

GivingMatters

Spring 2022 Newsletter

How YOU help care for patients at Guelph General Hospital

\$37,496,057!!

Together,
We 
Care

**Thanks to YOU, we exceeded our
Together, We Care fundraising goal!**

Inside

- Learn the impact of your support
- Meet the patients you help care for
- Suzanne Bone reflects on 31 years as Foundation's CEO
- Meet Julie Byczynski, incoming CEO

THE FOUNDATION OF
GUELPH
GENERAL HOSPITAL

Saving lives and improving health together with our community



Spotlight on three critical areas of

1

Expand Emergency Services



Emergency Department and mental health services expansion anticipated to start early next year

Your support is already making a difference in the Emergency Department with new equipment. Plans are now moving ahead to expand the square footage in the ED by 60%.

We'll add 14 more assessment rooms, reducing the need to care for patients in hallways, and reducing wait times. We'll create larger care spaces with walls instead of curtains. This is so important for supporting patient comfort, privacy and dignity. This is also important for infection control.

We're going to relocate mental health and addictions care services to a specialized space and we're going to double capacity in the short-stay unit. We will also co-locate community services to this space, for more co-ordinated and timely mental healthcare.

Community is responsible for 10% of the construction costs, and we've been able to tell the Ministry of Health that these funds are already in hand which puts the hospital in a better position to get this project fully approved. We anticipate construction to start next year! ❤️



3

Give babies and families the best start possible



Construction is starting in just a couple weeks on the new expanded Special Care Nursery!

It's been years of planning, working with the Ministry of Health for approvals and, of course, fundraising.

Each year, about 350 new babies need to spend time in our Special Care Nursery (SCN) to ensure the best start possible.

The expanded space will allow parents to sleep in with their babies in rooms with walls and doors, not curtains, for enhanced infection control, privacy and bonding. New equipment with technological advances will allow improved assessment and monitoring of birth and recovery, reducing risks for mom and baby. The Family Birthing Unit Operating Room, where C-sections are performed, is also being updated, as is the newborn resuscitation space, right beside the OR.

All in all, the new SCN will foster Guelph General's philosophy of integrated and family-centred care and be a beautiful space for babies to get a terrific start. ❤️



Go to TogetherWeCare.ca to learn how your donations

need

2

Invest in new equipment and technology



Already, more than \$15 million in campaign funds have been used to buy priority equipment

With your help, the Hospital was able to replace many essential pieces of patient care equipment that were nearing end of life. But they weren't just replaced. In nearly all cases, the replacements are upgrades, with advancements that result in better patient care. An example is the Hospital's new mammography machine. Guelph General was the first hospital in Canada to get the state-of-the-art machine. It is able to create 3D images of the breast and any abnormality found within. With the increased ability to view smaller lumps or shadows, an earlier diagnosis is possible. It also significantly reduces the number of false positive results, which is a huge benefit to patients.

Guelph General was also able to increase the quantity of various pieces of equipment. Vital signs monitors were placed at every patient bedside. Previously, there was one for every three to four patients. The Hospital had observed that it took a nurse up to four minutes to locate and clean a vital sign machine between patients. Multiplying the number of nurses working in a 24-hour period by the number of times they take vital signs over a year equated to 2,500 hours of nursing time! That time is now better spent at the patient's bedside. Donors funded more endoscopes and more portable ultrasound machines to help detect illness and guide procedures, and more blood pressure monitors to monitor patients after surgery. More of these and many other tools helps the Hospital to keep pace with the number of patients needing care, improves overall speed of delivery of care, and increases efficiency.

We also introduced new equipment and technology, like medication safety carts that support the hospital-wide medication safety initiative. Seventy medication safety carts were purchased, enough for every nurse on shift to have a dedicated cart. They will allow an electronic process to continue seamlessly from the electronic prescription all the way through to the nurse giving medications to their patients.

A full list of donor funded equipment can be found at www.togetherwecare.ca. ❤️

are being put into action at Guelph General Hospital.



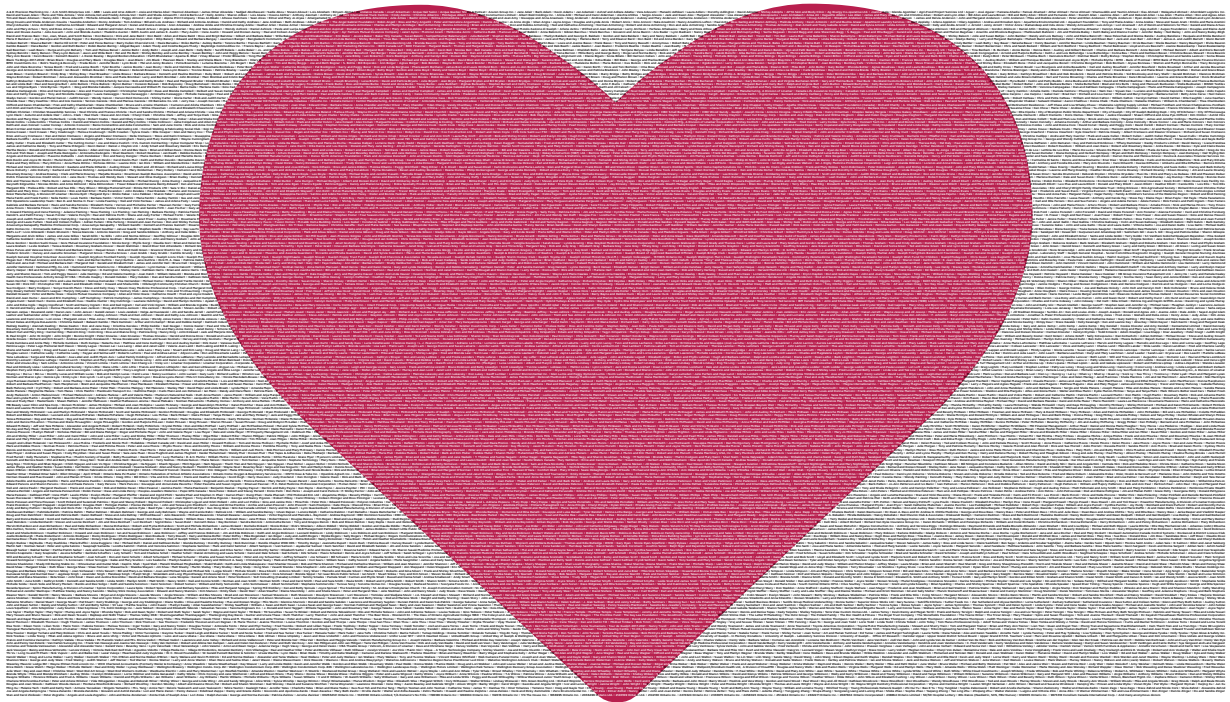
Nearly 10,000 individuals and organizations donated to the *Together, We Care* campaign! **Thank YOU!**

This image includes the names of every one of you who so kindly donated to *Together, We Care!*

Use the QR code on this page to be taken to a PDF image on the *Together, We Care* website where you can zoom in to read the names. You can also use the search tool to find your name, or you can search alphabetically by last name or organization name.



Thank you to all those who generously donated...



This image visually illustrates how we save lives and improve health, together with our community. Seeing all these names together overwhelms us with gratitude. We are thankful! ❤️



Together, you cared for...

Laura Keller

When Laura Keller arrived at Guelph General for a lumpectomy last May, she needed a battery of imaging the day of her surgery. First, there was a radioactive tracer to see if any lymph nodes were affected, followed by ultrasound-guided needle localization, so the surgeon would know what tissue to remove. And then, a final mammogram before she was wheeled into the OR.

With so many steps involved and COVID still raging, Laura expected mix-ups. Instead, it was the smoothest process she's ever seen, and she's full of praise for the team who made that happen.



Laura Keller with her children.

She also appreciates how compassionate everyone was — like the nurse who squeezed her hand outside the operating room and told her she was going to be fine. "That meant the world," Laura says.

Today, she wants the community to know what a gem Guelph General is. And she wants to thank the donors who fund our imaging equipment. "Those kinds of machines save your life," she says.

Axel, Oscar and their parents Ariana and Mike Christie



Mike and Ariana Christie holding month-old Oscar and Axel.

Oscar and Axel were born at 34 weeks and stayed in the Hospital's Special Care Nursery (SCN) for the whole first month of their little lives.

Ariana recounts how frightened she was when she went into labour early. "I was scared and worried that the Hospital might not have the facilities to handle the situation. But I was reassured by the nurses and my obstetrician, who were all so knowledgeable and helped us through it."

She added, "The SCN staff worked as a team, answering all my questions, making me feel comfortable. And it was gratifying to see familiar faces and feel the homey atmosphere whenever we arrived at the unit."

Mike and Ariana applaud the changes being planned. "Being able to sleep with our babies and having a little more room will be a definite improvement," says Ariana.

Ron Asselstine

Ron Asselstine felt horrific pain shooting through his legs and called 911. At the hospital, a CT scan identified that blood clots had cut off his circulation in both legs and he needed bypass surgery immediately.

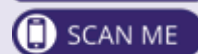


Ron and Wendy Asselstine.

His surgeon warned Ron might not survive. It took eight hours of surgery, two follow-up procedures and 17 days in the ICU, but he pulled through.

During his 25 year hockey career as a linesman in the NHL and WHA, Ron learned a lot about the importance of teamwork. "Nobody succeeds by themselves," he says. Two years after blood clots nearly ended his life, he and Wendy are as grateful as ever for the team at Guelph General that saved him — and for the community contributions that make their work possible. ❤️

Read the full version of these stories of care plus many others at [TogetherWeCare.ca](https://www.togetherwecare.ca).



Suzanne Bone reflects on 31 years as Foundation's CEO



“I am blessed to have had such purpose in my work and it truly has been an honour to serve.”

In 1991 I was looking for a six-month placement to complete my Master's degree in Health Administration. I came to Guelph General Hospital and found a calling and a home. Never did I imagine that I would end my career in the same place, 31 years later.

In many respects, it's not the same place. When I started at GGH, there were 400 employees and the budget was less than \$30 million. Today, there are almost 2,000 employees and the budget is more than \$190 million. What has stayed the same is that lives are saved and changed here every single day, with the support of our caring community.

I've had the privilege of getting to know so many dedicated donors and volunteers, working collectively with our team to make Guelph a healthier place to live – from children bringing in birthday and lemonade stand money to those pledging multi-million dollar gifts and everything in between.

A few of the many highlights...

- Watching our first donor-funded MRI scanner being lifted into the building with a big crane;
- Hearing the chimes through the overhead system and knowing a baby was just born;
- The day a local daycare brought all their kids to wish a teacher well on the last day of her chemo treatment;
- The care my mum and my dad received here and how that strengthened my appreciation for the GGH team and all those who support the Hospital;
- Being in the ICU a year ago and seeing a COVID+ patient surrounded by eight caregivers and also by ten pieces of donor-funded equipment. It's like I could see you there with the ICU team, helping keep that patient alive;
- Witnessing our community's incredible response to our *Together, We Care* campaign – truly the best retirement gift imaginable.

I have had lots of opportunity to talk about the wonderful care provided at Guelph General. It's always been easy for me to do. I know that tremendous things happen within these walls each and every day, and personal experience has made that even more clear.

I am blessed to have had such purpose in my work and it truly has been an honour to serve. Guelph General and those who support it will always be in my heart. ❤️



Welcome Julie!

Julie Byczynski to join The Foundation of Guelph General Hospital as CEO

It's an honour to be chosen as the next CEO for The Foundation of Guelph General Hospital. Guelph is home to me, and it will be a privilege to work alongside the dedicated staff, hospital leaders, generous donors and volunteers to advance one of the most critical institutions in our growing city. The pandemic has shown us the importance of having a strong and vibrant hospital to support the healthcare needs of our community today, and in the decades to come. ~ Julie Byczynski

Julie's first day will be April 25. ❤️

