

Support Report

Proud Supporters of Grey Bruce Health Services



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A COVID-19 patient in the Owen Sound Hospital on a ventilator, with medically-induced paralysis, is being prepared for proning. Proning is a slow, perfectly timed and precise process to roll patients onto their stomach. It is labour intensive and requires a minimum of 7 staff to ensure the patient is turned safely, and allows the lungs to expand to improve breathing.

In March of 2020 when the world was heading into lockdown, GBHS was in full planning mode, getting ready to care for sick patients, and ensuring we had what we needed to keep our staff, physicians and patients safe. While we were busy securing adequate supplies of PPE and re-organizing our inpatient units to handle a potential rise in local cases, our five hospital Foundations issued a call for Emergency COVID funds on our behalf.

In those first several weeks, it wasn't exactly clear how much PPE we would need, what types of new equipment we should purchase, or how we would fund emergency alterations to our facilities to reduce the risk of transmission. Yet people came forward with donations to our Foundations, and in just a few short months, almost \$230,000 was raised.

A large part of these funds went towards setting up and equipping our COVID-19 testing centres in Owen Sound and Southampton. Thanks to the Emergency COVID funds, we purchased iPads for all six GBHS hospitals so that patients could keep in touch virtually with their families once visitor restrictions were implemented. We used the funds to build another negative pressure room in our Intensive Care Unit, renovate our front lobby to maintain physical distancing, and purchase telemetry units to monitor patient vital signs.

Until very recently, our Grey Bruce region had not experienced the volume of patients that Toronto hospitals have been dealing with for months.

"We planned for months for a surge in
(continued on next page)

COVID Emergency Fund put to good use *(Continued from page 1)*

COVID cases. We didn't let our guard down even though cases started to drop last summer, and the situation was looking somewhat re-assuring. But now, it's turning into what we feared," said Dr. Will Doelman, the Chief hospitalist at GBHS Owen Sound Hospital, who has been part of the physician leadership team planning the corporation's pandemic response. Dr. Doelman was quick to point out that he doesn't tend to patients in the ICU, but he has been on the unit recently.

"When you step into the ICU, it looks like what you see on the news, and it's happening right here. Maximum precautions are in place; ICU nurses and doctors are in full gear, with gloves, gowns, and respirators. I've never seen so many people in our ICU, and working constantly. We are no longer isolated from what's going on around the province. We are in the thick of things – on a smaller scale - but we have smaller ICUs. Our hospitals were built to serve our own populations, and now we are being called upon to do things our hospitals were never built for."

Thankfully, GBHS has skilled, experienced staff, physicians and volunteers who have risen to the challenges of this pandemic, and who will keep fighting for patients and doing what they can to keep our hospitals safe. With the support of our caring donors here in Grey and Bruce, we truly are *stronger together*.

GBHS expresses gratitude to foundations and donors



I would like to take this opportunity to thank individuals and businesses from across Grey Bruce for supporting our staff and physicians during the past 15 months of this pandemic. Many people have stepped up to donate to the five foundations that raise funds for our hospitals, and your kindness and generosity have given us the energy we've needed to keep going. It has been a challenging year for so many people on so many different levels – the pandemic has caused illness and death, hurt our communities economically, disrupted our family lives, kept us apart from our loved ones, and impacted our mental health. Throughout all of this, people still contributed to the Foundations, and for that we are extremely grateful.

The Foundations contributed \$5,067,509 for our hospitals in the last fiscal year. This is an incredible amount, and we are extremely fortunate to live in such caring communities. Every year, we need to spend about \$7 million in capital funds to purchase new medical equipment and instruments, upgrade our technology, and

maintain our hospitals so that we are ready and able to provide quality health care to residents and visitors. Patients from across our region have access to 24/7 emergency care at their local hospital, with specialty services available at our regional hospital in Owen Sound, including a regional stroke program, Cancer Centre, and the only Intensive Care Nursery in Grey Bruce. These specialty programs require highly complex and expensive medical equipment, much of it funded through our Foundations. Thanks to donors, we have the latest in MRI technology, a world-class surgery department, and we are able to attract highly skilled staff and physicians. We couldn't offer these services without the charitable donations from our communities.

Let's hope that next year will be different, and in the meantime, thank you for your personal sacrifices in reducing the impact of COVID-19. From our GBHS family to yours - please stay safe and healthy.

Thank you.
Gary Sims, President & CEO
Grey Bruce Health Services

Why I Care...



"December 13, 2020 started out like most other Sundays: I woke up early, picked up a coffee, and parked by the harbour to visit with friends. It wasn't long before I started feeling unwell and returned home. As time passed, I felt worse and knew that I needed to go to the

hospital. I later learned that I had had a heart attack.

Born and raised in Meaford, I have visited the Meaford hospital many, many times throughout my life but a heart attack was the most serious thing that had ever happened to me. From the moment I arrived, the nurses, doctors, and staff were professional, kind, and caring. In addition to feeling well cared for, I also felt safe with all of the COVID safety protocols in place.

Because of COVID, I wasn't able to be transferred to the cardiac unit in Kitchener. At one point, it looked like I might be in the hospital over Christmas. Thankfully, I was taken to the cardiac unit in Barrie for further testing and learned that the blockages I had were relatively minor. I ended up being in the Meaford hospital for 9 days.

During my time in the hospital, I watched the nurses, doctors, and staff work hard to care for patients and keep everyone safe. I am so grateful for the care I received at the Meaford Hospital."

Ian Murray

Donors support new nurse call system in Meaford



A new Nurse Call System has been successfully launched at the Meaford Hospital. A nurse call system allows patients to communicate with staff and the nursing station 24/7. This is an exciting improvement for patient safety, as the previous call system was outdated and had become increasingly difficult to maintain. Donors in Meaford are paving the way for improvements across GBHS as the system installed in Meaford will be rolled out at all GBHS sites in the near future.

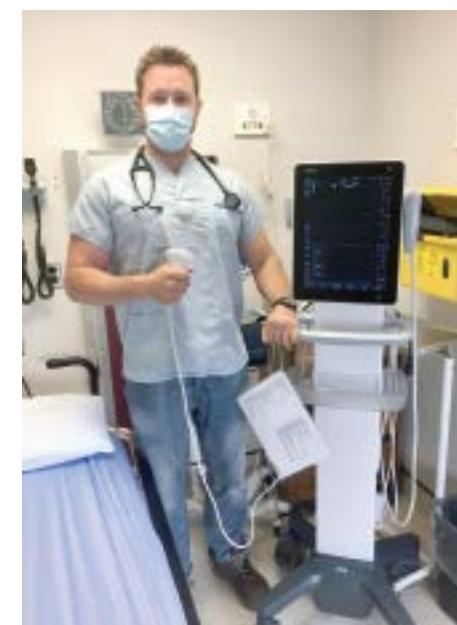
New Burodge cart at the Markdale Hospital



New technology has recently arrived at the Lion's Head site. Dr. Matheson explains, "a new point of care ultrasound allows staff to enhance bedside physical exams to quickly diagnose conditions like a collapsed lung, intra-abdominal bleeds, fluid on the lungs, abscesses, pregnancies, and acquiring vascular access.

The point of care ultrasound gives care providers a better idea of what the diagnosis could be before transferring a patient to Wiarton or Owen Sound for further imaging; or in some cases no further ultrasound is needed.

Since Lion's Head doesn't have an ultrasound department, this



equipment is a very important addition to our ER, and is especially helpful in traumas and resuscitations."



Patients at the Markdale Hospital benefit from your generosity. The Food Service Staff are using a new innovative Burodge cart to deliver patient meals. The new automated cart includes food safety temperature control which allows for the ability to store and move hot and cold meals to patients for breakfast, lunch and supper.

You Support Staff Education



Annually, the Five Foundations provide funds to support GBHS employees in reaching individual education goals. Donor support enables GBHS to prepare our healthcare professionals to meet the needs of our patients. GBHS coordinates tuition reimbursement for both full-time and part-time hospital employees from all sites and departments. Here is one example of how tuition support has propelled staff forward to meet their career aspirations.

As an Environmental Services Worker at the Owen Sound hospital, Josie Elder occasionally provided 1-1 assists with Mental Health patients in the ER. This sparked an interest in a career in nursing. In 2012, she completed a Pre-Health Sciences program at Georgian College and went on to become a Registered Practical Nurse. After graduating, Josie began her nursing career as an

RPN on the Surgical Unit at the hospital. "Nursing is such a rewarding career! It is a privilege to care for people in their time of need," says Josie.

Last fall, she enrolled in the 2.5-year RPN-BScN bridge program at Ontario Tech University and currently looks forward to a practical placement at Collingwood Hospital for the summer semester before returning to GBHS. "The courses I have completed so far have built on my knowledge base, skills and judgment to enable me to work as an RN," she said. "Foundation grants have really helped me advance my career so far and they will continue to help as tuition costs increase."

Registered Nurses are in demand throughout the hospital. "I look forward to completing my degree and filling a critical need as I continue my career at GBHS."

New MRI operational at the Owen Sound site



In September 2020, the new Sola 1.5T MRI system was up and running. The new MRI will

be used to care for over 11,000 patients across Grey and Bruce to diagnose and monitor a variety of medical conditions. The new MRI replaces an almost 17 year old MRI. The scanner offers faster imaging, software upgrades to perform new tests, and a more spacious and quieter experience for patients.

"Donor support will be felt for many years. Improved images from the new MRI mean a better diagnosis and better care for our patients. Thank you for your continued support," Kathy Beattie, Director Medical Imaging and Cardiology.

Thanks to all supporters who contributed to the \$4.7 million needed to acquire the new MRI. You made the critically needed MRI a reality.

Donations provide new defibrillators



Donors truly put their money where their heart is by raising funds to support the purchase of 24 new defibrillators needed for the crash carts at the Southampton, Wiarton, Lion's Head, Meaford and Owen Sound sites. Cardiac emergencies can happen at any time and donor support ensures life-saving treatment is there when it is needed the most. The new defibrillators will be installed on the crash carts over the summer.

Celebrating Three Generations of Support

In 1998, when Centre Grey Health Services Foundation first opened their doors, Fred and Glenora Alton were one of the first donors. The couple continued to support local healthcare by generously donating every year.

In 2008, after Fred's passing, Glenora continued to support Centre Grey Health Services Foundation. She never missed a year. Not one! In 2013, the Foundation and community lost a friend when Glenora passed.

Fred and Glenora's daughter Mary Anne carried on their passion

and continued to support local healthcare. Recently Mary Anne's daughter Jacqueline became a donor in honour of her grandparents. What a privilege it is to celebrate 3 generations of donors.

From their first gift back in 1998 to their granddaughter's most recent donation, in their honour; Fred and Glenora's gift to local healthcare continues to have a profound and lasting impact. What a wonderful legacy. Fred and Glenora lead by example and the patient experience in local healthcare continues to benefit. Thank you Alton Family!



Three Generations of supporters:
The Alton Family



Donors making new hospital a reality in Markdale

At long last, in late February 2021, approval was received to begin construction on the new GBHS Markdale Hospital. "It is so important to ensure all Ontarians have the best quality health care as close to home as possible" said Premier Doug Ford, and that is exactly what this technologically

advanced facility will ensure. With its 68,000 square feet including double the ambulatory care space, larger ER and improved layout with new, modern equipment, the building will have an impact on local health care for generations to come. It is expected that construction will take 18 months and 6 months to relocate

with doors opening in early 2023. Campaign Chair, and Centre Grey Health Services Foundation Vice Chair, Harvey Fraser states, "a strong community hospital is only possible with strong community support, and we thank the community for all their support in moving this project forward".

New X-ray coming to Saugeen Shores



The 15 year old x-ray machine in Saugeen Shores was in need of replacement at a cost of \$510,000. Donor support was overwhelming during our annual Holiday campaign at the end of 2020 and fundraising was complete by January 2021. The new equipment will provide faster, higher quality imaging and also has a portable component that can be taken to patients who are unable to be moved. All made possible by donor support.



Earl Farrell Endowment Established with Saugeen Memorial Hospital Foundation



"I received photos, texts, emails, calls and waves from so many who supported me every step of the way. Thanks to all who shared memories of Earl with me. With everyone's generous support, Earl's Endowment will launch with \$50,000! Never in my wildest dreams", added Geordie, "did I think the Fund would be established with such an enormous amount!"

Gifts to the Earl Farrell Endowment are permanently invested and donations can be received throughout the year. The income generated annually will support items of patient comfort and care at GBHS Southampton Hospital.

On March 20, Earl's wife,

Geordie, marked her 70th birthday with 70 lengths of the pool, a 70km virtual bike ride and a 70 minute run. "I wanted to focus on good memories and do something positive to remember and celebrate Earl," said Geordie. "In doing so, I hoped to raise funds to add to Earl's Endowment."

Geordie swam, pedaled and ran in memory of Earl and to honour their shared passion for healthy, active living. She encouraged community members, along with friends and family who were scattered throughout Grey – Bruce, Canada and the USA, to participate in an activity of their choosing, whenever or however they could, and then to celebrate their achievement by donating to help grow Earl's Fund. And did they ever!



Why We Care...

"Our son recently passed after a year-long battle with cancer. With outstanding empathy and compassion, Doctor Dave was always there to look after him. He did many visits to our son's home, helped us cope with the dire prognosis that was being faced, and arranged palliative treatments that could lighten our son's struggle.

Saugeen Memorial Hospital staff made sure our son was looked after promptly and compassionately when needed for multiple invasive procedures.

When the inevitable ending arrived Doctor Billings cried with the rest of our little family and comforted us in our grief. Thank you Dave, you're a fine example of a wonderful doctor."

The Morrison Family

Frontline workers say Thank You



Donors improve cardiac care at the Markdale Hospital



A new cardiac monitor in the emergency department allows staff to monitor heart rate and rhythm, oxygen saturation, as well as non-invasive blood pressure monitoring. The multi-function cardiac monitor is portable allowing staff to move it to where it is needed most.



New Monitors for Viewing X-rays in Wiarton

Thanks to our donors new PACS (picture archiving communications system) monitors have been installed in the ER at the Wiarton Hospital to help staff and physicians get clear, crisp x-ray images. Jennifer Butuk, Charge Tech Medical Imaging, describes the benefits. "New advancements in technology can have a big impact on medical equipment. These new monitors are part of a

central monitoring application system, which allows our team in Owen Sound to receive automatic alerts when a support issue arises. The Team is able to run diagnostics remotely, and trouble-shoot any questions or issues we may have. The beauty of the new system is the offsite capabilities. As a rural hospital, that's pretty great because we don't have support staff here onsite."

Proudly Supporting GBHS: Five Foundations

The six GBHS hospitals are supported by five independent foundations. While the provincial government funds ongoing hospital operations, our communities support the purchase of new and updated equipment, capital improvements and staff education.



www.gbhs.on.ca

Patient care is directly impacted by donations. You, our donors, should be proud of what you have made possible.

Each foundation raises funds for their related sites and regional services. The five foundations work collaboratively on special projects.

