



inspired.

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



PG 3. JOAN PELTIER:

A Legacy of Family,
Community, Faith &
Generosity

PG 5. DIANE EASTON:

A Life Dedicated to
Helping Others

PG 7. DYNAMIC SIMULATION:

Enhancing Local Healthcare
Through Innovation

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IF YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE, LEAVE A LEGACY. MAKE A MARK ON THE WORLD THAT CAN'T BE ERASED.

MAYA ANGELOU

May is *Leave a Legacy Month* in Canada, which is an important time to highlight the profound impact that legacy or planned giving can have in our community. The Foundation is blessed to have the support of so many people who are passionate about local healthcare, and who give so graciously of their time, energy, and financial resources. We are proud and honoured to be part of a community with such a strong and established culture of philanthropy.

This month in particular, we reflect upon all those who have left enduring legacies in support of the Foundation and our hospital. While these individuals may no longer be with us, their generous spirits live on in a way that will continue to have a positive impact, not only today, but for future generations here in Chatham-Kent.

As you read through this *Leave a Legacy Edition* of *Inspired*, I encourage you to reflect upon the mark that you have made, and will continue to make, in our community. To leave a legacy, great wealth and influence are not required.



All you need is a passion to make a difference and to help others, now and in the future.

Your support of the Foundation enhances the care that our family members, friends, and neighbours receive at our local hospital. It allows us to invest in equipment, innovation, and facilities at Chatham-Kent Health Alliance (CKHA) that make all the difference when you or a loved one need them most.

The legacy that you leave is yours to decide. As you read on, I hope that you will be inspired to make a mark on our community that is meaningful to you, and one that cannot be erased.

Thank you for your support.

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

ENJOY THESE INSPIRATIONAL STORIES AND HELPFUL INSIGHTS.
WE HOPE THAT THEY WILL INSPIRE YOU TO LEAVE A LEGACY IN
SUPPORT OF LOCAL HEALTHCARE IN CHATHAM-KENT.



PLANNED GIVING: ASK AN EXPERT

Jerry O'Brien is a Civil Litigation Attorney at O'Brien Sulman McGivern Lawyers in Chatham and a former member of the Board of Directors for the St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation of Chatham. He understands that community investment is crucial to ensuring that our hospital is well-equipped to provide high quality care to local residents.

Over fifteen years ago, Jerry made the decision to designate a substantial gift in his estate towards the Foundation and CKHA. Inspired by his deep appreciation for our hospital and the critical role that it plays in providing care to our families, friends, and neighbours, Jerry's investment in the future will have a profound impact on our community that will span generations.

Given his legal expertise and personal experience, Jerry is uniquely qualified to discuss the merits of planned giving. We sat down with him recently to ask a few questions on the topic.

WHY

SHOULD I LEAVE A GIFT IN MY WILL IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL HEALTHCARE?

In addition to significant tax benefits, **an estate gift is one of the most powerful ways to leave a legacy that will affect future generations.** Designating a gift towards your local hospital, through the Foundation, is the best way to ensure that your contribution will have the broadest impact. Past, present, or future, we all need the exceptional care that our hospital provides.

HOW

LARGE OF A GIFT SHOULD I LEAVE?

There is no set formula for deciding how much to designate in your estate to the Foundation. Everyone's situation is different, so it is important to seek out legal and financial advice in determining the amount that is right for you. I would also encourage people to reach out to the Foundation to discuss current and future priorities at the hospital. Ultimately, once you've reviewed all of the information available, you have to decide what is most meaningful for you. **Regardless of the amount, your gift will positively impact the future of healthcare in our community.**

WHO

CAN HELP ME WITH THE PROCESS OF LEAVING A GIFT IN MY WILL?

You'll want to enlist the services of a lawyer and financial planner. For example, at our firm, consider reaching out to my colleague Doug Sulman of O'Brien Sulman McGivern Lawyers. He is an expert in estate law and has a wealth of knowledge in this area.

WHAT

STEPS DO I NEED TO TAKE TO DESIGNATE A GIFT IN MY WILL?

The process is very simple. Work with your financial planner and the Foundation to determine the amount and type of gift that you'd like to leave. In some instances, a gift of securities or a credit product like a Life Insurance Policy may be a more advantageous way to maximize your gift. Once you've determined the amount and type of gift, your lawyer can help to finalize the details and add a clause to your Will. It's a straightforward process that will have a major impact on our hospital and community for years to come.



SANDRA, JULIA AND RON PELTIER, PICTURED HERE WITH A PHOTO OF THEIR BELOVED MOTHER, GRANDMOTHER AND WIFE, JOAN.

A LEGACY OF FAMILY, COMMUNITY, FAITH & GENEROSITY.

A generous spirit can be a transformative thing. When you surround yourself with people who are devoted to community and helping others, your life is bound to change. And when that special person is your wife, your mother, or your grandmother, this generosity of spirit can become like a genetic trait, passed down as a legacy from generation to generation.

Joan Peltier was a woman whose lifelong devotion to family, faith, and community had this type of transformative effect. When Joan passed away peacefully at her home in Pain Court in January of 2023, her loving family found an opportunity to carry on her legacy under difficult circumstances. The community that Joan had been a part of for so many decades provided overwhelming support to make this possible.

Memorial donations flooded in to the Foundation in Joan's memory, in support of the Dialysis Unit at CKHA. Even with memorial donations being

split with VON Chatham-Kent, a staggering number – over \$1,350.00 – was donated to CKHA in Joan's honour.

“Mom was always a people person, and she loved to do things for other people, so this response wasn't all that surprising,” said Joan's daughter, Sandra. **“Requesting memorial donations in mom's memory was such an easy thing to do, and the impact that can be made when you add them all together is truly remarkable.”**

An additional \$500 donation was made in Joan's memory by the Ladies of Ste. Anne. This long-standing Pain Court service club raises funds for their church, local schools and issues impacting community members, and Joan had been a part of the organization for many years.



PICTURED (RIGHT): LINDA AND ANGELA FROM THE LADIES OF STE. ANNE PRESENT A CHEQUE TO THE FOUNDATION FOR \$500 IN JOAN'S MEMORY.

“Faith and community were so important to mom, and earlier in her life, she devoted a lot of time to the Ladies and the important work that they do,” Sandra stated. “It’s really beautiful to see it all come full circle with the Ladies making this generous donation in her memory.”

With a significant amount already contributed, Joan’s family was inspired to use the funds raised to leave a legacy in honour of her generous spirit and commitment to helping others. When the Foundation reached out to thank them for the outpouring of memorial donations made in Joan’s honour, the family expressed interest in using these funds, in addition to their own contributions, to purchase a new dialysis chair for CKHA.

“Joan had kidney disease for about ten years, and she actually loved going for dialysis at CKHA over the past few years, because she loved all the nurses and the patients that she got to see there,” said Joan’s husband, Ron. **“So to do something helpful for the staff and the unit and the patients who need that treatment, it just felt like a win-win.”**

The family’s goal to purchase this equipment was also aided by the generous spirit of Joan’s granddaughter, Julia. Over the past couple of years, Julia had been raising funds by selling ornamental corn that she grew herself on the farm. She had been searching for a way to use the funds to support local treatment of kidney disease, so she was thrilled to contribute the \$700 that she had raised towards the purchase of the dialysis chair for CKHA.

“Julia takes after her grandma in the way that she’s always looking to help other people. Even when she was in the first grade, instead of asking for birthday presents, she wanted people to donate towards the Kidney Foundation,” Sandra said of her daughter. **“We’re very proud of her for all of her hard work, and it’s hard to imagine a better way to use the funds that she has raised.”**

Along with the memorial donations, the donation from the Ladies of Ste. Anne, and Julia’s fundraising efforts, the Peltier family plans to contribute any additional funds needed to purchase the dialysis chair.

Drawing inspiration from Joan’s lifelong commitment to helping others, the Peltier family are proving that generosity can be passed down from generation to generation. Through the purchase of this needed piece of equipment, they are helping our hospital provide high-quality care to local patients for years to come, and ensuring that Joan’s legacy will live on here in the community that she called home. 🌱



DIANE EASTON: A LIFE DEDICATED TO HELPING OTHERS

There is extraordinary value in living a life devoted to helping others, but for many, this practice is easier said than done. For Diane Easton, a longtime Chatham-Kent resident and pillar of our philanthropic community, this attitude has always come naturally.

“Ever since I was a child, I’ve been a people person; I always wanted to help people,” Diane stated. **“That approach has guided so much of what I’ve done in my life.”**

After retiring from a long career spent helping others as a Registered Nurse at the Meadow Park Long-Term Care facility, Diane continued to dedicate herself to service and community. She took on leadership roles within a wide variety of local volunteer organizations, serving terms as President of the May Court Club of Chatham, the Junior Hospital League at CKHA, and the hospital’s Helping Hands Auxiliary.

Diane also served on our Foundation Board for years, a natural fit given her lifelong

connection to local healthcare. She cherished her time on the Board, where she helped to raise awareness and funds for the needs of our local hospital.

“The Foundation has such an important role in raising funds to invest in up-to-date equipment for our local hospital,” she said. **“Our community has always responded so generously when asked to support the purchase of specific equipment through events and other fundraisers, and I have always been passionate about helping to reach these important goals.”**

Through her decades of volunteerism and community service, Diane understands the ongoing and long-term needs of the Foundation and our local hospital. For this reason, she has also made a financial commitment towards this important cause, designating a gift in her will in support of the Foundation.

“I recently became a great grandparent, so I’ve been thinking more about helping and investing in future generations,” Diane said. **“The hospital and Foundation are so important to our community, helping to provide great care to our neighbours, friends and family members, so I know how important it is to contribute what I can to support this great work both now and in the future.”**

As someone who has dedicated her life to helping others - who has given so generously of her time for so many years – Diane’s passion is truly inspiration. By leaving a gift in her will, her contribution will continue to have a positive impact on the lives of Chatham-Kent residents for many decades to come. 🌟



QUIET ROOMS

Through the generosity of our community, we are enhancing crucial mental health and addiction services in Chatham-Kent.



Construction is nearing completion on the development of two new Quiet Rooms for CKHA's Mental Health & Addictions Program. This project was made possible by tremendous support from across Chatham-Kent.

Mental health and addictions treatment remains a key area of focus here in Chatham-Kent. As we continue to weather a mental health crisis that was accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, investment from across our community is enabling the development of state-of-the-art facilities that will enhance mental health services at CKHA.

Following the opening of CKHA's new Withdrawal Management service in 2022, construction is nearing completion on the development of two new Quiet Rooms for the hospital's Mental Health & Addictions Program.

By eliminating outside stimulus, the Quiet Rooms will focus on a recovery-based model of care, incorporating empowerment, hope and meaning in life, while building on the patient-centred

approach currently instituted in the program. The specialized spaces will help patients reset and feel calm, offering privacy from other patients, and providing a safe space for those who require a decrease in stimulation.

The Foundation's ability to make such a significant investment in these critical mental health and addiction services over the past two years has been the direct result of overwhelming support from across Chatham-Kent. In particular, the completion of these Quiet Rooms would not be possible without so many generous community members and organizations. This includes the Community Foundation of Chatham-Kent,

who rewarded a \$10,000 grant to the Foundation in support of the Quiet Rooms.

Additional funds have been allocated to the project thanks to generous contributions from countless local donors, community event organizers, as well as excess funds from the strong support received by the Foundation's COVID Relief Fund.

With the hospital working towards a summer completion for the Quiet Rooms, the advancement of care for community members suffering from mental illness and addiction remains at the forefront at CKHA. With the support that the Foundation has seen for mental health and addiction services over the past few years, it is clear that this important cause remains a top priority for so many people from across Chatham-Kent. 🌈



CHATHAM KENT
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



DYNAMIC SIMULATION

ENHANCING LOCAL HEALTHCARE THROUGH INNOVATION.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Scotiabank

In April of 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic brought about rapid changes to Emergency Departments (EDs) across the globe, Dr. Shawn Segeren of CKHA wanted to ensure that our local EDs were as prepared as possible in the face of this ever-changing landscape. As an Emergency Physician at CKHA, Dr. Segeren understood the critical importance of hands-on learning and skill development, and he took action to bring an innovative solution to our local hospital by arranging a series of clinical simulation sessions focused on resuscitating patients with COVID-19. This is how his clinical education program, Dynamic Simulation, was born.

Clinical simulation is a teaching method that allows healthcare professionals to practice critical care scenarios and resuscitation using realistic situations and equipment. It is a safe and effective way to improve patient care and outcomes during high-pressure situations.

“Before Dynamic Simulation, the only way for ER Physicians, Registered Nurses and Respiratory Therapists to get this kind of hands-

on experience would involve driving to London or Toronto,” Dr. Segeren said. “So when I started offering practical simulations to ED staff here at CKHA, the response was immediate and overwhelmingly positive.”

Since its inception in 2020, Dynamic Simulation has offered a wide variety of critical-care simulation days for ED Physicians, RTs, RNs, and specialists at CKHA. Dr. Segeren, who was born and raised right here in Chatham, has enjoyed thinking outside-the-box to make these simulations interesting and innovative as he seeks to enhance the care provided in his hometown hospital.

“It’s been an honour to see the program grow and have a positive impact on the care provided in our local Emergency Departments, and I have enjoyed being able to give back to my community in that way,” he says. “By offering inter-professional simulations that allow our teams to work together in a familiar environment, it has really benefited us all in a way that we wouldn’t experience through any other method of training.”



Over time, news of this innovative program at CKHA grew through word-of-mouth and on social media, and local organizations took notice. As the link between the community and its hospital, the Foundation connected one of its long-time partners with Dr. Segeren's Dynamic Simulation program. Scotiabank, who have generously supported healthcare in Chatham-Kent for many years, were among the first to recognize the program's positive impacts, and were eager to lend their support to the great work being done.

Scotiabank initiated their support by sponsoring a Dynamic Simulation Procedural Skills Day in September of 2022. In 2023, Scotiabank has built upon this strong support by partnering with the Foundation to sponsor ten Dynamic Simulation sessions and two procedural skills days per year over the next two years.

“Receiving such strong support from Scotiabank is a major development for Dynamic Simulation, and it will benefit the program in many ways,” says Dr. Segeren. “With their strong financial commitment, I look forward to enhancing and building the program to better serve our Emergency Departments and, as a result, our community as a whole.”

Looking to the future, over the next two years and beyond, Dr. Segeren is eager to grow Dynamic Simulation to work with not only ED staff, but other departments at CKHA as well. Thanks to Scotiabank's partnership with the Foundation, he will be able to offer higher-fidelity simulations, leveraging new equipment to provide even more realistic, helpful scenarios to CKHA's physicians and frontline healthcare providers.

Through the outstanding work of Dr. Segeren's Dynamic Simulation program, as well as Scotiabank's inspiring partnership, innovation is flourishing at CKHA. Through the generosity of our community, the Foundation will continue to invest in innovative programs like this, in order to enable world-class healthcare right here in Chatham-Kent.

For more information about Dynamic Simulation, visit www.dynamicsimulation.ca

HER FIGHT is our fight

Melissa Harrigan's inspiring journey and profound impact on breast cancer treatment in Chatham-Kent.



In December of 2022, Chatham-Kent Councillor Melissa Harrigan revealed that she had been diagnosed with breast cancer. In the months since, Melissa has made it her mission to share her positive and optimistic outlook, helping women across all stages of their cancer diagnosis and journey in Chatham-Kent.



In addition to donations that have poured in from individuals and organizations from across Chatham-Kent, Melissa's *Her Fight Is Our Fight* campaign has been buoyed by a generous **\$10,000.00 gift from the CKHA Helping Hands Auxiliary**. It has also received strong support from Authier Print & Promotional Ltd., who produced and printed custom t-shirts, donating \$5.00 from each sale towards Melissa's campaign.

In January, Melissa launched a community fundraiser, facilitated by the Foundation, to support the purchase of a new VELA Mammography Chair and fund needed cosmetic enhancements to the Mammography room at CKHA. Understanding the culture of generosity that exists in Chatham-Kent, Melissa set the lofty goal of raising \$10,000 through this campaign. As it does so often, our community responded in overwhelming fashion.

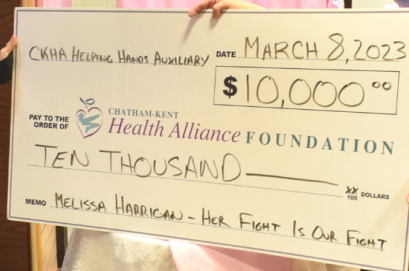
"It's been overwhelming and really moving to see so many people make donations and even organize fundraisers of their own in support of this campaign," Melissa stated. "This really is such a special, generous community, and words cannot express how grateful I am for every single person who has supported this important cause."

"I am committed to making my journey with breast cancer a meaningful one, and setting out to raise \$10,000 in support of Mammography at CKHA felt like a worthy aspiration," Melissa stated. "I have really been blown away by the support that the campaign has received from across Chatham-Kent, already doubling this initial goal and growing every day."

Melissa's courage and strength in the face of this immense challenge are truly inspirational. Through her positive attitude, determination and passion for local healthcare, Melissa's campaign will certainly have a profound impact on breast cancer treatment in our community for years to come.

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To learn more about the *Her Fight is Our Fight* campaign, or for an updated tally on how much has been raised to date, visit give.classy.org/HerFightIsOurFight





Wallaceburg Domino's Fundraiser • **1st and 15th** of each month throughout 2023
Domino's Pizza, Wallaceburg • 60 McNaughton Ave #101-A, Wallaceburg



Chatham Breakfast House Fundraiser • **June 3rd**
Churrascaria Steakhouse • 525 Grand Ave E, Chatham



Sydenham Trivia Night • **September 14th**
Sydenham Curling Club • 7379 N River Line, Tupperville

Contact **Ethan Paxton**, Events & Donor Relations Officer, at EPaxton@ckha.on.ca to learn more about how you can organize your own community fundraiser in support of the Foundation!

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THANK YOU FOR INSPIRING US!

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