



# inspired.

the voice of  **CHATHAM-KENT Health Alliance FOUNDATION**



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#### The Foundation's First Ever Radiothon:

Honouring CKHA's frontline physicians, staff, and volunteers like never before in Chatham-Kent



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A longstanding corporate partnership





# always inspired.

## A message from Mary Lou Crowley, CKHAF President & CEO

As a Foundation, we are constantly developing new, innovative ways to build upon the philanthropic culture in our community as we seek to fund crucial healthcare initiatives at Chatham-Kent Health Alliance (CKHA). Time after time, we witness the residents of Chatham-Kent (and beyond) step up and support the needs of our hospital sites.

In my role, it's not hard to find inspiration on a daily basis. I've seen countless community members generously donate their time and hard-earned money in the midst of unprecedented economic times. I also have the opportunity to witness the dedication and perseverance of our hospital's frontline physicians, staff and volunteers as they go above and beyond to deliver exceptional care to their patients.

I feel truly fortunate when I am able to share my inspiration with you.

Through the Foundation's recent Frontline Faces Radiothon, presented by Precise ParkLink, we were able to do this in a way that has never been done before here in Chatham-Kent.

Radiothon listeners were treated to hours of inspiring stories and perspectives from CKHA frontline workers and grateful patients, shining a light on the exceptional care delivered at our hospital. Then, in real time, CKHA's frontline faces were able to experience overwhelming support from across the community, with donations pouring in towards the hospital's Highest Priority Needs.

Within the pages of this Fall 2022 edition of **Inspired: The Voice of Chatham-Kent Health Alliance Foundation**, we will share some of the inspiring stories that were broadcasted during Radiothon, and demonstrate the profound impact that your commitment to philanthropy has at CKHA's Chatham and Wallaceburg sites.

With your continued support and generosity, we can ensure that CKHA's amazing frontline physicians and staff have access to all of the resources necessary to maintain and enhance the world-class healthcare available here in Chatham-Kent.

They deserve nothing less than the best, and so do you.

Mary Lou Crowley  
President & CEO  
Chatham-Kent Health Alliance Foundation





# inspired to provide ongoing support.

As a Foundation, we are profoundly grateful for each and every one of our donors for their commitment to healthcare here in Chatham-Kent. Many of our supporters opt to pledge a monthly gift to the Foundation to provide ongoing support for equipment, innovation, and compassionate care at CKHA, which we deeply appreciate.

Meet Mel Goddard, a Blenheim resident and retired aircraft mechanic with a unique story to tell and a particular passion for giving back to his community. Mel became a monthly contributor to the Foundation in January of 2022 for the comfort, control, and flexibility that it offers him as a donor.

*"Life has been good to me," Mel noted. "I've had my share of difficulties just like everyone else, but I have enough to give some back to an important cause, and that's exactly what I do. Donating monthly gives me the ability to give generously while keeping control by making sure that I have enough money to donate every month!"*

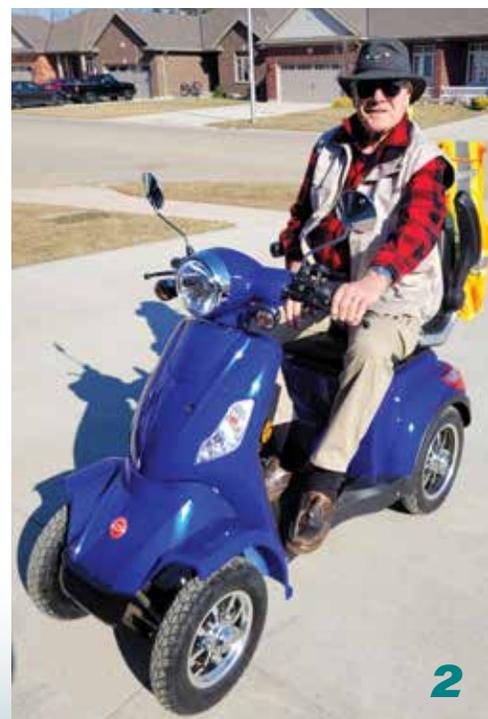
In his younger days, Mel experienced success in a number of different careers before becoming a licensed aircraft mechanic. He also dedicated himself to his passions, which included spending days or weeks at a time hiking and backpacking trails across Ontario and Quebec.

Nowadays, Mel sees the importance more and more of donating in support of the Foundation and our local hospital sites.

*"I've been in good health for the most part, but I still need to use the hospital's services from time to time, and I know that they have a real need for important pieces of new equipment," Mel said. "I've always had positive experiences at the hospital, so I was happy to start donating monthly to support the work being done there!"*

We are inspired by Mel's generosity and willingness to support local healthcare, and we hope that more and more Chatham-Kent residents will join him in pledging a monthly gift to the Foundation.

Whether large or small, we can assure you that your monthly gift will have a major impact on our hospital. Mel's donations make a real difference for our community, and so will yours!



# inspired

by our hospital's frontline staff.



**CKHA's Frontline Faces Radiothon, presented by Precise ParkLink**, was the first event of its kind in Chatham-Kent. Never before has our community had the opportunity to participate in this type of initiative, dedicated entirely to celebrating and honouring our local hospital's frontline faces.

Radiothon featured stories from a wide variety of frontline physicians, staff, volunteers, and grateful patients, giving our listeners and community a glimpse into the exceptional care that is delivered at CKHA every single day. These stories also inspired many Chatham-Kent residents to donate in support

of innovation, equipment and modern facilities at our local hospital sites.

We realize that many community members may not have been able to tune in to Radiothon on October 1st. For this reason, we have compiled a snapshot of a few of the inspiring stories and perspectives that capture the essence of what Radiothon accomplished: a celebration of the dedication and perseverance of CKHA's exceptional frontline physicians, staff, and volunteers.



## **Dr. Pervez Faruqi**

*CKHA Chief of Staff & Paediatrician*

Dr. Pervez Faruqi has a unique perspective on CKHA's frontline staff as the hospital's Chief of Staff and a practicing Paediatrician.



*"We are very grateful for the work that our frontline healthcare workers have done over the past two and a half years," Dr. Faruqi stated. "These challenging times have required so much from all of them, and they have displayed tremendous resilience every day."*



Dr. Faruqi feels that it is important to point out how well CKHA has done in recent years, particularly when compared to other hospitals in the province. Throughout the pandemic, CKHA has maintained its status as a leader in surgical renewal, which can be directly attributed to the commitment of the hospital's frontline healthcare workers.

Dr. Faruqi affirms that CKHA's team of frontline physicians, staff and volunteers are truly a remarkable group of men and women. This was evident as he witnessed so many frontline staff working diligently under stressful conditions throughout the pandemic, taking on real personal risk for the greater good.

While it seems that the effects of the pandemic may slowly be fading away, Dr. Faruqi notes that the challenges for our local frontline healthcare workers are far from over.



*"Historically, we have heavily relied on our community's support to enhance and maintain key services," he said. "Given Chatham-Kent's aging population and the large number of community members with high risk health factors, our hospital's need for community support is only going to increase in the coming years."*



Dr. Faruqi has asked that the community continue to give generously to its hospital, and the immediate response was overwhelming. As a Foundation and as a community, we must continue to invest in the world-class healthcare available right here at home. At the same time, we must build upon the culture of philanthropy and generosity that exists here in Chatham-Kent, teaching future generations about the importance of giving.

## **Gail Slack**

### ***Clinical Manager, Women & Children's Program at CKHA***

CKHA relies upon community support to ensure that the hospital's frontline workers are equipped with everything necessary to deliver exceptional care. While the generosity of community members from across Chatham-Kent is evident on every floor of the hospital, one unit that has benefitted greatly from significant community support in recent years is CKHA's Women & Children's program.

Gail Slack, Clinical Manager of the Women & Children's Program, spoke at length about the support that her department has received from the community during her Radiothon interview.



*"The Women & Children's Program has been incredibly fortunate in terms of the community support that we've received in recent years," stated Gail. "There are several pieces of life-changing equipment in the unit that would not have been possible without generous donors."*



Gail pointed to a number of pieces of equipment that have been purchased by the department in the past few months as a result of community donations. A recent \$51,738 donation from Mocha Shriners has been used to purchase High Intensity Phototherapy Lights for jaundice, a Bilisoft Bili Blanket for jaundice, and sleep chairs for family staying with Paediatric patients in the unit. Each of these items has enhanced the level of care that the unit's frontline physicians and staff can provide to its patients on a daily basis.



Similarly, a new Cuddle Cot was recently purchased for the unit as a result of another community initiative, led by a local family who identified the item as a significant need for the department.

The new Cuddle Cot is a cooling system that allows the grieving parents and family of stillborn infants to spend the precious time with their child that they need. This allows parents to form an important bond with their babies, helping them to deal with their tragic loss.

Recent community support for the Women & Children's Program, and other units at CKHA, has been truly overwhelming. This has been particularly meaningful and impactful in the past few years, as the pandemic has placed greater financial strain on many Chatham-Kent residents, as well as our hospital.

As a Foundation, we hope that our donors truly understand the difference that they are making with their support, and how much we appreciate their passion for this important cause that affects us all.

## feeling inspired to make a difference?

Whether you are interested in supporting the Highest Priority Needs at CKHA, or a particular fund or department, you can donate any time by visiting [www.ckhaf.ca](http://www.ckhaf.ca) or by calling the Foundation office at [519-436-2538](tel:519-436-2538).

### **Melissa B.** *Grateful CKHA Patient*

Community support for our hospital is so important because of the impact that it has on us all: past, present, and future CKHA patients.

You never know when you or a loved one will need the care and services that CKHA provides. When that day comes, you will be thankful for the resources that are available to help the hospital's frontline staff deliver such exceptional care.

This was the case for Melissa, who's battle with COVID quickly escalated to the point of hospitalization.

Following her admission to CKHA, Melissa's situation continued to deteriorate. Soon, she found herself calling her mother and texting many other loved ones to say goodbye before being put on a ventilator.

Melissa knew that her situation was dire. It was likely that once she was put on the ventilator, she would never breathe on her own again.

By now, of course you know that Melissa's inspiring story has a happy ending. Over the course of two weeks, her condition improved miraculously, and she was ultimately able to come off the ventilator.

However, despite clearing this major hurdle, Melissa's trials were just beginning. After she was taken off life support, Melissa was left paralyzed from the neck down. This led her on the long and painful road to recovery with the assistance of the amazing frontline physicians and staff at CKHA.



*"The Intensive Care Unit saved my life," Melissa said. "The Medicine Unit is where I went through the greatest struggle of my life. I couldn't fight for myself, so CKHA and the amazing nurses fought for me. Finally, I was transferred to the Rehab Unit, which is where I relearned how to walk and got the joy back in my life! Without the amazing staff at CKHA, I know that I wouldn't be here today."*



Melissa's story speaks volumes, not only about CKHA's amazing frontline physicians and staff, but also about the availability of resources necessary to ensure that they are able to deliver this life-saving care. From the ventilators in ICU to therapy foam cushions and wheelchair leg rests in the Rehab unit, Melissa knows how important it was for her recovery that CKHA was so well-equipped thanks to strong community support.

Because of the generosity of donors like you, Melissa was ultimately able to leave the hospital to a *walk of heroes*, with CKHA staff lining the hallways and cheering her on as she left.

In the months and years to come, we hope to be able to hear and share many more inspiring stories like Melissa's. These testimonials give you a clear picture of the impact that you have on our community when you support the Foundation and your local hospital.

Together, we can work towards a healthier future for all of Chatham-Kent.

If you're feeling *inspired* to share a story about the exceptional care that you've received at CKHA, **we'd love to hear it!**

Please reach out to share your experience by emailing [foundation@ckha.on.ca](mailto:foundation@ckha.on.ca) or call 519.436.2538.



# an inspired philosophy.

As a Foundation, our mission is to lead the way in philanthropy here in Chatham-Kent. Dava Robichaud – a longtime Foundation volunteer and pillar of our community – is a lifelong Chatham-Kent resident who embodies this philanthropic mindset in a way that is truly inspiring.

*“I was a single mom for many years, and this community always wrapped their arms around me. I promised that when I could give back, I would, and that’s what I’ve been doing for the last 35 years,” Dava stated. “Just as my parents taught me, my husband and I have also taught our children and grandchildren to have the same mindset, so this philosophy of giving is really a part of the fabric of our family.”*

As the Administrative & Event Coordinator for TekSavvy Solutions Inc., Dava has helped connect the organization with so many important causes across Chatham-Kent, including their longtime partnership with the Foundation. Whether she’s answering phones for Radiothon or serving on the planning committee for Parade of Chefs, Dava and TekSavvy have always been crucial contributors to so much of what we do.

With the wellbeing of Chatham-Kent residents always in focus, it’s no surprise that Dava is so drawn towards supporting our local hospital. From many personal experiences with loved ones, Dava truly understands CKHA’s need for community support. She knows that the hospital’s frontline staff – of whom her daughter is one of many – rely upon this support to supply the resources they need to deliver the highest quality care possible.

*“Our local hospital is a part of my family’s story, as it is for so many in our community,” said Dava. “Whether it was a visit to the ER or sitting at the bedside of my mother when she was very ill, I’ve always been so impacted by the incredible care that our hospital delivers. Because of this, I know how important it is to give back to this important, life-saving cause.”*

While Dava notes that she may not have as much to give as some others, she can always give her time and effort to benefit the vulnerable within our community. This has been the philosophy and driving force for her and her husband Yvon for many years. As they have impressed this same philosophy on their children, grandchildren, and even their great-grandson, they are helping to grow the culture of philanthropy here in our community for generations to come.

The Foundation is always looking for more volunteers to help with community initiatives. If you’re feeling inspired to become a Foundation volunteer, please reach out to our Manager of Development, Ashley Rodrigues, at [arodrigues@ckha.on.ca](mailto:arodrigues@ckha.on.ca).



# inspired to celebrate decades of success.

Since July, Jarnail and Inder Gahunia, the owners of T's & Sweats in the Downtown Chatham Centre, have held a unique promotion in support of the Foundation. They have been offering 20% to 70% off the price of in-store items when customers opt to donate 20% of their purchase to the Foundation.

After over 46 years in business, Jarnail and Inder plan to close up shop at the end of April in 2023. They came up with this generous fundraiser as a way of celebrating decades of success here in

Chatham-Kent, while giving back to the community that has supported their business along the way.

Jarnail and Inder have been supporters of the Foundation for years, and they have also been involved in doing humanitarian work in the wake of natural disasters through their association with the Kent Sikh Society. Additionally, they are very actively involved in the community through their involvement with the Chatham-Kent Asian Cultural Association.

*“We know that our local hospital cannot rely entirely on government funding; it is our duty as a community to support the hospital in any way that we can,” said Jarnail. “We live in this community, our children were born and raised here, and we have everything that we’ll ever need. This was our way of doing our part and giving back to help members of our community in the present and future.”*

Through their generosity, the funds raised will be used to invest in equipment renewal, program innovation, and modern facilities at CKHA. Jarnail and Inder are true leaders in philanthropy, and they are making a real difference as they help to enable world-class healthcare right here in Chatham-Kent.

## Support the Foundation through these upcoming Community Fundraisers

 **November 19 & 20 - 10am to 4pm**  
**Mary's Creations Dress Sale**  
Craft & Art Market  
Sati Hall - 530 Victoria Ave, Chatham

 **November 26 - 3pm to 8pm**  
**\$3 Photos with Santa**  
Dresden Christmas Night Market  
Downtown Dresden

Contact Ashley Rodrigues at [arodrigues@ckha.on.ca](mailto:arodrigues@ckha.on.ca) for more information about how you can organize your own community fundraiser in support of the Foundation!



# inspired

for over 60 years.

MC Business Solutions was founded in 1960 as Maple City Typewriter, with a desire to be the best technology service provider in our community, built upon the pillars of service excellence, honesty, transparency, and community. Although the technology may have changed drastically over the years, the philosophy has remained the same.

As a longtime supporter and partner with the Foundation for our annual Christmas Wish Tree campaign, MC Business Solutions, led by Owner and General Manager Jeff Dam, has demonstrated

a commitment to our community that stretches back across the decades.



*"This commitment to giving back to the community was woven into the fabric of the business by our Founders, Keith and Ed Koke, who were both men of strong faith," Jeff stated. "Working alongside them for so many years, it was clear how devoted they were to ensuring that they gave back enough each and every year. It struck me that the more they gave back, the more they were blessed with the support of the community in return."*



MC Business Solutions has continued on this long tradition of community commitment to the present day, and their partnership with the Foundation is a prime example of that. According to Jeff, the team at MC Business Solutions have always loved what the Christmas Wish Tree campaign represents. They cherish the opportunity to be involved in a fundraiser that touches the lives of so many within our community at such a special time of year, while honouring loved ones who are no longer with us.

Moreover, Jeff and his team understand the critical importance of supporting the Foundation and our local hospital, now more than ever.



*"With our aging population here in Chatham-Kent, it's never been more important for our community to support its hospital," said Jeff. "We need to not only maintain, but enhance the healthcare services available right here at home. As a business, we feel it's necessary to do our part to support the Foundation and our hospital, and I would call upon local business of all sizes to do the same, no matter the amount. All of us have been blessed in some way, and it's so important to give back."*



We are truly grateful to Jeff and the team at MC Business Solutions for their ongoing commitment to local healthcare and to our community as a whole. We look forward to their partnership with our 33rd annual Christmas Wish Tree campaign this year, and for many years to come.



Become a Corporate Partner with the Foundation today. Contact Ashley Rodrigues at [arodrigues@ckha.on.ca](mailto:arodrigues@ckha.on.ca) for information on partnership opportunities for your business.

# an inspired tradition for 33 years.

Chatham-Kent Health Alliance Foundation's Christmas Wish Tree campaign and tree lighting ceremonies in Chatham and Wallaceburg have been an annual Chatham-Kent tradition for over three decades. To date, more than \$3 million has been raised for our local hospital through this one-of-a-kind fundraiser.

**Please join us for this year's lighting ceremonies:**

**Wednesday,  
December 14th  
6:00pm**

CKHA's Wallaceburg Site

**Thursday,  
December 15th  
6:00pm**

CKHA's Chatham Site



Throughout our 33rd annual Christmas Wish Tree campaign, members of the community can make a donation in memory of a loved one and receive a light on the tree in their honour. Returning this year, your loved one's name will also be placed on an ornament which will be displayed in both hospital sites.

For the third consecutive year, the Foundation will also celebrate the lives and legacies of special individuals who were passionate supporters of our hospital, or influential members within our community. As a way to recognize their legacies, purple bulbs will be added to the Christmas Wish Tree for each Honouree.

Proceeds from this year's campaign will support the purchase of new Warming Cabinets for CKHA's Chatham and Wallaceburg sites. The cabinets will be used to warm linens and blankets to increase patient comfort and help to prevent hypothermia, while also decreasing anxiety within the hospital environment. In the cold winter months ahead, this small comfort can have a massive impact on a patient's experience at our hospital.

**Please join us for this annual Chatham-Kent tradition as we celebrate the holiday season and honour those who have inspired us to become the people we are today.**



thank you for  
inspiring us.



9 Ursuline Avenue  
P.O. Box 2030  
Chatham, ON N7M 5L9

Wallaceburg Site  
325 Margaret Ave  
Wallaceburg, ON N8A 2A7

t: 519.436.2538  
f: 519.436.2550

t: 519.628.8114

e: [foundation@ckha.on.ca](mailto:foundation@ckha.on.ca)

[WWW.CKHAF.CA](http://WWW.CKHAF.CA)

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