

DONOR IMPACT NEWSLETTER

Fall 2024 Edition



BRITTANY'S STORY

Brittany Roter wanted so badly to bask in the excitement of her pregnancy. Just four months along with her second child, she received the most devastating news a mother could ever hear – you have cancer.

At 33, the Apsley resident was diagnosed with colorectal cancer after experiencing a sudden medical episode while out with her family.

“At the time, my heart broke for the tiny human I was growing because her future was so uncertain. We didn't know if she would make it.”

“Despite everything that was happening, I knew one thing – I was ready to fight for our lives.”

And fight she did.

Over the past year, Brittany visited five hospitals, has undergone six rounds of chemo, 25 radiation treatments, and two surgeries.

Two days before her scheduled induction, Brittany learned that thanks to the care she was receiving, her tumor was gone! She received some well deserved peace before welcoming baby Hunter in January 2024. Additional radiation at Lakeridge Health came after, but she didn't give up hope.

“Cancer has taken so much from me but it didn't take me from my family, and it didn't take my baby girl.”

Donations to cancer care at Lakeridge Health directly support patients like Brittany by helping to fund critical equipment, like Smart IV Pumps used to administer chemotherapy and Linear Accelerators that provide 40,000 radiation treatments each year.

And when it comes to supporting your local hospital, Brittany has simple advice. “Just do it. You think it may not be you... but take it from me, one day it could be.”

Read more about Brittany's story at www.lhfoundation.ca.

Putt-ing Our Hospitals First

The Lakeridge Health Foundation 2024 Golf Classic, presented by Norm, Paul and Scott Mackie, took place on July 15 at Coppinwood Golf Club.

Over **\$203,000** was raised to fund innovative technology, equipment, critical renovations, education, and research at Lakeridge Health's Oshawa and Whitby hospital sites. To date, the Golf Classic has raised over \$3.2 million for patient care at our Hospitals.



PEDALING FOR A PURPOSE

On June 2, our first annual Bike for Health event and its riders sped right past the finish line to surpass their goal and raise over **\$363,000** for the Hospitals of Lakeridge Health!

Over 250 riders came together at Ajax Downs for the ride that took them through the stunning terrain of Durham Region in support of local health care. Presenting Sponsor Elexicon, alongside key partners RBC and The Regional Municipality of Durham, helped elevate the event making it a must-attend for riders of all skill levels.



Thank you to all community members, Lakeridge Health staff, volunteers, photographers and sponsors who helped bring this event to life. **Funds raised from Bike for Health will purchase two bladder scanners for the Oshawa Hospital and one for our Whitby site.** This equipment is used to diagnose kidney issues and help avoid the need for a catheter in patients staying at our Hospitals.

WE ASKED, AND YOU ANSWERED!

This past April, you heard from Dr. Randy Wax and Dr. Nadia Ismiil about the desperate need to replace well-used life-saving equipment in various departments at our Oshawa and Whitby Hospitals.

We put out the call, and you answered! We are so excited to share that thanks to generous donor support, over \$68,000 was raised to help with the purchase of five new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Units, a new

Portable Ultrasound Machine and a new Fetal Monitor for programs at Lakeridge Health Oshawa and Whitby.

We see first-hand how having the best equipment at our Hospitals, right here in Durham Region, saves lives. On behalf of our staff, and most importantly the patients who rely on the hospital every day, thank you for your generosity and support for the purchase of this essential equipment!



Dr. Nadia Ismiil and Dr. Randy Wax



LHO Critical Care Unit staff with an AED unit.

SPOTLIGHT: DIGITAL PATHOLOGY



Cancer Care One Click Away

Lakeridge Health's world-class laboratory and pathology department will continue to be at the forefront of cancer diagnosis and personalized medicine.



Further innovation of digital pathology at our Hospitals will allow our experts to review cancer cells faster than ever before.

Thanks to our donors, who helped surpass the *Our Cancer Campaign* goal, our Foundation can now take on yet another innovative priority for cancer care – the amplification of digital pathology that will drastically decrease wait times for cancer diagnosis. Soon, these important diagnoses will only be one click away!

In the past, oncologists relied on the laboratory to determine whether cancer was simply present. Today, our pathologists work hand in hand with the oncology team to indicate a patient's exact type of cancer and provide detailed information on the best treatment plan.

Now, further innovation of digital pathology at our Hospitals will allow our experts to review cancer cells faster than ever before and share laboratory results anywhere – eliminating the

need for physical transportation and ensuring the right experts can weigh in for every patient.

The need for pathology is higher than ever before, and complex cancer cases are on the rise. Artificial intelligence technology will also be introduced to support pathologists reviewing tissue samples, improving workflow and speeding up reporting time.

This is just one example of how donor support is helping advance cancer care in all aspects of the patient journey and how exceptional cancer care can and should be available close to home.

For more information on digital pathology and the other top priorities funded through *Our Cancer Campaign* thanks to our generous donors and community, please visit www.OurCancer.ca.



RECOGNIZING COMPASSIONATE CARE

This past spring, a grateful patient made a gift through the Circle of Gratitude program to honour the compassionate care of the Oshawa Hospital's Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) Team (pictured), as well as their anesthesiologist Dr. Puzio and surgeon Dr. Moozar.

The PACU team is a group of specialized staff who monitor patients who have just had surgery. These compassionate medical professionals are the first to be by your side when you wake up to help with your comfort and recovery.

Along with this generous gesture, this donor left a thoughtful message: "Thank you for looking after me. I am fortunate to have had such remarkable staff caring for me."





Did you or someone you love have a positive experience at Lakeridge Health? Honour a staff member or volunteer by recognizing them through our Circle of Gratitude program.

Visit www.CircleofGratitude.ca or call **905-433-4339** for more information.

Thank you for your support – Connect with us!

Have a story to share?

We'd love to hear it. Contact Adrienne at aburns@lh.ca or **905-576-8711 ext 32784**

-  @lhfoundation_
-  @lakeridgehealthfoundation
-  @LHFoundation_
-  Lakeridge Health Foundation



1 Hospital Court, Rm A1-116
Oshawa, ON L1G 2B9
T (905) 433-4339
F (905) 743-5306

www.lhfoundation.ca
foundation@lh.ca



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What Matters Most: Upcoming Needs of our Hospitals

With over 269,000 patients served across all hospital sites, Lakeridge Health is constantly upgrading and replacing equipment to better care for our community.

Large-scale investments like a surgical robot or PET-CT scanner have an incredible impact on our region, but smaller, every-day pieces of equipment are at the core of patient care.

Over the next few months, we'll be working with the community to fund 59 additional AED machines and 36 patient lifts for our Oshawa Hospital.

As you know, AEDs, or Automatic External Defibrillators, are critical devices that save lives during cardiac arrest when someone's heart suddenly stops. Each new AED is \$3,200.

Portable patient lifts reduce the risk of injury for our staff and provide a safer way to move or transfer patients who cannot otherwise move themselves. Each lift is \$3,000 and will benefit numerous departments at our Oshawa Hospital.

If you'd like to chat more about these needs today, please call Adrienne in the Foundation office at **905-576-8711 ext. 32784**.

