

NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

A Message to Our Community

April 23, 2020



It's ***National Volunteer Week*** and there is no better time than right now to shine a light on the instrumental role volunteers play in our organization. The fight against this pandemic has made things a little different this year, with many volunteer roles put on hold and those committees or other groups who are able to continue now hosting virtual meetings. **What is no different this year than any other is the gratitude we feel for the many volunteers who work tirelessly to support NHH Foundation.**

This pandemic has truly cast a light on how we as a community, province, country, and world are stronger together. It is a humbling reminder of something we have always known. **As a staff, we feel so lucky to have always felt this strength and support as we have worked alongside countless volunteers in an effort to #MAKECAREBETTER.**

I want to shine a light on the hundreds of individuals who have faithfully served the NHH Foundation for decades in a variety of roles – participating on our Board, joining one of our many committees, helping organize signature fundraisers, hosting third party events, and more. Their efforts have truly shaped us into the organization we are today.

In the last year alone, volunteer committee members have raised over \$165,000 through our Caring for Generations Society; gala volunteers organized the most successful event yet raising over \$570,000 and organizers of the Vandermeer Father Daughter Ball raised an impressive \$25,000. This is only a small sample of how community-minded citizens dedicate their valuable time to raise critical dollars to improve local health care.

In addition to our fundraising volunteers, we have dozens of others who provide expertise to ensure our operations continue to run efficiently and effectively, providing guidance in areas such as governance, finance and human resources.

We salute and thank all of you who selflessly give your time and talent to help others. As a staff, we are proud to stand with you. We couldn't ask for better mentors and the wise counsel you provide to us is greatly

appreciated. **We never take for granted how lucky we are you choose NHH Foundation as an organization worthy of your time and talent.** Thank you!!

I hope you'll continue to read on below for a message from NHH's Chief of Staff, a great news story of how one local business recently stepped up to help protect frontline staff, the official launch of our first virtual event, reminders of how NHH continues to be here for you, and ways to stay informed.

Keep well,



Rhonda Cunningham

Executive Director, NHH Foundation

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

“We see a lot of focus right now on recognizing our frontline staff, and I want to really highlight the whole team at Northumberland Hills Hospital. The work being done to prepare and respond to COVID-19 spans beyond the frontline and relies on the contributions of everyone. If you think about a sports team, it is not just the players on the ice or court, but also the coaches, trainers, and managers who work towards the team's success. As a team, we are working both on the frontlines in patient care, and behind the scenes supporting the frontlines. This is a team I am privileged to be a part of.”

[Read The Latest News from NHH](#)

[Northumberland's Biggest Coffee Morning Goes Virtual](#)

Every year since 2007, community members across Northumberland County have come together to support NHH by celebrating Northumberland's Biggest Coffee Morning. This year, this much-loved event is going virtual for the whole month of May to give community

members the opportunity to 'raise a cup' for local healthcare from the comfort of their own homes. We officially launched this event last week and are excited by the early response and uptake received.

[Read the Story](#)



Local Business Loans Powered Air Purifying Respirators

With the battle against COVID-19 occurring around the world, the importance of personal protective equipment (PPE) has been at the forefront of many conversations, public addresses, and media stories. Recognizing this and seeing the many callouts for supplies, one local business realized they were in a unique position to help protect staff at NHH. Weir ESCO has stepped up to temporarily loan the hospital 20 Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs).

[Read the Story](#)

We want to send a huge thank you to Weir ESCO for quickly acting and helping to protect frontline staff!!

Dr. Barrie, Chief of Anesthesiology at NHH shared his message of thanks (below) as well.



NHH Continues to Be Here For You

At this time of uncertainty, we were heartened to receive messages from both a recent grateful patient as well as a current patient's family member sharing their thanks for the exceptional care that continues to be offered at NHH. These words serve as a reminder that the team at NHH continues to be here for you during these, and at all, times. Stay home for them.

“Let me tell you, I have had some of the most amazing people look after me, and the people around me. I feel safe. Everything is so clean. The staff are super friendly, which to be honest, I was a little surprised, as they are doing what could be a very dangerous job right now, and it could be scary for them as well.”

- April 2020 Anonymous Grateful Patient

“My mother is a patient on 1B. Her 88th birthday was in March. We couldn't visit because of COVID-19 and she couldn't understand why. Mom has dementia and has been described as "feisty" - a nice way of saying she keeps the staff busy at the best of times when at full staff and volunteer compliment. My brother and I are very grateful for the excellent care she has continued receiving, even with the unit staffed with essential staff only. The compassion and support they offer to our mother and to the family members over the phone who are unable to be there is above and beyond.”

- April 2020 Anonymous Patient Family Member

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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