



. *Double Your Impact!*

November, 2020



Dear Neighbour,

You and your loved ones are navigating uncharted territory right now. The whole community is worried about COVID and what will happen in the second wave. The staff at Belleville General Hospital are worried just like you.

I hope that since my last letter you and your loved ones are staying safe and doing well.

But what if you need Belleville General Hospital right now?

Our main cancer doctor, Dr. Levesque, has a message for you and your family: Do not hesitate to come to Belleville General Hospital during COVID. The only way to treat serious illnesses is by acting quickly.

Let me tell you about one young mom named Frida, who is proof of what Dr. Levesque means. Her journey started not so long ago when she visited BGH with stomach pains that turned out to be appendicitis. This was resolved quickly at the hospital. But, not long after, Frida returned to BGH with more worrying symptoms and was immediately diagnosed with cancer.

Dr. Levesque said, “we understand cancer, and we will create the right plan for the patient.” In Frida’s case, treatment was surgery and chemotherapy. Dr. Nina Davies who’d previously removed her appendix, also performed the lumpectomy Frida required.

Ten months after her first diagnosis, Frida was again back with more severe symptoms. Unfortunately, it had spread. This time it was lymphoma.

Frida lost the ability to walk because of her cancer, which she had to relearn how to do, all the while receiving round-the-clock care for her cancer. With long periods alone at BGH when her husband had to work and her son was at school, she had to put herself in the hands of her BGH care team.

To keep BGH as strong as possible for you and your loved ones, I need you to make your Christmas gift today. Your \$50 or \$75 will be matched by a member of the community. Your gift can become \$100 or \$150.

Your contribution will keep the Dr. Douglas A. MacIntosh Cancer Fund topped-up and ready to help provide specialized cancer treatment. Your gift will also keep upgrading the tools that support cancer or COVID care at BGH.

Frida’s second cancer journey saw her visit every corner of the hospital for treatment, and she told me that at each step the BGH staff made her feel comfortable and safe. Frida worried about her four-year-old son every day, but she and her family realized they had to trust BGH.

(continued over...)

Dr. Levesque told me that he arrived at BGH 25 years ago and was mentored into his role by Dr. MacIntosh. He was deeply moved by Dr. MacIntosh's values of gentleness, caring, and compassion.

Your gift today will support patients and staff during this holiday season. Imagine lying in a bed alone at night worrying about your young son while staring down another cancer diagnosis. Every day, our doctors, nurses, and staff arrive at BGH, put on their PPE and put in another day on the front lines of COVID.

Please tell them how much their efforts mean to you and your family.

Finally, Frida learned how to walk again and left BGH cancer free.

It was early on in the COVID pandemic, when Frida came down with a fever. She developed a cough, her oxygen was low, and her pulse was high. Her family doctor, over the phone, said call 911 and go to BGH.

The BGH team, with full PPE, admitted Frida to the positive pressure ICU room. This room is available today because people like you gave to create this life-saving space after SARS. After a long recovery, Frida beat COVID and went back home.

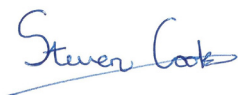
You are the reason that Dr. Levesque, Dr. Davies, and the entire BGH staff can spring into action before and during the pandemic. I need you to make a gift today for the future of BGH. Your generosity today can mean so much to you, your family, and your community in the future.

You may know our ICU needs an upgrade. Your support means long-lasting pieces of infrastructure like a positive pressure room to save lives will be available at BGH. Your support means the whole cancer team can draw on the skills and expertise of the entire hospital staff.

Please return your angel this year and add your special message of hope during the second wave of COVID. The staff and patients face a difficult time ahead, with visitor and volunteer restrictions in place. You are all they have this Christmas to find hope in the dark moments.

I know this community will stay strong together. Your past support is proof of your caring and concern, and on behalf of the whole hospital staff, I want to say thank you.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Cook
Executive Director
BGH Foundation

P.S. Your life-saving Christmas gift will be doubled this year thanks to the generosity of an individual donor. Please send your message of hope back during this uncharted second wave of COVID to keep BGH strong.

