

Support

Report

BRIGHTSHORES HEALTH SYSTEM OWEN SOUND FOUNDATION



Close Because You Care!



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The new incubator at Brightshores Owen Sound Hospital is keeping families close: close to home and close to each other.

The incubator provides a stable environment for Brightshores' youngest patients. It controls for temperature, humidity, and hygiene to keep them safe and comfortable. This new model also considers the safety and comfort of staff and families.

New options for adjustability ensure that staff are working at the right height

instead of bending throughout the day. Twist away storage shelves under the unit mean that even a mother in a wheelchair can get easy access to their newborn.

Having a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the hospital means most families can stay in our area close to home. Having the latest equipment means the best for staff, families and patients. It means we're proud to be right next to you. Thank you for keeping care close.



Brightshores Health System

OWEN SOUND FOUNDATION

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Expanded ICU Possible Because of You

In September 2023 the provincial government approved Brightshores Owen Sound Hospital for two additional Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds. A 33% increase from six to eight beds. The government announcement meant that the province would support the staff to look after those patients. It meant donors would need to step up and take care of the rest.

The physical rooms and spaces needed to be created. New beds needed to be purchased. Additional equipment to ensure that eight patients could all have their needs met at any given time. A single patient can need up to 12 IV pumps, a ventilator, and a heart monitor. Not to mention any specialized equipment for more rare situations.

Amazingly and without question you stepped up.



You responded. You gave generously when asked “a fully equipped ICU in Owen Sound is essential. Will you help?” Without question you did.

The ICU has grown. This building is almost 40 years old. Creating functional spaces can be as big a boost to care as adding new equipment. Walls were moved. Doors were changed. Spaces became patient rooms. The highlighted space in the attached photo used to be the end of the department. A wall intersected the area that’s now ICU room 3701.

On top of preparing the physical space new equipment has been added to ensure that eight patients can receive care at one time. The Stryker Altrix Temperature Management System is one great example. Head over to our website for back issues containing stories about ventilators, continuous renal replacement therapy and more!

The temperature management device shown here uses temperature controlled water flow through close contact body wraps to raise or lower a patient’s temperature depending on what the situation calls for. After the recent expansion your donations allowed the ICU to get a second unit knowing that more patients means more situations requiring this treatment.

During critical situations time matters. Having the right people and the right equipment matters. Being close to home matters. The impacts of your support matter.

Now our community has an expanded ICU because of you and that matters.



In and Out Before the Smoke Clears

Healthcare is forever changing, adapting and evolving. New technology, new techniques, new understanding all bring with them new ways of doing things. One big change in the last few years is the ability to do more intensive procedures in a less intensive way. Procedures that used to require vital time in an operating room can now be done in the hospital's ambulatory care department.

With your help Brightshores Owen Sound Hospital recently

acquired a fourth cauterly machine and smoke evacuator to meet the demand for this type of care. The machine sends electricity through a surgical pencil to create heat that is used to cauterize a blood vessel sealing off any bleeding.

The staff say that it makes their lives so much easier by saving time and effort. Patients appreciate being home sooner. And everyone appreciates donors like you for making it possible.



Donors Helping to Keep the Door Closed on RSV

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) has been a major contributor in childhood illness the past few years. It's the leading cause of hospitalization among Canadian infants. We are all incredibly fortunate that there's a new way to combat RSV and it only required a fridge.

In the fall of 2024 Health Canada approved a new RSV vaccine which can help lighten the load on emergency rooms and pediatric units across the country. As is almost always the case when something new comes on the scene there's a need for equipment to support it. That's where you came in. Donors like you have helped purchase a new medical grade refrigerator that ensures appropriate temperature and secure storage for critical medicines and vaccines.

Thank you for helping the staff at Brightshores turn down the temperature on RSV.



Your Legacy of Caring for Tomorrow



When you create a legacy of quality health care with a Will gift or other planned legacy to Brightshores Health System Owen Sound Foundation, you will help purchase medical equipment, fund facility improvements or support research at the Owen Sound Hospital for the generations who come after you.

More than 100 individuals and couples have let us know they've made a gift and joined the Caring for Tomorrow Society.

Once you have planned your gift, here are five great reasons to let us know about your future intention:

1. Be thanked and recognized for your future gift. Join with others as a member of the "Caring for Tomorrow Society" and inspire family, friends and neighbours to arrange a similar gift!

2. You will be invited to attend exclusive celebrations where you can interact with staff and learn more about how your support helps. We'll send

you information and updates on the life-saving care made possible with support like yours.

3. Together, we can make sure that your Will is worded correctly or clarify your intentions so your gift is used exactly as you intend.

4. Have confidence in how your gift will be directed to a specific area of interest or create an endowment fund named after you or a loved one that will impact patient care in perpetuity.

5. We're available any time to review the tax benefits of your gift and to suggest strategies that might impact your taxes now.

If you have a legacy gift arranged for Brightshores Owen Sound Foundation, or if you would like more information on how to make one, please call us at 519-372-3925 or visit www.brightshoresfoundation.ca/legacy.

A gift in your Will can accomplish so much. It can take care of your family and leave behind a legacy of care for this community.

A Sample of Your Generosity

A new centrifuge is spinning out results in the hospital's laboratory. With an improbable speed of up to 15,000 revolutions per minute this device is able to use gravitational force to separate samples (blood, urine, cerebrospinal fluid, etc.) into different components for testing.

It's important to maintain and update equipment over time. An older centrifuge may become prone to spin too fast or too slow which each can create issues in the sample. The new Rotina 380 R shown here (which staff have nicknamed Dirk) is finely calibrated and can raise or lower the temperature during testing allowing it to function for a wider variety of samples.

Thank you for turning your generosity into action and supporting local healthcare.



Hospital's New Microtome is a Critical Step

The hospital's new automated microtome is so precise it can shave a tissue sample down to one pictometer. It's hard to imagine how small that is but for reference one billion pictometers makes up just one millimeter. It's literally microscopic.

The tiny sample slices created with the microtome (or sections as they are known) are placed into glass slides for testing and observation. It's a critical step in preparation and preservation of samples. It might take a microscope to see the results of work done on a microtome but it's clear to see the effects of incredible donors like you.



You Helped Transition to a New Model of Care



Scan to see the TCU in action!

The goal of the Transitional Care Unit (TCU) is to look after community members who no longer require acute care (necessary treatment for a disease or severe episode of illness provided for a short period of time) but are in transition to another healthcare provider that would tend to their needs such as long term care, hospice, or home and community care support.

The TCU improves patients' healthcare experience, while also freeing up beds for patients with more acute needs. This 16 bed unit isn't possible without support from donors like you.

By placing different types of patients together Brightshores is able to offer each individual the most appropriate levels of care. In the TCU that includes access to

physiotherapy, recreation therapy, spiritual care programming, nurses, psws, and more. This reduces the potential for patients

to experience functional decline while at Brightshores.

Patients that fit the Transitional Care Unit criteria are able to be up



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and out of bed and attending activities. Donations have helped the unit get specialized equipment, adjust spaces and acquire more resources for recreation.

New beds and lifts are critical parts of the unit making life easier

for staff and patients. Lifts allow staff to help patients when needed without straining or injuring themselves. The beds are able to lower further than our standard hospital bed and offer patient assist features to make it easier for patients to get up and out of bed.

The typical stay in the TCU is two to three months. Patients and staff have both found the changes impactful. It's helped patients progress in their care and leave the hospital sooner. Together we're building healthier communities one patient at a time.

Let Us Know About Your Healthcare Hero!

If you received great care there's a simple way to say thank you – recognize your healthcare hero. It could be the surgeon who replaced your hip, the nurse who gave you a blanket when you were cold, the volunteer who helped you find your way or any of the other incredible people who are making a difference every day.

Be like the donor who wanted to “thank the nurses, doctors and all the staff on the 6th Floor 6-2 (Transitional Care Unit) for taking wonderful care of my father.”

We recognized the team in the TCU with a certificate and pins. They were so grateful for the kind words of encouragement and thanks. Honouring your healthcare hero with a donation is a great way to make a difference in the lives of the people who've made a difference in yours.

Visit Brightshoresfoundation.ca/hero, call (519) 372-3925 or scan the QR code here to honour your healthcare hero today!



Donors Recognized in New Wall Update



Four hundred and twenty four new names were recently added to the newly expanded donor wall in the hospital's main lobby.

"It's one of our greatest honours to recognize the caring and generous community that supports local healthcare," said Foundation CEO Amy McKinnon. "We had to install two new panels just to fit

everyone which is a testament to the generosity of the amazing people in Grey and Bruce."

The wall displays the names of all donors (who wish to be named) that have given \$5,000 or more to the Owen Sound Hospital since 1986 when it opened. "Some people give larger gifts but so many people have given smaller

amounts regularly and are surprised when we tell them how much it's added up to," said McKinnon.

The next time you're in the hospital take a moment to scan the list. With more than 1,366 listed donors you're sure to find some businesses, organizations and people that you know.

How to contact us



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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