

# Give the gift of life,



BE A CHRISTMAS  
**Angel**



November 2023

Dear Friend,

Sitting here at my desk, I am reminded of the power of the Holiday season. The joy and magic that surrounds us, the warmth of our loved ones, and the gratitude we feel for all that we have been given.

Today I am especially grateful to tell you about Susan, **a woman who has fought hard to make it to this Holiday season.**

It was March 2021 — the height of the Omicron wave, a year into the pandemic that nearly crushed our healthcare system — when 59-year-old Susan started experiencing extreme shortness of breath. She was rushed to the ER for treatment and diagnostic testing.

**“I thought I had COVID,”** Susan said, recalling her visit to Belleville General Hospital’s emergency room. **“But the doctors found something worse.”**

What they found was Stage IV lung cancer. Imagine Susan’s fear and despair in that moment. With a word, her situation in the ER had gone from bad to worse. Her whole world came crashing down around her as she realized she was gearing up for an epic battle.

**And fight she did.** Today, I am thrilled to report that Susan will be celebrating the Holidays with her family. In her home. Without the use of any tubes or masks.

“In the beginning, I was on level four oxygen. I had three tubes in my chest, with a portable pack. I had an antibiotic intravenous,” explained Susan, **“and now I’m walking the waterfront trail every day.”**

This Holiday season, I ask that you think about the impact your generosity could have on cancer patients like Susan.

**Will you be an Angel and make your most generous Holiday gift of \$50, \$75 or \$100 today?** Please pledge your support to help ensure that cancer patients like Susan receive the best care possible.

This year, a generous donor has pledged to match every gift made to the Belleville General Hospital Foundation (BGHF), up to \$100,000! **That means that every dollar you give will be doubled — making your gift go even further!**

I can’t think of a better way to celebrate this Holiday season than by giving the gift of hope to those who need it most.

Susan’s story is a remarkable testament to the power of world-class healthcare — and not just from the

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Regional Cancer Centre at Belleville General Hospital — **Susan has received life-saving care from nearly every department in the hospital:**

- Her harrowing tale began in the ER where, thanks to state-of-the-art equipment, Susan received her cancer diagnosis immediately.
- From there, Susan was admitted to the ICU where she received around-the-clock care and monitoring.
- Then, once stable, Susan was transferred to an inpatient floor and eventually began her treatment through the Regional Cancer Centre.

Throughout her journey, Susan has also received care from many other departments at BGH — from the Blood Lab to Pathology, from Diagnostic Imaging to the Operating Room — so many amazing healthcare heroes have worked tirelessly to ensure that Susan would live to enjoy this Holiday season with her family.

It's truly remarkable to see the level of teamwork and collaboration that goes on behind the scenes here at BGH. Every department works together seamlessly to ensure that patients receive the best care — **all thanks to generous people like YOU!**

As you know, the government does not provide funding for new hospital equipment. Your generous Holiday support will help purchase the essential equipment and technology BGH needs to provide the best life-saving care in every department.

"I'll never forget Dr. Chooback's words," said Susan of her Oncologist, "she told me: **'you're having treatment to live, you're not living for treatment.'** Those words have become my mantra."

As you gather with your loved ones this Holiday season, I want you to know that your generosity can help make miracles happen for BGH patients.

**Will you be a Holiday Angel for patients like Susan?** Your generous gift will be there for every hospital patient, no matter what they are facing.

**And remember: your tax-deductible Holiday gift will be matched — dollar-for-dollar — up to \$100,000!**

Thank you for your support. I wish you a happy and healthy Holiday season..

Warmest regards,

Steve Cook  
Executive Director  
Belleville General Hospital Foundation

**P.S. Create the biggest impact for cancer patients like Susan by pledging your most generous Holiday gift today. Gifts over \$20 will automatically be issued a tax receipt!**



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**Belleville General  
Hospital Foundation**  
*In support of Quinte's Regional Hospital*