 2015, Dr. Hamdy immediately admitted Mykola as an in-patient. Shriners Hospitals for Children – Canada has since agreed to pay for all of Mykola's medical care in Canada, whether it be at Canada Shriners Hospital or at partner hospitals, until Mykola is 21. Canada-Ukraine Foundation has been raising money to pay for Mykola and Alla's living expenses. They continue to raise money to help fund his care in Ukraine and fund future trips from Ukraine to Canada in order to receive treatment at Canada Shriners Hospital ([helpmykola.com](http://helpmykola.com)). Canada Shriners Hospital funds the medical care of international patients. While travel expenses and lodging for patients within Canada are covered, they are not for international patients who must have hosts in Canada.

Mykola received his prosthetic legs in early January 2016 and has been undergoing intense physiotherapy ever since. Learning to walk with prosthetics is a long process and Mykola can now walk a little unaided. He recently received a myoelectric arm and has begun occupational therapy to learn how to use it.

### **More about Shriners Hospitals for Children – Canada**

Established in Montreal in 1925, Shriners Hospitals for Children – Canada is the only Canadian establishment within the network of 22 Shriners Hospitals, the others located in the U.S. and Mexico. The bilingual, short-term, acute care hospital provides ultra-specialized orthopaedic care to children from coast to coast, the U.S. and around the world. The mission of the hospital is to promote health and provide treatment and rehabilitation to infants, children and young adults with orthopaedic and neuromuscular problems such as scoliosis, brittle bone disease, club feet, hip dysplasia, leg length discrepancies and cerebral palsy. The hospital is committed to excellence and innovation in clinical practice, research and education and to ensuring patients and their families are treated in a caring, family-friendly environment. The hospital is affiliated with McGill University and provides clinical experience and teaching for residents and allied professionals. The hospital is present in communities across Canada thanks to telemedicine, outreach clinics and two satellite clinics located in Winnipeg and Halifax. Shriners Hospitals for Children – Canada has been helping kids reach their full potential for 90 years and counting.

Donations to Shriners Hospitals for Children – Canada ([exceptionalcareforkids.com](http://exceptionalcareforkids.com)) go towards providing life-changing care to children like Mykola.

### **Information for media**

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