

NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

A Message to Our Community
in Response to COVID-19

April 2, 2020



It is not only during times of crisis that we rely on the support of our healthcare system and local hospital, but it is during these times that we are so clearly reminded of just how important access to quality healthcare is and how lucky we are to have Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) in our community.

The team at NHH is here for us 365 days a year, to help us navigate times that run the emotional gamut – from a sudden heart attack, to living with cancer or kidney disease, to welcoming a new baby into the world. They continue to be here for us now as we face the evolving situation of COVID-19.

Support from donors, like you, has helped NHH offer exceptional care to our community in the past and continues to do so today. We pride ourselves on having a well-equipped, advanced facility, offering a wide variety of services for Northumberland County. It is because of the community's support – of your support – that our hospital is prepared to tackle times of crisis today as efficiently as they've cared for us in the past.

As Rhonda shared last week, we do not know what needs will arise in the coming months, but we do know there will be needs. As a community, our continued support will be called upon to ensure NHH has the best possible access to essential equipment and supplies to continue caring for our family, friends, and neighbours 365 days a year.

In these unprecedented times, everyone is doing their part. As a Foundation, I am proud of how the staff team has stepped up to assist NHH in different capacities, to approach their usual roles with flexibility and creativity, and to fill in with support where it is needed most. The Board has been pleased with frequent communication from staff and is thankful for the technology that has enabled seamless connection as we continue to work together in support of our essential mission: “to inspire generous giving to enable exceptional patient care at NHH.”

For more information on how you can make a financial gift to support NHH, visit: NHHFoundation.ca. If you have questions about other ways to support NHH's response to COVID-19, visit NHH.ca/COVID-19.



Please continue to read on below for a message from NHH's Chief of Staff, highlights of our community's generosity, an announcement of our first ever virtual event, and ways to stay informed.

Keep well,



Jeff Gilmer

Board Chair, NHH Foundation

[A Message from Dr. Mukesh Bhargava, NHH Chief of Staff](#)



“Now is not the time to speculate on how this situation will develop; rather, it is the time to share accurate advice about social distancing and hygiene. To focus on when NHH might see a spike in patients, or how many cases we have in our community really won't solve the challenges with COVID-19. This will be solved by how well we can control the spread of infection and break the cycle of human to human transmission, so that should be our focus.”

[Read The Latest News from NHH](#)

[In This Together](#)

Every act of kindness from our partners and neighbours, no matter how big or small, reminds us that we are in this together. The team at NHH continues to work around the clock to respond to COVID-19 and keep our community safe. This is home to many of our friends and families – this is our community and we are here for you.



Community Generosity

A Message from Adrienne Burns, Leadership Gifts Officer

Two years ago, I had the opportunity to transition to a new role on the NHH Foundation team. After having spent four years in the special events portfolio, I pursued the opportunity to become our Leadership Gifts Officer. This was a big change for me, but the one constant that remained during this change was the opportunity to witness an incredible level of generosity from our community.

Typically, leadership giving involves financial contributions – mainly comprised of gifts of cash or securities. In the last three weeks, however, I have witnessed a different kind of support to NHH – donations “in-kind”. Numerous businesses and individuals in Northumberland County have supported our call for donations of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other non-cash gifts. As an example, Cameco has generously donated an abundance of PPE for our frontline staff, Canadian Tire has offered us donated ad space in the local newspaper, and even though outside food is not permitted at this time and therefore we have had to decline food donations, we have received numerous offers to provide nourishment to NHH staff. This is just a selection of the countless offers from businesses and community members stepping up to help NHH navigate through this trying time. These genuine acts of kindness are what drew me to philanthropy to begin with and what continue to inspire me in my role.

Just like the uncertainty I faced two years ago when I started in my new position, we don’t know what’s ahead of us, but one thing is certain – we can count on our exceptional community to help us through it.

Northumberland’s Biggest Coffee Morning

Coming Soon to a Computer Near You!

We’re *brewing up* something extra special for Northumberland’s Biggest Coffee Morning 2020! We’ll be bringing this much-loved annual event to the virtual world for not only one morning, but for the whole month

of May! We hope we can count on past and new party hosts to rise to the challenge and join us. Stay tuned for more details and ideas for how you can work with us to mobilize your social networks and raise funds for NHH Foundation. If you have questions, ideas, or are interested in getting involved, please contact Natasha Jacobs, our Special Events Officer at njacobs@nhh.ca.



NHH Foundation Staff

The NHH Foundation staff are doing everything we can to support NHH and flatten the curve. This includes practicing social distancing by working remotely.

Though the physical Foundation office is closed until further notice, we are always open to accept donations online at www.NHHFoundation.ca and you can reach any one of us at the following:

- **Rhonda Cunningham**, Executive Director – rcunningham@nhh.ca
- **Wendy Bridgman**, Executive Assistant – wbridgman@nhh.ca
- **Adrienne Burns**, Leadership Gifts Officer – aburns@nhh.ca
- **Natasha Jacobs**, Special Events Officer – njacobs@nhh.ca
- **Jen Gilmer**, Communications Specialist – jgilmer@nhh.ca

Stay Connected with Us

At times like this, we are so thankful for the technology that allows us to stay connected to you. Advances in technology allow us to connect even from afar, to stay informed, and to check in on one another. We hope you are all staying safe and healthy, and would encourage you to further connect with us if you have not already done so.

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