


Giving Matters

Spring 2020 Newsletter

How YOU help care for patients at Guelph General Hospital



Our community has shown generosity, ingenuity, resourcefulness, kindness and compassion – we truly are in this together.

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- You make a difference to patient safety
- A former patient offers a heartfelt thanks
- Your support allowed us to transfer \$2,278,767 to GGH this past fiscal year

THE FOUNDATION OF
GUELPH
GENERAL HOSPITAL

Saving lives and improving health, together with our community

Your care and generosity gives our Hospital's caregivers strength to endure.

We know Guelph has a strong reputation for being a caring and generous community, but in the face of adversity, we have been truly humbled to witness the full extent of our community's desire and commitment to support Guelph General Hospital.

Since mid-March, the generosity of 750 individuals and organizations has rolled up to nearly \$500,000 in our COVID-19 Critical Response Fund. These funds are available to help the Hospital respond to emerging needs related to the pandemic. For example, donations could fund new ventilators that are currently on order, items that make it easier for us to maximize our critical supply of personal protective equipment (PPE), and supports for our staff.

In addition to financial donations, hundreds of you have reached out offering support in many other ways. Individuals and businesses have donated PPE. Local manufacturers have leveraged their equipment to produce face shields for our frontline healthcare workers. Local distilleries started making hand sanitizer and have donated a generous supply to the Hospital.

One donor purchased 20 computer tablets to make it possible for our patients to visit virtually with loved ones.

To manage all the in-kind donations, Linamar Corporation has stepped up to be our off-site receiver, warehousing and tracking inventory.



Tammy Hummel and Alyssa Timm, Linamar, at the off-site warehouse they created for us.

More than 200 community members have put their sewing skills to use. We've received more than 10,000 sewn items including cloth masks, scrub caps, and ear savers.

Hundreds of items have been donated to support staff including restaurant gift certificates, snacks, beverages, magazines, insoles, gift bags and hand cream. Still other businesses and individuals are starting their own fundraisers with proceeds being directed to our COVID-19 Critical Response Fund.

These are exceptionally challenging times, but together we are stronger.

Just as meaningful, are the heartfelt messages sent through our White Heart Project. Close to 200 messages have been received and are displayed for staff to read and draw strength from. Thank-you messages and beautiful words of encouragement continue to appear in the growing rock garden in front of the Hospital, in the windows of homes, and on sidewalks. These messages are noticed and appreciated more than you can ever imagine.

"These are exceptionally challenging times, but together we are stronger," said Suzanne Bone, CEO, The Foundation of Guelph General Hospital. "I feel so much gratitude for every person and organization that has stepped forward to offer help."

We've created an album on our Facebook page to showcase and celebrate this incredible generosity. Please visit our album and, while on our Facebook page, give us a like!

Facebook.com/FdnGGH

Visit and like our Facebook page for the most current updates and news.



Cover photo: Rock garden made by the community in front of Guelph General Hospital

YOU *make patient care better at Guelph*



Lynda Gilbert, MDR technician, demonstrates how a set of medical devices are placed into the sterilizer

You make a difference to patient safety

Recently, Guelph General Hospital's steam sterilizers were in need of replacement, our generous donors provided the funding to purchase new ones, at a cost of close to \$500,000.

Steam sterilizers are the most widely used, reliable, and effective method of sterilization found in the Medical Device Reprocessing Department (MDRD) of hospitals.

At Guelph General Hospital, over 93% of all sterilizations performed in the MDRD is completed using steam sterilizers. This method is used on everything from simple reusable instruments such as nurses' scissors to much more complex instrument sets used during surgical procedures. Monthly, over 15,000

reusable medical items are sterilized using these critical pieces of equipment for patient safety.

The new sterilizers arrived and all are now in use. The timing couldn't have been more ideal.

Sterilizers are always critically important and have become even more so during the pandemic. "COVID-19 reminds us of just how quickly and quietly bacteria and viruses can spread", said Jen Ritchie, Manager of Guelph General Hospital's MDRD. "A suite of brand new steam sterilizers means we can reliably meet the reprocessing needs of the Hospital."

As a bonus, the new sterilizers use significantly less energy and water than our old ones.

To our kind and caring donors, Jen shared these words of thanks. "On behalf of the MDR team, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation for your generosity. Your contribution supports our continued commitment to patient safety. It will have a major impact on our ability to provide the safest care possible to our patients."



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Jenny Griffin, Director of Perioperative Services, Ambulatory Care, and Bariatrics (L) and Laurene Palubeskie, Porter Attendant (R)



Nicole Young, Occupational Therapist (L) with the Foundation's Alex Madott (R)

You give physicians a high definition view

Improvements in optics and the introduction of high definition (HD) images are two enhancements in today's medical equipment that have proven time and again to be game-changers in the diagnosis and treatment of disease and illness.

Recently, you and other generous donors funded ten new cystoscopes for use in Guelph General Hospital's Hasenfratz Ambulatory Care Unit where they are used more than 3,500 times each year!

A scope is a hollow tube with a camera lens at the end. Magnified images from the camera lens are displayed on a screen where the physician can see them. A cystoscope is used to diagnose, monitor and guide the treatment of conditions affecting the urethra and bladder such as cancer or bladder and kidney stones.

With improved optics and HD video display in the new cystoscopes, procedures can be performed more quickly and diagnosis is more accurate.

You keep staff safe from injury

Patients at Guelph General Hospital often need to be taken from one area of the Hospital to another, perhaps from the OR to their patient room to recover, or from their patient room to Diagnostic Imaging for a test.

For patients who must remain laying down, lateral transfer boards are very helpful to safely and comfortably transfer them from stretcher to bed or vice versa.

Your helpful support last year allowed Guelph General Hospital to purchase new lateral transfer boards.

In addition to improving the safety and comfort of patients, the boards reduce the physical strain on nurses and other staff while they transfer their patient.



All equipment used in the direct care of patients at Guelph General Hospital is funded by a caring donor – **like you**

1/2 inch cut off for roll fold

YOU *save lives and improve health*



We often receive letters from former patients letting us know how much they appreciated the care received while at Guelph General Hospital. These letters usually focus on the incredible team of staff at the Hospital, and the compassion and kindness with which they work. What we know is that behind this team stand our donors, people like you, funding the vital equipment that enables the highest quality care and experience to be provided.

We thought we'd share one such letter received recently that was addressed to Marianne Walker, CEO, Guelph General Hospital. It is our honour to pass along this patient's gratitude to you. Thank you for helping us save lives and improve health, together with our community.

Hello Ms. Walker,

I have just recently returned home after spending 7 days in your 6 West ward for surgery. I would like to congratulate you and your wonderful staff for their tremendous professionalism in a chaotic, unique time.

With all the fears about COVID-19, possible supply shortages your staff remained caring, dedicated, compassionate and efficient. I found that absolutely amazing that they could be so compassionate and patient when the world around them was spinning out of control and they were targets in the storm. I am certain that they had fears but they expressed them amongst themselves – not letting it affect any of their duties to the patients. I loved the cooperation that they exuded – when someone was overwhelmed another nurse or staff member would step in and help.

Bravo to a wonderful “front line” of workers. I needed care and they were there delivering it with sensitivity- a difficult thing to do when you have a young family at home and you are working on the battle lines – front row.

Please offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone on 6 West and thank them for being so special. I trust that everyone keeps healthy and safe and good luck to you as you journey down this dangerous, unknown pathway of global turmoil.

Sincerely,
Judy



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YOU are a part of our healthcare team



You give our caregivers the tools they need to heal, comfort, and care for patients

Thanks to you, \$2,278,767 was transferred to the Hospital in 2019/20 for patient care equipment.

Your support is critical because every piece of equipment used in the direct care of patients at Guelph General Hospital is funded by donations.

Just this past year, you helped keep newborn babies warm with new incubators; you helped patients receive accurate and timely diagnosis with new microscopes; and you improved the comfort and safety of medical procedures with new portable ultrasound machines that help guide the procedures.

Donor-funded equipment is also making a difference during the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, thanks to donors, just about every patient now has a dedicated vital signs monitor, which means no sharing and reduced risk of spreading germs.

And patients in our Intensive Care Unit are resting on new beds with state-of-the-art technology to keep them comfortable. Both of these examples owe thanks to donors like you.

Visit our website to see full listings of patient care equipment made possible each year by you and generous others in our community:
www.gghfoundation.ca/publications



Community Events

Community members and businesses help make patient care better at Guelph General Hospital.

Guelph Family Martial Arts



About \$1,000 has been raised by Guelph Family Martial Arts during their free Facebook Live workout hosted each Friday during COVID-19.

Marek Hospitality



Thank you to Marek Hospitality for fundraising through a Guelph General Chili Cook Off, held in February and by selling heart-shaped brownies for Valentines Day.