



November 6, 2020

Dear Friend,

My name is Dr. Mukesh Bhargava and I'm the Chief of Staff at Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH). I have never been prouder of the team at NHH than in recent times.

This is a team whose mindset has remained the same whether responding to one individual's needs or responding to a global pandemic. It is a team that comes together around the principles of trust and elasticity to care for our community. We have prepared, pivoted, and taken new challenges in stride, all while continuing to put our patients first.



Dr. Mukesh Bhargava

It is not lost on me how important community donations are in providing top notch care. Donor-supported efforts help increase our capacity and the quality of care we deliver, and also help us to attract and retain talented clinical professionals. Your contributions help continuously advance NHH Foundation's critical mission of funding priority medical equipment and technology to enable exceptional patient care at NHH.

What does this really mean? It means that thanks to your support, we have access to equipment like trauma carts that are critical during life-saving moments; advanced mammography units that aid in the early detection of breast cancer; ventilators that keep people with respiratory issues breathing; hospital beds that provide comfort to patients during their visit; and so much more. It means that together, we continue to make a difference in the care offered in our community; we continue to ensure our families, friends, loved ones, and neighbours have access to exceptional care close to home. **It means that when Jaye Bevan had a heart attack earlier this year, our community hospital was well-prepared to save his life.**

"If it wasn't for NHH, I wouldn't be here to tell my story," says Jaye when asked why he thinks it's important to have access to quality care in our community.

You can hear the pride Jaye has for this area when he talks. With family roots planted in Cobourg and dating as far back as the 1830s, it is a town and a community he cares deeply about.

It was in this town that he took his dog for a walk in April 2020 and began feeling unwell; a feeling that transitioned to chest pains by the time he returned home. With his wife at work for the day, he asked his son to drive him to NHH.

*While speaking with a triage nurse, Jaye 'coded,' meaning he went into cardiac arrest – the first of three times this would happen. The problem was a blockage in his left anterior descending artery, causing what is often referred to as a 'widowmaker' heart attack due to its high fatality rate. The team in the Emergency Department (ED) reacted quickly and though Jaye doesn't remember most of this experience, one thing he is very clear on: **they saved his life.***

When the team had Jaye stabilized, he was transferred to a regional hospital where a stent was inserted to allow blood to flow through the artery. He then returned to NHH where he recovered in the Intensive Care Unit, then the Medical/Surgical inpatient unit. It took nine days from the time Jaye first arrived at the ED, to when he was discharged from NHH and during that time he felt he was in the best of hands, specifically commenting on the caring and friendly staff.

*His experience at NHH was unexpected, moved quickly and in Jaye's words was, **"a miracle."***



Jaye Bevan with dog, Panda

During recent times, I believe our team has expanded far beyond the walls of NHH to include our community, who has stepped up in more ways than I can count to offer support. The definition of our team has changed, and I hope this change is a permanent one as we continue standing side-by-side to ensure our community has the best care possible.

Funds raised through this year's Light Up a Life campaign will support our highest priorities. As a community hospital, our role is critical in the lives of so many. Last fiscal year alone, we had more than 4,330 admitted patients, and 33,755 visits to our Emergency Department. Continuous investment in healthcare equipment isn't just nice to have – like the team using it, it's **essential**.

I hope you'll join me and our team to ensure this year's campaign is successful by making a donation

Please send your gift today to help us continue to respond to our community's needs and offer the highest level of care, close to home.

Thank you in advance for your support – your generosity means so much to so many.

Yours truly,

Mukesh Bhargava, M.D.
NHH Chief of Staff
Chair, Light up a Life Campaign 2020

