

Support

Report

BRIGHTSHORES HEALTH SYSTEM OWEN SOUND FOUNDATION



Research, Innovation, Impacts Already Taking Shape

inside

**Local Healthcare is
Founded on People
like Barb Olmsted**

**Kitchen Makeover:
Hospital Edition**

**You're Helping to
Keep a Lid on It**

**Other Projects at
the ORI**

Brightshores Office of Research and Innovation (ORI) is still in its infancy but it's already changing the way care happens in Grey and Bruce. By focusing on the needs of our region (senior populations, rural communities, use of technology and a dispersed health system) the ORI is sponsoring and partnering on projects that will benefit all of us.

One example is Brightshores involvement in the Advanced AI Wound Care Network. This ambitious initiative will focus on driving the adoption of innovative wound care technology from Swift Medical which is designed to provide precise measurements and assessments of wounds.

“With a high burden of wounds, particularly those associated with diabetes, and limited resources to assess patients across our 6 sites, the adoption of this technology will significantly enhance our

capabilities.” stated Dr. Rebecca Brookham, Director, Office of Research & Innovation, Brightshores Health System.

One of the key advantages of this technology is its potential to standardize wound assessments across all sites, thereby optimizing resource allocation and expediting care delivery to priority cases. By mitigating the limitations associated with traditional assessment tools and streamlining documentation processes, this innovation is poised to reduce healing time and increase timely access to care.

It's part of an effort by Brightshores to engage the wider healthcare community to improve care here in Grey and Bruce. With \$180,000 in local donations and \$1,612,500 in grant investment the ORI is already having an impact and it's possible because of contributions from donors like you!

(See Page 4 for more about ORI)



**Brightshores
Health System**
OWEN SOUND
FOUNDATION

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Local Healthcare is Founded on People like Barb Olmsted

Barb Olmsted radiates an easy warm kindness that brings a smile to your face. She knows the hospital better than most. As a volunteer for fifty-five years and one of the last remaining Founders (an exclusive group of donors that isn't taking any new members) she's practically an institution.

Even though she recently stopped volunteering she still likes to come see everyone and share in what's going on. She means a lot to the hospital and it means a lot to her.

"It means everything to me. I was never a nurse or a doctor but I did all kinds of things there" said Barb. She was with the organization for parts of seven decades. Through two locations and four different names Barb remained a constant.

She fondly remembers walking across the river on her way to the old General & Marine Rail Hospital which was located at 1201 6th Ave West. She started volunteering in 1968 nearly twenty years before the current hospital was even built!

She says some things changed when the new hospital was built "but it was time. That building [on 6th



Ave] was getting old." New walls and a new name but the same community and the same care. After the move "you'd still see all the same people coming in. It feels like I know everyone in town because I'd see them up at the hospital."

Barb had all three of her children here in Owen Sound. When they discovered her late husband Ron's cancer it was staff at the Owen Sound Hospital who cared for him.

Barb is a friend, a volunteer, a patient and a donor.

She is one of a select group of donors known as the Founders who have been giving every year since the current hospital was built – 38 consecutive years and counting!

She's given more than 117 gifts and countless hours of her time.

For years Barb ran the hospital Gift Shop. She raised money for new equipment and offered a friendly face to those who needed it. In 2015 she was recognized as Owen Sound Volunteer of the Year - a distinction she absolutely deserved.

When asked why she got involved with the hospital and spent so much time volunteering there she responded simply and honestly, "I just like helping people."

We want to thank Barb, the volunteers, the Founders and all the donors who just like helping people. Every single day of the year there's people who need help and they can get that help because of your support. Thank you.

Founders List

Anonymous
Paul and Joanne Brown
Mr. George Cruickshank
Robert and Linda Droine
Vern and Lorraine Francis
William & Wilma Frost
Mervyn and Myrna Fulford
Ken and Marian Goldsmith
Jean Hawken

Daphne Ives
Shirley McConnachie
Jo-Anne McConnell
Barbara Olmsted
Garth and Joan Pierce
Maureen and Tony Solecki
Mrs. Janis Thomas
Marie Thompson

Kitchen Makeover: Hospital Edition

It was probably the countertop or the cupboards that stole the show during your last kitchen reno. It might have been the backsplash or the taps that were your favourite feature, but the hospital's recent kitchen upgrades featured something so exciting we just had to brag about it: a new Direct Exchange Compressor!

This multistage rack unit replaces nine water cooled compressors that were part of a system installed 38 years ago when the hospital was built. The new system reduces the hospital's water usage by 5% creating considerable savings and reducing the impact on the environment.

The new compressor uses air instead of water so it needed to be placed outside. This has the added bonus of creating more space inside the kitchen for brand new fridges and freezers with additional storage.

With more space and more control over temperature the hospital can accommodate more food options and recently signed a new deal with Mohawk Medbuy's MEALsource Nutrition Procurement Program bringing fresher more cost effective meals to patients.

Jesse Dixon, Director of Support Services at Brightshores notes "In

the last few months, we put things like an egg sandwich in for breakfast, french toast, some of those things that weren't typically associated with patient meals in hospitals."

This type of improvement is hard to see or notice but it's the type of thing happening every day at Brightshores. Changes that improve care, reduce costs, benefit the environment and create a better workplace.

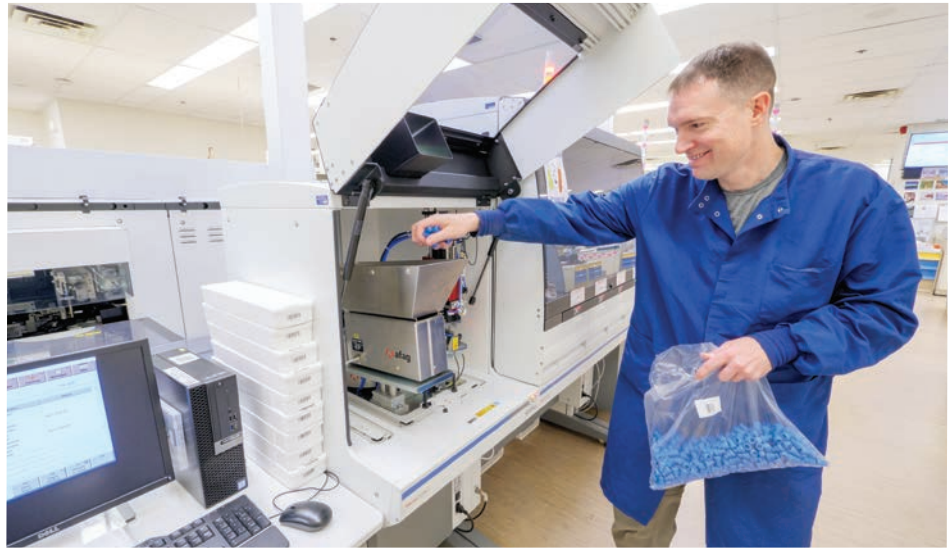
They say the kitchen is the heart of the home. We say that you're the heart of the hospital. It's because of you that improvements like these are possible.



You're Helping to Keep a Lid on It

Last year the lab at Brightshores Owen Sound hospital did 3,383,355 procedures. That's a lot of tests. It's nearly 74,000 more than the year before and the increasing volumes are showing no signs of slowing down as our area grows and the population gets older.

One way to keep up with demand is to find efficiencies through automation. With the support of amazing donors like you the lab has added a TCAutomaton Laboratory Recapper to its automation track. This device will re-cap samples after they have been tested. The machine has the capacity to cap up to 1,000 samples per hour. This reduces staff



time and helps preserve the stability of the samples as it can be re-capped immediately after testing is completed.

We want to tip our caps and say thank you for helping with thousands of tests every day.

Other Projects at the ORI

The following are examples of the Clinical Trials, Academic Studies, and Innovation Projects that the ORI has helped bring to Brightshores.

Though it's still quite young, it's already changing the way care happens in Grey and Bruce. By focusing on the needs of our region (you can see the strong focus on rural emergency care), the ORI will benefit everyone in our community.

Multi-Roles Required of Staff in Rural Emergency Departments

PI: Sayra Cristancho, PhD (Western University)
Qualitative research exploring the multiple responsibilities required of staff working in rural emergency departments.

Pulmonary Fibrosis Clinical Trials

PI: Dr. Marcus Newton
Two trials sponsored by Bristol-Myers Squibb evaluating an experimental treatment for two types of pulmonary fibrosis.

Cadaveric Training Course for Emergency Physicians

Lead Developers: Dr. Alipasha Rassouli (ENT) and Dr. Sunil Mehta (OS Chief of ED)
Using human bodies donated to science post-mortem, rural emergency physicians are being trained to perform life and limb saving procedures.

Addiction Treatment Trial

PI: Robyn Nocilla, NP
Observational study examining the long-term use of medication to treat opioid addiction.

How to contact us



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Visit us at: brightshoresfoundation.ca

Support Report is a newsletter of the Brightshores Health System Owen Sound Foundation. The foundation raises funds to improve healthcare in our community by supporting new equipment, staff training and facility improvements at Brightshores.

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Rick West Give's Back Because of Absolutely Incredible Staff

If you're visiting the hospital on a Friday morning, chances are you'll meet Rick West. Rick is a retired insurance broker who lives just west of Owen Sound. After recovering from a mild stroke, Rick began volunteering in Day Surgery, greeting and assisting patients and their caregivers. He recently moved to volunteering in the lobby where he can greet and help even more people!

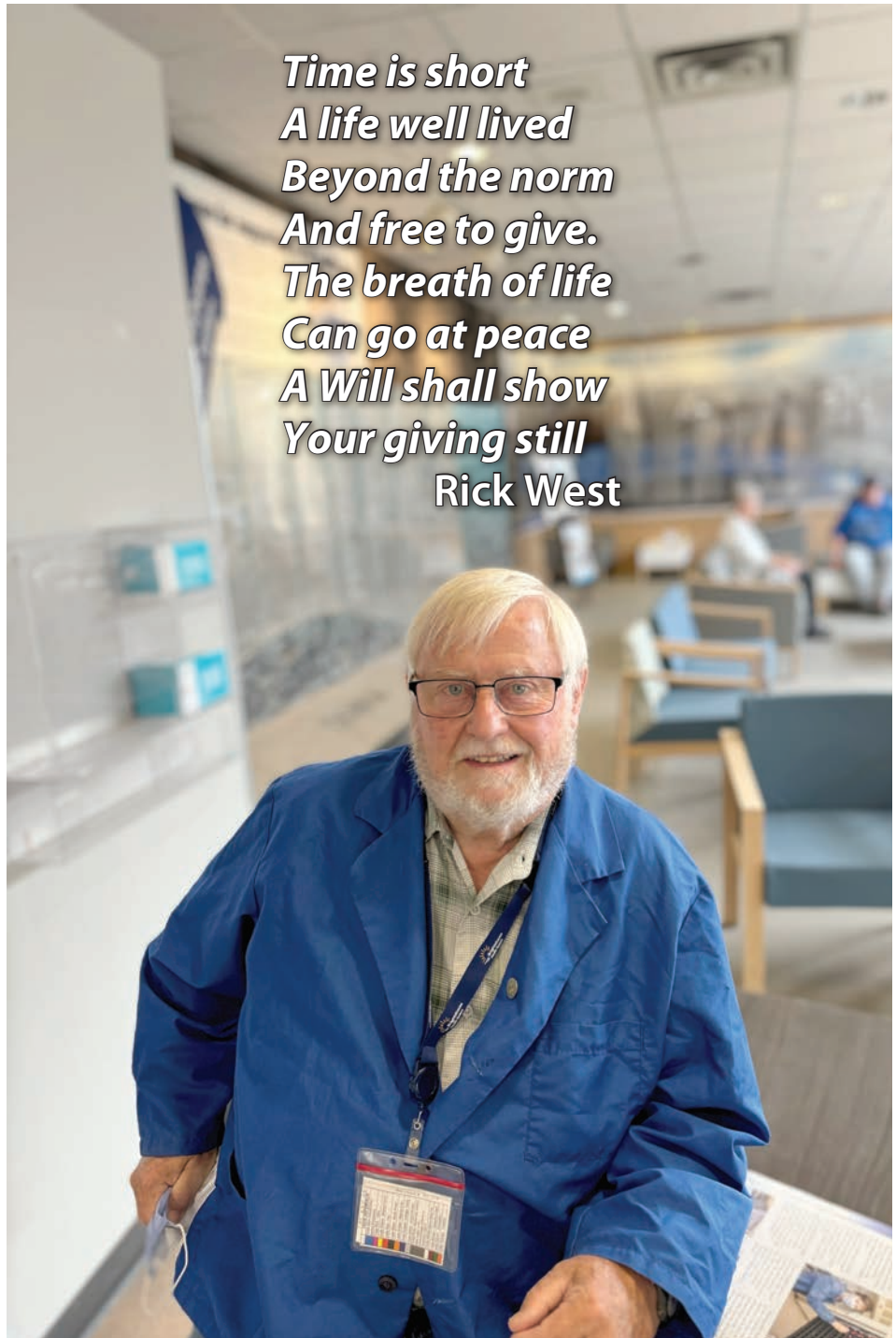
"Staff who cared for me as I recovered from my stroke came with a range of different knowledge and skills. I volunteer in appreciation of their care," says Rick.

For most of his life, Rick enjoyed good health. But about 20 years ago, he was hospitalized with kidney stones. "To say I was extremely well looked after would be an understatement! Hospitalization was new to me then – I had no idea what to expect".

Rick has also had a knee replacement, cancer treatment and other care since then. "The excellent and compassionate staff were no less than amazing," he added.

Recently, Rick informed the Foundation of a gift he has planned in his Will. "I hope patients benefit from my volunteering and the gift I have planned – but I'm quite sure that I have benefitted more."

Rick wrote this short poem to inspire others and express how he feels about life and philanthropy. You can learn more about leaving a gift in your Will by visiting www.brightshoresfoundation.ca/legacy



*Time is short
A life well lived
Beyond the norm
And free to give.
The breath of life
Can go at peace
A Will shall show
Your giving still
Rick West*

or contacting the foundation at (519) 372-3925.

If you see Rick on your next trip to the hospital be sure to say hi!

Big Hearts Help with Bigger Beds



Staff at Brightshores now have more options when treating patients. The hospital has acquired two bariatric beds thanks to the generosity of donors like you. With increasing demand for this type of bed it's essential to have two units so that no patient will go without.

Bariatric beds are wider and stronger than standard hospital beds. They can accommodate patients from 250lbs up to 1,000lbs. A dedicated blower box keeps air in the bed's mattress to relieve pressure and promote patient well-being. The bed's IntelliDrive technology reduces

the effort required to move the bed by 50% making it easier for staff to transport patients around the hospital.

Thank you for caring about all patients and all of their unique care needs. Together we can create healthier communities one patient at a time.

You're Vital to Care



If you've ever been to the hospital, you've seen one. Every patient who visits Brightshores Owen Sound Hospital will be assessed using a vital signs monitor. Because of donors like you there's a number of new monitors rolled out across Brightshores Health System.

The new vital signs monitors are more portable: they have longer battery life and greater reliability during movement. This means patients can be monitored continuously during urgent

situations. They also can connect directly to electronic patient charts which frees up nurses so they can spend more time at your bedside and less time doing paperwork.

It's a routine piece of equipment that's absolutely vital to great patient care. New equipment for our community wouldn't be possible without the kindness and commitment of donors like you – you are absolutely vital to great patient care!