

NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

A Message to Our Community
in Response to COVID-19

March 27, 2020



Working in the Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) Foundation, I have the privilege of seeing and hearing about incredible acts of care and kindness every day – of seeing NHH staff, physicians, healthcare professionals, and volunteers go above and beyond to care for our community. **I am impressed by this team constantly.**

In my 25 years working to raise funds to support healthcare, I never could have predicted this world crisis would be a battle our frontline staff and our community would ever have to face. I am impressed by this team on a normal day, **but now I am in complete awe of how they have pulled together to face this challenge head on.**

As a lifetime resident of Northumberland County, I have also witnessed **our community come together time and time again to support one another.** This time is no different, with many looking for ways to help and support as we battle the rapidly evolving situation that is COVID-19.

From people writing chalk messages and cheering on healthcare workers, to rallying together as ‘caremongers,’ and coming to the aid of some of our most vulnerable residents, it’s incredible to see.

In these extraordinary and trying times, I am deeply inspired by the generosity and genuine acts of human kindness, **and there is one such act I want to shine a particular light on.**

Local Couple Makes Extraordinary Donation

This week, one local couple, who wish to remain anonymous, decided it was time for their family to act. They shared with me that their future charitable plans have long included a significant gift to NHH, but after speaking to a family member who serves on the frontlines here, they realized the hospital needs their gift now.

“We in Northumberland County are blessed to have this state-of-the-facility and its wonderful staff,” shared the couple. “The staff are brave heroes that are taking yet to be determined risks dealing with this

pandemic. We wanted to assist these heroes and this fine institution. We contacted the Foundation Office and offered our entire planned donation starting with an immediate gift of \$100,000.”

Currently, NHH is working to create a specialized pandemic unit that will require hospital beds, medical equipment and supplies. The creation of this unit will become the priority for these initial funds.

Donations like this send such a strong message of support to our frontline staff who continue to care for our community. **Saying ‘thank you’ to this couple simply seems inadequate to express the extent of how truly grateful we are.** I am amazed at how our community continues to shine despite the fact our world is in crisis. **Acts like this – no matter how big or small – are a reminder that we will get through this together.**

I wish I could tell you exactly where funds will be needed in the coming weeks and months, but with this fast-moving situation, we simply do not know exactly what needs may arise. What we do know is that needs **will arise and we will have to be prepared to respond to these quickly.**

As always, your donations will help to ensure the NHH team has the best access possible to the essential lifesaving equipment, technology and supports needed to provide the best possible care for our community, and support safety for patients and staff.

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 President and CEO, Foundation news and updates, and ways to stay informed.

Be safe and keep well,



Rhonda Cunningham

Executive Director, NHH Foundation

[A Message from Linda Davis, NHH President and CEO](#)

"NHH’s Incident Command Centre, established earlier this month, has been working at high speed, and the collaboration and communication that is occurring across teams, with our Ontario Health Team of Northumberland partners and between hospital and community physicians, is unlike anything we have ever seen. While there are confirmed positive COVID-19 cases on self-isolation in our community, there are no confirmed positive COVID-19 inpatients at NHH as of today (March 27). We know that this will change in the coming days. We are grateful for this time, as we quickly scale back non-essential services and scale up for what we expect will be very ill COVID patients. As much capacity as possible is being created for COVID patients’ acute care needs while ensuring those without the virus can also be cared for and kept safe."

[Read Linda’s Full Message in NHH’s Latest Community Notice](#)

NHH is Here for You

It's normal to be worried about the health and wellness of your family, friends, and community during these uncertain times. We want you to know the team at NHH is working around the clock to flatten the curve and keep our community safe. This is home to many of our family members and friends as well. This is our community and we are here for you.



NHH Foundation Events

After thoughtful consideration and deep concern for our community's health and wellbeing, we have made the difficult decision to postpone all Foundation events until further notice.

Special events are a wonderful way for us to connect with friends, colleagues and our community. During these times, we are doing our part to practice social distancing and this decision has been made in light of the need for all of us to work together to flatten the curve. No one knows at this point how long we will be impacted by COVID-19 but we promise to monitor the situation going forward and we will be ready on a dime to resume our events schedule. Rest assured we are "thinking outside the box" and are considering opportunities to be creative with our future fundraising. We can't wait to re-connect with you. We've missed you!

If you have any questions related to Foundation events, or creative ideas for events that can still be hosted while ensuring social distancing, we are more than happy to chat! Please reach out to our Special Events Officer, Natasha Jacobs 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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