

Give the gift of life,



BE A CHRISTMAS

Angel



December 1, 2021

Dear Friend,

This time last year, I wasn't sure if Belleville General Hospital (BGH) — or the entire Healthcare system, for that matter — would make it through the pandemic.

Thanks to caring community members like you, BGH has maintained the highest quality of care for each of our patients throughout this unprecedented crisis.

So many patients and their families have benefitted from the kindness and generosity of the Quinte community. Local hospital support saves lives.

But other health risks haven't gone away. If anything, they've gripped us even tighter during the pandemic.

Emerging evidence — such as the global reduction in patients presenting with acute coronary syndromes or various cancers — shows that pandemic fears and restrictions have led many patients to postpone some medical tests and exams.

Simply put, **pandemic-delays have caused a dramatic drop in cancer screenings, leading to fewer diagnoses. The medical community now fears an impending wave of cancer patients and other serious illnesses following COVID delays.**

That's why I'm writing you today. BGH desperately needs to replace early diagnosis equipment such as the current cameras in our Nuclear Medicine Department — we must be prepared for this upcoming public health crisis.

Upgrading this life-saving equipment will ensure our health teams are ready to spring into action should you or your loved ones need our care. **Will you make your most generous holiday gift of \$50, \$75, \$100, or whatever amount feels right for you, today?**

I'd be honoured to have you join our hospital family. Please respond today to pledge your support. Your holiday gift will help so many people.

With your support, BGH can be prepared to give every patient who comes through our doors the best possible care.

This Holiday season, you can give the gift of early detection.

Your gift will ensure BGH has all the vital equipment our health teams need to care for patients like Terry Callaghan.

Early in 2020, while the whole world was watching the global healthcare community learn how to handle a disease modern medicine had never seen, Terry began to feel unwell.

Thankfully, Terry trusted her instincts and immediately sought medical care.

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But the first X-ray was inconclusive. Terry insisted there was something wrong with her health. And Terry's health teams believed her.

To get to the bottom of the problem, Terry's health team ordered a CT Scan and then follow-up ultrasounds to track the area of concern.

Despite the ongoing chaos and massive strain the pandemic put on the hospital, BGH maintained the highest quality of care for Terry — and every patient in our care.

Never once did Terry feel dismissed or ignored by her health teams. In fact, she says she will be forever grateful for the level of compassion and care she received.

Nobody gave up. The health teams at BGH stopped at nothing to figure out the cause of Terry's symptoms.

Terry was given a closer look by means of a Nuclear Medicine Exam. Nuclear Medicine is unique in that it's extremely sensitive to abnormalities in an organ's structure or its function.

The imaging diagnostics confirmed Terry's worst nightmare. She was diagnosed with a rare form of neuroendocrine cancer that's typically difficult to detect.

Early detection saves lives, especially when it comes to life-threatening diseases like cancer.

And, thanks to caring people like you, Terry is alive today. Not only was Terry's cancer successfully removed surgically — it was also caught early enough that she was able to safely forgo chemotherapy and radiation.

Terry's stage IV cancer is currently in remission — **Terry is cancer-free!** She told me she's so grateful for the quality care she received at BGH — she feels so lucky that she could access world-class healthcare right in her community.

I hope this story of hope inspires you to join our hospital family. Your generous support means the world to patients like Terry.

If you agree that early detection saves lives, then please fill out the enclosed donation form right now.

Your special holiday gift will help purchase life-saving equipment such as Nuclear Medicine cameras that our health teams need to diagnose serious illnesses quickly.

As I'm sure you know, the government does not provide funding for hospital equipment. Your generous support helps purchase the essential equipment and technology we need to save lives and give patients the best possible care throughout this pandemic and beyond.

Thanks to the support of generous and compassionate community members like you, BGH continues to offer the best possible care to each of our patients.

This holiday season, you can be an Angel and give the gift of early detection.

Wishing you joy, peace and good health,

Steven Cook
Executive Director
Belleville General Hospital Foundation



P.S. Please send your Christmas Angel gift today to help purchase vital equipment like Nuclear Medicine cameras.
You can give the gift of early detection to patients like Terry.

P.P.S. Please remember, **don't ever put your health on hold!** COVID or no COVID, BGH is here to care for you.
Early detection saves lives.