



UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS  
KINGSTON FOUNDATION

# THE FOUNDATION REPORT

FALL 2022



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## DONOR'S UNRESTRICTED GIFT ALLOWS STAFF TO REACT QUICKLY

After being diagnosed with blood cancer, Gail Byrnes had a spinal stroke while undergoing some tests. She suddenly lost feeling and function of her legs. It was a terrifying experience but one that led to her donating generously towards local health care.

Gail was carried into Providence Care Hospital on a stretcher in August 2021. Two-and-a-half months later she walked out after receiving life-changing rehabilitation. Gail was so thankful that she made a generous donation to the inpatient spinal cord injury rehabilitation services that cared for her, located on the Heritage 1 unit at Providence Care Hospital. These unrestricted funds could be used wherever they were needed most.

Earlier this year, staff used the funds to help purchase a new bariatric wheelchair which is extra-wide, extra-strong and can accommodate almost any user.

"Providence Care Hospital's fleet of wheelchairs are very important, particularly for the spinal rehabilitation program where people often don't have any mobility at all," says Richard Lenart, Occupational Therapist at Providence Care's Providence Care Hospital site. "We need to accommodate people no matter their size, but we only have a handful of the larger wheelchairs across our entire hospital. So this new addition to our fleet is invaluable."

If larger wheelchairs are unavailable, staff can be left scrambling for mobility options. Finding alternatives can take time and place added strain on busy staff and anxious patients, clients and residents.

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# DONOR'S UNRESTRICTED GIFT ALLOWS STAFF TO REACT QUICKLY

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"If someone is mobility-impaired, they may rely on a wheelchair to get them to therapy rooms," says Richard. "So the new bariatric wheelchair will be incredibly helpful. I think it's amazing that Gail valued her care at the hospital so much that she wanted to benefit the rehabilitation program in some way. We are so grateful for her support!"

Gail's gift highlights that donors can significantly impact care even if they don't know in advance what their donation will contribute towards. Offering unrestricted funds for use where and when they're needed most provides staff with the best opportunities to react swiftly and efficiently to challenges they face.

"Nobody knows where money is needed more than the staff, so I think it's important to give

them the choice," says Gail. "When I arrived, I couldn't move my legs but now I don't need a wheelchair. I can walk around my house and get in and out of the car. And it's thanks to Providence Care Hospital and the incredible people who work there. So I am very glad that my donation has gone towards equipment they need and that will help patients access their own rehabilitation and therapy."

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## MESSAGE FROM NEW UHKF BOARD CHAIR, EVELYN MAIZEN



**Evelyn Maizen**  
Board Chair  
UHKF

After serving on the University Hospitals Kingston Foundation (UHKF) Board of Directors for five years, I am privileged to be the Foundation's new Board Chair.

UHKF is honoured to have a wide range of donors who give generously to support local healthcare initiatives. During February's telephone Thank-a-Thon, I had the pleasure of speaking with numerous donors who expressed their appreciation for the care they and their loved ones receive at Kingston's healthcare sites. Many of their stories were similar to those you'll find in this report. It was a great reminder that health care is of prime importance and everyone in the community wants the best care possible.

As part of the UHKF team, I look forward to raising funds for the new Providence Manor and the modernization of Kingston Health Sciences Centre (KHSC), as well as the countless other projects and programs that will benefit local patients and families. With the support of past and future donors, the Kingston community and all of southeastern Ontario will continue to benefit from exceptional health care.

As in-person activities return, I hope to meet and welcome UHKF's donor family to various events in the near future. Until then, stay safe.

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## Tim Hortons Smile Cookie

Mark your calendars! Tim Hortons Smile Cookies will be available from September 19-25! 100 per cent of every Smile Cookie sold at numerous Kingston Tim Hortons locations will support Kingston Health Sciences Centre's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS: KIDS RAISING MONEY FOR LOCAL HEALTH CARE



## Kids 4 Kids Hockey Tournament

For more than two decades, the Kids 4 Kids Hockey Tournament has been putting the ‘fun’ into fundraising. This year’s tournament was held in March and hosted 178 hockey teams from Ontario and Quebec. A total of 3,200 hockey players hit the ice, with 12,000 visitors spending over 1.8 million dollars in the Limestone City.

Since 1999 the Kids 4 Kids Hockey Tournament has raised more than \$500,000 for pediatric programs at Kingston Health Sciences Centre (KHSC). This year’s tournament raised a very generous \$25,000. Thanks to the help of donations like this, KHSC is able to provide excellent care to sick babies and their families from across southeastern Ontario.

“The remarkable generosity of local donors towards pediatrics is hugely appreciated,” says Dr. Robert Connelly, Head of Pediatrics at KHSC. “Donations not only help us purchase new equipment, tools or comfort items when required, they also go a long way to motivating and inspiring our staff. We are forever grateful to the Kids 4 Kids Hockey Tournament for their kind and thoughtful support.”

Planning is already underway for the 25th anniversary tournament to be held March 24 to 26, 2023.

## Run/Walk for KidsInclusive

The Run/Walk for KidsInclusive is known as much for its incredible spirit as for the number of people who hit the streets to participate. And this year’s virtual event was no exception.

At the end of April, 174 participants took part in the 25th annual Run/Walk and raised an incredible \$42,283.88.

These funds will help provide specialized equipment, training, education, programs and initiatives, assisting families with the exceptional costs associated with raising a child with special needs.

“The Run/Walk is our sole fundraising event and, together, our community exceeded our fundraising goal of \$40,000,” says Emily Jackson, Occupational Therapist and Team Leader at KidsInclusive. “We are so grateful for the exceptional support we’ve seen through participation and donations. We can’t do this event without generous donors and sponsors, as well as our amazing ambassadors. We are excited to see you all again next year – hopefully in person!”

To learn how you can host your own event, visit [www.uhkf.ca](http://www.uhkf.ca)!

# DONORS HELP KINGSTON HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE ACHIEVE ASTOUNDING ACCREDITATION

On April 29, Accreditation Canada surveyors announced that Kingston Health Science Centre (KHSC) met 100 per cent of the Required Organizational Practices and had a 99.3 per cent compliance rate on the more than 3,200 world-class best-practice standards.

"This is an astounding accomplishment," says Dr. David Pichora, President and CEO at KHSC. "I am constantly in awe of the enthusiasm, energy and quality of work by our staff and volunteers in the face of so many challenges. From significant staffing challenges to the relentless demands of the pandemic, their endless capacity to step up has ensured we were fully prepared for this accreditation. And the same can be said for our donors, whose support helped to make this result possible."

Significant donor investment and support has helped KHSC achieve many wonderful accomplishments, including the continued success of the clinical laboratories, now one of just four designated provincial genomic surveillance centres closely tracking the emergence of new COVID-19 variants in the province of Ontario.

Other donor-supported achievements include the one-of-a-kind Breast Imaging Kingston facility; KHSC's Robot Assisted Surgery (RAS) program, recognized as the top-performing colorectal RAS program in the country; KHSC once again being named one of the Top 40 research hospitals in Canada; and this fantastic accreditation result.

"I am incredibly proud of what our staff, physicians and volunteers have been able

to accomplish together. But without the visionary leadership and generosity of donors, many of KHSC's achievements would not have been possible," says Dr. Pichora. "I am constantly amazed and humbled by the endless enthusiasm and kindness of donors. I feel truly privileged to share a community with individuals who so generously support KHSC's staff, physicians, patients and families. Looking to the future, I know there is still much KHSC can accomplish, and I have no doubt that community donors will continue to support southeastern Ontario's growing needs."

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## YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT LIFE-SAVING CARE...

Cut out this form and mail to: University Hospitals Kingston Foundation, 55 Rideau Street, Suite 4, Kingston, ON K7K 2Z8

- I wish to support care by making a **monthly gift** of \$\_\_\_\_\_ which will be withdrawn on the 10th day of the month.
- I wish to support care by making a **single gift** of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- I am interested in learning about the Honour Your Caregiver program. Please send me information.

### Method of payment:

- I have enclosed a cheque payable to UHKF or a VOID cheque for my monthly gift.
- I prefer to donate by credit card.

Visa     Mastercard     American Express

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# CAREGIVERS AT KINGSTON HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE HONOURED BY LOCAL PATIENT

In 2019, Nancy Hutchinson (pictured) was expecting a challenging but successful recovery from the hysterectomy surgery to remove her uterine cancer. Nothing prepared her for what the surgery would reveal – that she also had ovarian cancer.

“At the end of a long surgery day, Dr. Park gave me the news, speaking some of the most frightening words a woman can hear in the most straightforward and supportive way,” says Nancy.

Nancy started chemotherapy and began receiving the incredible care that is provided by the staff and volunteers at the Kingston Health Sciences Centre (KHSC) Cancer Centre of southeastern Ontario.

In September 2021, more than 18 months after finishing chemotherapy, Nancy's ovarian cancer recurred and she was required to return to treatment. Despite this, she was determined to give back. Nancy made an extremely generous gift through the University Hospitals Kingston Foundation (UHKF) Honour Your Caregiver (HYC) program, in honour of KHSC Gynecologic Oncologist Dr. Elena Park and Nurse Practitioner Jan Giroux.

“Dr. Park and Jan Giroux have been caring, straightforward and generous with their time,” says Nancy. “My daughter and I are excited to be able to give back to the Centre and to all the people there who have given me so much in the

past two years and who will be with me in the months ahead. I feel very fortunate to have had all of them in my corner doing everything they can to keep me healthy.”

Nancy's incredible generosity highlights how gifts through the UHKF HYC program are a fantastic way to say “thank you” and help provide much-needed funding for equipment, research and facilities that directly impact patient care.

“I'm in awe of Nancy and so thankful for her gift,” says Dr. Park. “I think her donation will do so much good for cancer patients. The generosity of donors like Nancy is absolutely vital and has a tremendous impact on the quality of care that we're able to provide. It also feels so good that Nancy acknowledged Jan and, by extension, the nursing staff, who do not always get the validation they deserve.”

“Nancy is a very engaged patient and a very caring and appreciative woman,” says Jan. “Gifts like hers validate the time and skills that Advanced Practice Nurses put into the care we provide. I think it's amazing that she's acknowledging us in this way, despite her ongoing treatment. I am overwhelmed, humbled and honoured.”

If you would like to thank an exceptional caregiver at KHSC or Providence Care, please visit [www.uhkf.ca](http://www.uhkf.ca) or call us at 613-549-5452.





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# THE FOUNDATION REPORT

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## EXCEPTIONAL CARE HELPS TO FUND NEW CANCER SCREENING SERVICE

In 2017, Bill Gladwish acquired an infection in the retina of his left eye while travelling. Bill received excellent care from the ophthalmology team at the Kingston Health Sciences Centre (KHSC) which reduced the impact of the infection. This saved Bill from total vision loss in his left eye.

Bill and his wife, June, were so impressed with the care they received that they wanted to give back. In May this year they made a generous gift through the University Hospitals Kingston Foundation's (UHKF) Honour Your Caregiver (HYC) program to acknowledge KHSC Ophthalmologist, Dr. Tom Gonder.

"We are really appreciative of the entire team at the Ophthalmology Clinic," says Bill. "I remember feeling very privileged that I had four or five ophthalmologists caring for me. But we are particularly grateful for Dr. Gonder's work. He didn't leave any stone

unturned. When you have good doctors like that who want to move the science forward, it's important to help them in any way possible, which is what our donation is about."

Bill and June's remarkable gift will help to purchase a slit-lamp for a newly established ocular oncology screening service to be located in the Kingston Cancer Centre. This sophisticated microscope will enable the timely screening of cancer patients receiving chemotherapies that can cause toxicity to the eyes.

"The purpose of the new service is to detect the early signs of toxicity caused by drugs that are used to fight cancer. They often show up in the cornea or retina and can lead to sight impairment," says Dr. Martin ten Hove, Head and Program Medical Director of Ophthalmology at KHSC. "Having this slit-lamp in the Cancer Centre allows patients to see their oncologist and be

screened for toxicity at the same time. These patients are under so much stress; they will really appreciate receiving all of their care in one clinic and knowing that they are being treated safely and effectively."

While the Ministry of Health does provide funds for operational expenses, new diagnostic equipment is often funded by local healthcare organizations or community donors.

"Donations are becoming crucially important for us to have the equipment necessary for excellent health care," says Dr. Gonder. "Without donors, we wouldn't be able to make these aspirational programs a reality. This cancer screening service is one of them, and it simply wouldn't have happened without a donor. We are extremely grateful for Bill and June's generosity which will help patients for years to come."

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