

Support Report

PROUD SUPPORTERS OF BRIGHTSHORES HEALTH SYSTEM



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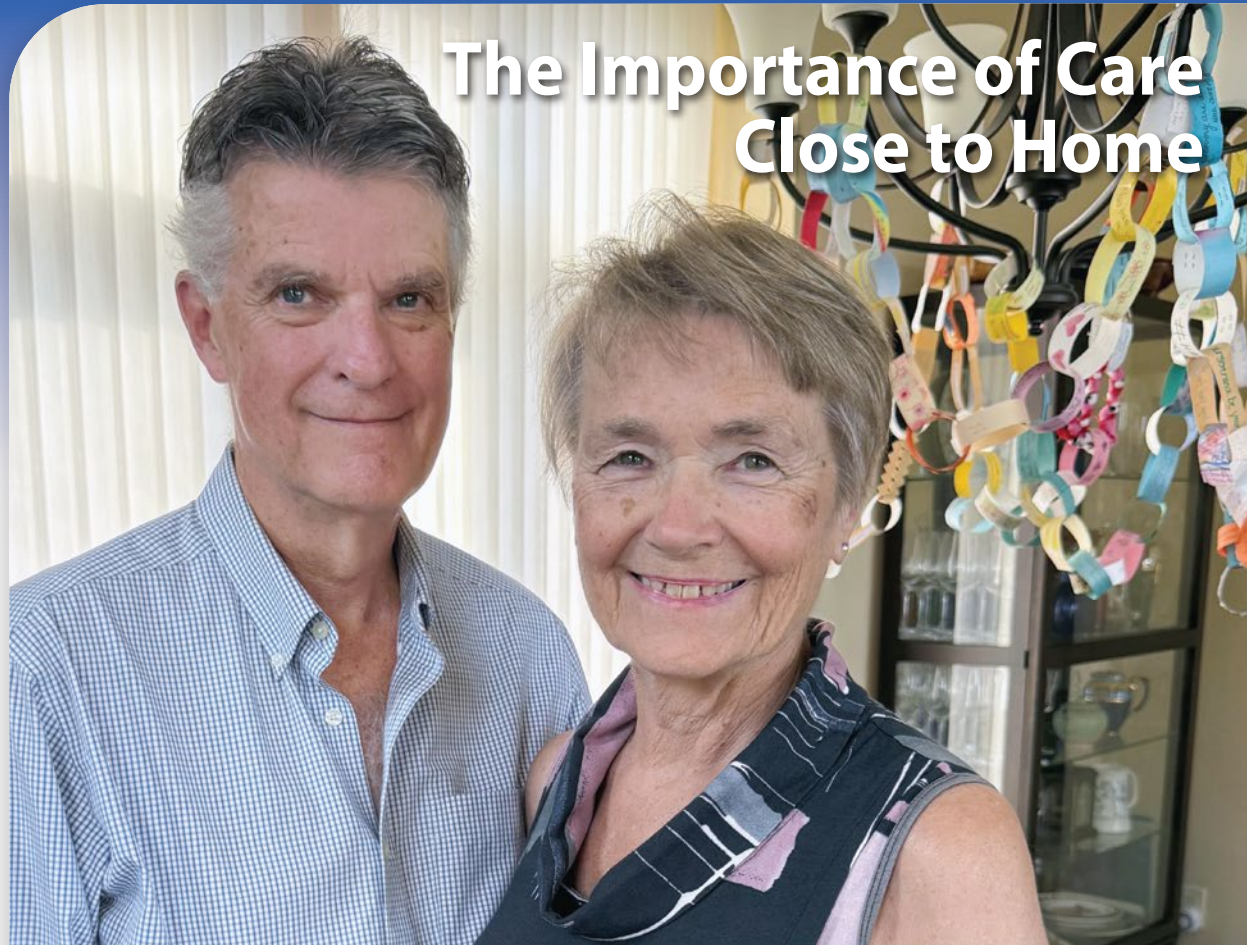
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The Importance of Care Close to Home

Susan and Bryan have been together for a long time. The two are high school sweethearts who celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary a couple of years ago. It was a small gathering of friends and family made sweeter by the fact Susan was in remission from the leukemia that had taken them by surprise in the fall of 2021.

The couple were drawn from London to this area. They enjoy the golfing, hiking, kayaking and sailing the Owen Sound area promotes. Shortness of breath led to a diagnosis of leukemia and quick referral to Dr. Indermohan Sandhu, one of the Oncologists at Brightshores, who arranged subsequent tests confirming the diagnosis.

They are grateful to Dr. Sandhu for “setting them up to succeed.” They credit his knowledge and familiarity with departments and doctors in specialized referral centres. Having been given several options for initial treatment they settled on the Grand River Hospital in Kitchener, where they could benefit from the support of loving family. With successful results, Sue proceeded to the Juravinski Cancer Centre in Hamilton for a stem cell transplant which required many more months of treatment and close follow up.

Hundreds of bracelets still hang in their dining room from this time. As a social

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Message from Ann Ford, President & CEO

One of the most meaningful parts of my role as President & CEO is the opportunity to meet with donors who help bring our mission to life. Each conversation is a reminder of the compassion, commitment and community spirit that fuel our work across Brightshores Health System.

As I look back on the past year, I do so with deep gratitude for the individuals, families and organizations who have chosen to support Brightshores. Your generosity has made a lasting impact across our hospitals, helping to shape the care we provide today and build a stronger healthcare system for tomorrow.

From life-saving equipment and enhanced patient spaces, to investments in specialized programs and the professional development of our dedicated healthcare professionals, your support has strengthened our ability to deliver

high-quality care close to home for the people of Grey and Bruce counties.

With your help, we've advanced in many areas – expanding medical imaging, improving care for patients with complex needs, and deepening our focus on research and innovation. Your generosity is helping us meet the evolving healthcare needs of our communities and focus on what matters most: the health and well-being of the people we serve.

Our region is experiencing significant growth and with it, rising demand for services, particularly for older adults and people living with chronic disease. As we plan for the future, we are working toward a more integrated regional healthcare system designed to deliver coordinated care, enhance patient experiences and achieve better health outcomes across our large and diverse rural area.



As our health system continues to evolve, donor support will remain vital to helping us grow, innovate and deliver the care our communities need and deserve.

To everyone who gives so generously, thank you. Your commitment and partnership inspire us every day – and make all the difference.

Early Detection Saves Lives

Breast cancer remains the most common cancer among Ontario women, affecting 1 in 8 over the course of their lives. Thanks to advancements in screening and treatment, survival rates are improving—but early detection remains critical. Support from donors has made it possible to

3,000 diagnostic mammograms. With these volumes and the critical nature of early detection, maintaining state-of-the-art imaging technology is essential.

With donor support Brightshores Owen Sound Hospital has replaced two aging mammographic units with new, leading-edge 3D digital

from different angles. This is especially beneficial for patients with dense breast tissue, where cancers can sometimes be obscured on traditional 2D images. Studies show that 3D mammography detects more cancers and reduces the number of call-backs for additional imaging.

The new machines are designed not only for clinical excellence but also with patient experience in mind. This means:

- Lower radiation dose
- Shorter imaging time
- Less discomfort during the procedure

The upgraded units will also include software that enables contrast-enhanced mammography, an advanced technique that improves the detection of certain types of breast lesions.

Another major enhancement is the upcoming integration of AI-driven software to assist radiologists in identifying potential areas of concern. While not used for diagnosis, this intelligent software helps radiologists make more informed decisions by highlighting regions that may require closer review. This added layer of support improves accuracy and consistency.

From a practical point of view, the new biopsy chair is ergonomically designed, offering greater comfort, and soft lighting, during what can be a stressful and uncomfortable experience.

Donor support has helped equip our medical team with the tools they need to provide world-class breast imaging services right here in Grey Bruce. Together we're making a difference with every image captured and every life potentially saved.



upgrade vital equipment that plays a key role in early diagnosis and improved outcomes.

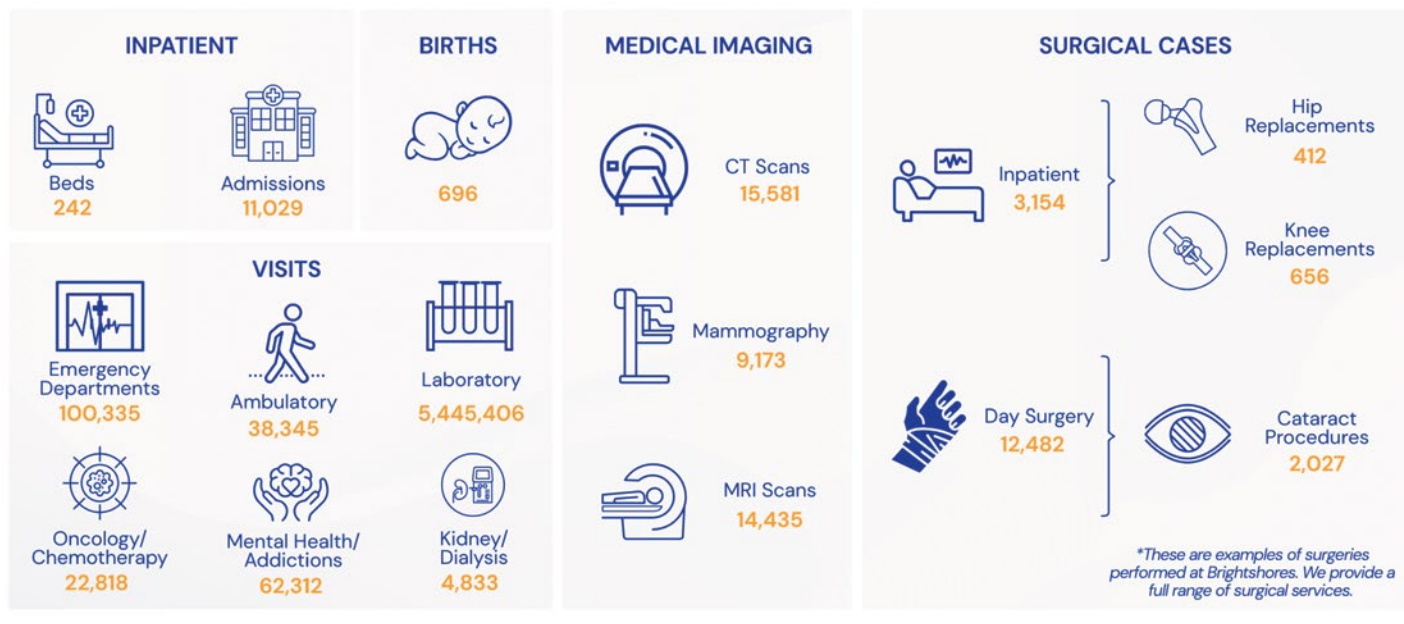
Each year, the team at Brightshores Owen Sound performs approximately 6,000 Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) mammograms and an additional

breast tomosynthesis systems. Only one of the old machines was equipped with 3D capabilities and both were at the end of their lifecycle.

3D mammography provides a clearer, more detailed view of breast tissue by taking multiple images

Care by the Numbers

APRIL 2024 - MARCH 2025



Why I Give: I've Seen How Important it is to Fund Local Healthcare

In 1987 Anne Robertson was interviewed for the position of Director of Diagnostic Imaging at the newly built Grey Bruce Regional Health Centre (now Brightshores Owen Sound Hospital). Anne had applied as a favour to her late-husband Charlie, who wanted to move out of Toronto. Leaving her career at Toronto Western to work in a small town was not immediately appealing to Anne, who liked the challenges in a large urban hospital.

To her surprise, Anne was intrigued to find the hospital had a CT scanner and was doing interventional radiology – two things she hadn't expected to find in a community the size of Owen Sound. The equipment, which was funded by donor support, helped attract Anne and her family to our incredible area.

She ended up accepting the job.

Thirty years later she retired from Grey Bruce Health Services (now Brightshores Health System) as Director of Medical Imaging. During her long career healthcare changed a lot. One thing that never changed was the importance of local support and the commitment of the community to maintain state-of-the-art equipment.

Anne has been a donor for twenty-nine years. She said that, "Once I realized there was such a need for so much equipment and technology it became important for me to help fund it."

She is proud of supporting the hospital financially and of the things that were accomplished during her career. Introducing the Ontario Breast Screening



program, preparing for and acquiring the hospital's first MRI, and navigating the merger of local hospitals.

By bringing six local hospitals into one corporation then Grey Bruce Health Services, now Brightshores Health System, is able to offer patients consistent quality care across the entire system.

Anne says that they standardized the equipment and installed a picturing archiving and communication system (PACS) so that staff could move seamlessly between the hospitals and radiologists could read scans taken in all of our facilities, from any location.

Equipment has to be replaced on a fixed schedule. Technology improves and components begin to wear out. It's an approach Anne took in her career and is applying to her current donations. Anne said that, "as a monthly donor I

feel that it's just easier for me to donate on a schedule towards a charity that's important to me and my family." **She expressed how "thankful I am to everyone who supports local healthcare. I've seen up close the difference it can make in recruiting staff and treating patients."**

You can become a monthly donor to join with hundreds of other like-minded individuals in supporting local healthcare. Make your next gift to any of Brightshores Foundations a monthly gift and become a member of the Monthly Caring Society. You'll be supporting the hospital in the most sustainable, budget friendly way while also getting the occasional invite to special events for monthly donors.



Simple Solutions: New ADUs Improve Speed and Safety

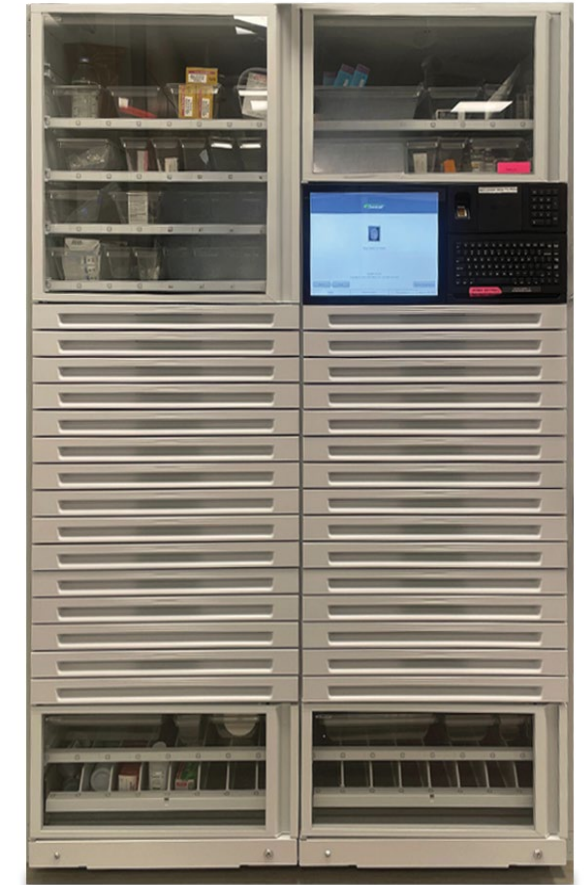
Brightshores is investing in new Automated Dispensing Units (ADUs). This 3.25 million dollar project will see multiple new ADUs installed in the Meaford, Owen Sound, Southampton and Wiarton Hospitals with benefits felt across the entire system. This will only be possible with the generous support of people like you!

At its simplest level an ADU is like a vending machine for medications. ADUs make healthcare safer by ensuring patients receive their medicine quickly and accurately. They help nurses and pharmacy staff work more efficiently, providing them more time to care for patients.

The new units will be the same

model that was recently installed in the new Markdale Hospital to great success. They help track and manage the hospital's large medication inventory. The new units all feature barcode scanners which will create another layer of verification for high risk drugs further increasing patient safety.

As a system wide project you might hear from more than one foundation about these incredible machines. If you've already donated towards the ADU project thank you for supporting local healthcare!



Close Because You Care

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. 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. Thank you for keeping care close.



... Care Close to Home

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worker and art therapist Sue devised a creative way for her friends and family to be close at a time when they were physically distanced. She could wear her own “hospital bracelets” and look down to see a message of hope from those closest to her. One bears the word BRAVE in big bold letters. Another is adorned with horse stickers and the slogan “Gallop for You!”

Throughout this time they received periodic calls from Dr. Sandhu checking in on their progress. It’s one of the small human touches that stood out to them about the care they have received from Brightshores.

The treatment plan worked and Sue went into remission. The couple is grateful for everyone in Kitchener and Hamilton who took care of them but the time spent away from home was difficult for both of them. They were happy to return home and continue enjoying the life they had built here.

Then last August during a routine checkup Sue’s bloodwork showed she had relapsed. The leukemia was back. It prompted them to consider all options. Spending more time away from home for treatments seemed needlessly taxing if these were her final few months.

It wasn’t until Dr. Sandhu suggested they could do the treatment here in Owen Sound that they made the final decision to pursue active treatment. Dr. Sandhu and Dr. James Radford, the Hematologist in Hamilton shared in directing her care. This allowed them to live at home to have the best medical care and enjoy the support of family and friends. **“The ability to be close to home, near friends**



and family - it helped us decide because we could be in our own community,” said Sue.

“We are so thankful for the expertise of Brightshores’ staff, the care and gentleness with which they worked, and the compassionate manner in which we were always treated.” They continued, “volunteers also lightened the burden by always being there with a smile and a warm blanket to soothe our anxieties.”

Sue is feeling well again now, back to her active lifestyle, and the last biopsy showed no evidence of cancer. The couple credit Brightshores’ staff with Sue’s renewed well being, and

donate to show their appreciation. “We’re grateful and we want to help ensure that care close to home is there for others as well,” said Bryan. “It’s our way to give back and build the path forward.”

The Foundations would like to thank Susan and Bryan for supporting their community. It’s something that matters to Susan and Bryan. It’s how they settled on their current home. It’s how they chose the types of care they would receive. It’s how they got through one of the toughest times in their lives and it’s why they give back to the community where they live.

Hockey Hits Cancer Scores Big for Meaford Hospital



For the past ten years, Mackenzie Fleming, his wife Ashley, and the dedicated team behind *Hockey Hits Cancer* have been making a meaningful impact—both on and off the ice. Since its inception in 2015, the annual hockey tournament held in Meaford has continued to leave a lasting impression on everyone who takes part.

Fleming founded the tournament in memory of his beloved grandparents, Anne and Alexander Fleming. This year’s event proved to be as powerful as ever, raising an impressive \$10,000 in support of the palliative care room upgrade at Brightshores Meaford Hospital.

Mackenzie, whose grandparents spent their final days in the hospital’s palliative care room, was deeply moved to give back. **“The care they received during those final moments meant the world to our family,” he shared. “This was my way of honouring them and supporting others who will rely on that same compassionate environment.”**

The funds raised will directly contribute to enhancing the comfort and quality of the hospital’s palliative

care space—ensuring that patients and their families continue to receive care in a peaceful, dignified setting.

Held each spring at the Meaford Arena, the tournament features competitive play for the coveted *Papa and Nana Cups*. Beyond hockey, this year’s event included a 50/50 draw, prize raffles, and the

highlight was a Gift of Flight Raffle sponsored by WestJet Canada.

A big thank you to the Fleming family, the volunteers, sponsors, players, and attendees who made Hockey Hits Cancer 2025 a huge success on and off the ice! We can’t wait to see the action at next year’s Hockey Hits Cancer Tournament.

Bruce Peninsula Shows Its Heart

Thanks to incredible people like you, there are ten new cardiac monitors at Brightshores Wiarton Hospital. This \$360,000 investment was made possible through the heart and compassion of generous donors. The new monitors are portable and directly connected into the hospital’s other computer systems. Staff can now bring a portable cardiac monitor directly to a patient’s bedside instead of having to bring the patient to the machine. This huge change is already saving staff time and improving the patient experience. It takes heart to run a hospital and thankfully our community has a lot of it!



A Lifelong Passion for Care and Leadership

For Kat Adkin, the path to nursing was never a sudden realization—it was a mentality she had from a young age.

“Even as a little girl, I loved helping people,” Kat shares. “Becoming a nurse wasn’t an ‘aha’ moment for me—it’s just always been in me. Caring for others aligns with my morals and values. This job has become a part of me, and I couldn’t imagine not doing it.”

Kat’s career began as a Personal Support Worker (PSW), where she laid the foundation for her compassionate approach to care. She then completed her training as a Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) at Georgian College, before pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) through a bridging program at Nipissing University.

It was at the start of this program that Kat joined Brightshores Health System—a move that would prove to be instrumental in her professional journey. **“I’ve had so much support to push to the next level for my professional growth and development,” Kat says. “There was funding to support my bridging program, and later, my Master’s program. Brightshores and the donors who help fund the hospital have been so instrumental in my growing career.”**

Through donor funded tuition support Kat has been able to access financial assistance for more than just her bridging program. Additional programs include: Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Canadian Triage Acuity Scale Certification and Pediatric Advanced Life Support. These tuition supports mean staff can access more of these specialized programs and utilize these

skills here in our community.

Kat recently completed her Master’s degree in leadership—a testament to her commitment to continual learning and leadership in healthcare. She is now a preceptor and clinical instructor with Georgian College. Kat supports nursing students as they complete their clinical training at Brightshores.

“No day is the same. I’m surrounded by people, and I get to hear their stories. You can’t lose sight of the individual you are caring for,” Kat says “That’s something I share with my students every day. Keeping compassion close to your delivery of care is invaluable.”

Kat’s story highlights not only the importance of passion in nursing, but also the powerful impact of institutional and donor support. By investing in the professional development nurses like Kat are



enabled to reach new heights in their careers. Thank you for supporting the wonderful staff at Brightshores as they grow to better care for our community.

Keeping the Beat

Immediate ongoing CPR is critical when someone goes into cardiac arrest. This AutoPulse Resuscitation system is able to deliver high-quality CPR even under the most challenging and complex situations.

The device uses a complete thoracic compression to squeeze the entire chest. This innovative compression technique works better than other piston based devices. Importantly, having the Autopulse perform consistent high-quality CPR frees up staff for other critical tasks.

It’s consistent and caring people like you who brought this incredible machine to Brightshores Markdale Hospital



where it will help staff keep the beat in an emergency.

New C-Arm Arrives at Brightshores Meaford Hospital

Brightshores Meaford hospital now has a new C-Arm, a state-of-the-art digital imaging system that will transform patient care for our community. This cutting edge equipment was made possible through the incredible efforts of the organizing Committee members and the incredible generosity of guest, sponsors and donors at last fall’s ER: An Evening of Revelry, which raised nearly \$300,000.

The C-Arm delivers high-resolution, real-time imaging, significantly boosting the precision of orthopedic procedures, diagnoses and treatments and aids in guiding vascular studies. With this new technology, our surgical teams can provide even better care—right here, close to home.

Thank you to the organizing committee, guests, sponsors, and donors who made it possible!



The Perfect Temperature

Infants are particular. They have a tough time regulating their own body temperatures. It helps if you can keep them just right. That’s just one of the things the new infant warmer at Brightshores Lion’s Head Hospital is designed to do in an emergency.

While most births will take place in Owen Sound, it’s important to be prepared for all patients and possibilities. For example, if a newborn arrives in Lion’s Head requiring resuscitation, the warmer’s advanced features, such as radiant heat, integrated monitoring of vital signs (temperature, heart rate, and oxygen levels), and built-in resuscitation equipment (including oxygen and suction),



would be essential.

It took the warmth and kindness of our community to support the

purchase of this critical equipment—thank you to everyone who made this possible!

Order's Up! Brightshores' New Meal System Provides More Choices

Food isn't the first thing you think of when someone mentions a hospital but it's an essential part of patient care. Brightshores Health System serves around 750 meals a day across its six hospitals. Many of those meals are based upon specific therapeutic menus and nutrition requirements.

For example, a stroke patient may need certain textures for safe swallowing and a diabetic patient will need food designed to maintain their blood sugar. Brightshores maintains 55 different therapeutic menus and monitors 165 different allergens. There's a lot of thought that goes into each meal and a lot of variety in what gets served every day.

This year the Food Services & IT teams at Brightshores have successfully integrated a new software system across the entire organization to help streamline each patient's nutrition needs and preferences. As a patient it means you will have more choices in your daily menu.

Nicole Ruff, Brightshores Registered Dietitian, was involved in implementing the new system. She's excited "for patients to have more choices." **She noted that "nutrition is an important part of a patient's recovery and we're already seeing that patients are eating more of the food they are served because people are able to choose the foods that they prefer."**

Paper menus have been replaced with new digital and telephone options. During your hospital stay, a staff member will come to your room with a tablet loaded with a customized menu based on your



specific dietary needs. On that tablet you'll be able to select from a variety of choices for the next day's meals. Patients at Brightshores Owen Sound will have the option of using their own devices to make their selections.

If patients require further help, the hospital has a new call center that patients and families can call to speak to one of Brightshores Diet Technicians to make adjustments to their menus. Families can also assist their loved ones by placing meal orders online from anywhere in Canada.

The new system is shifting staff from time spent manually tracking paper orders to time spent with patients making sure people are

getting the foods they need and want. Staff are already feeling a difference and enjoying the extra time with patients.

"It's been a major change for our staff team, but they've all been incredible," said Jennifer Van Manen, Brightshores Manager of Support Services. "I want to thank the donors who helped pay for this system and all of the amazing frontline staff who are putting it into action."

Great healthcare is about more than scalpels and scans. It's about picking what you want for lunch. Great healthcare is a friendly face and a nutritious meal. Thank you for supporting all aspects of patient care at Brightshores Health System.

New Endowment to Support Equipment, Research and Continuing Education

Henry and Jane were married in 1960 and have two children, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

In 1969, Henry earned his PhD in Psychology from Western University and worked as Psychologist with the Grey County Board of Education for 24 years. Jane operated J & M Craft and Yarn Boutique from 1982 until her retirement. She also volunteered with the YMCA, Grey Bruce Pregnancy Centre, Chapman House and with the Hospital Auxiliary as merchandiser in the Gift Shop.

"Our family has enjoyed great care at the hospital whenever we needed it" says Henry. "We feel a special connection with Jane's volunteering there. We want to see our hospital thrive and grow."

Last December they made a significant gift to establish the Henry & Jane Feenstra Endowment. It's one of 31 named and special purpose funds in the Owen Sound Foundation's Caring for Tomorrow Fund. Their gift has been invested with annual earnings supporting three priorities: new medical equipment and facility improvements, medical research projects at the Brightshores Research Institute as well as continuing education for clinical staff.

Henry & Jane became interested in endowment 20 years ago – a gift agreement was drafted and then a gift was included in their wills to fund a future endowment. "The goal was to see our support for the hospital carry on," says Henry. Revisiting their plans recently, the Feenstras decided to give several gifts

now – rather than from their Estate. Several new endowments and scholarships were established.

"We are really excited to see these donations go to work – to see what difference they will make," says Jane.

Henry & Jane know the value of community. "If you appreciate your community, you should contribute. We tend to give where we have volunteered or been involved – these go hand in hand," says Henry. "Jane and I have known hardship, but we also feel richly blessed, so we want to do our part and we are thankful that we can."

The Caring for Tomorrow Endowment Fund was established in 1996 to support the purchase of new

medical equipment. Since then it has contributed more than \$9 million in support of projects in departments all across the hospital. Named endowment funds may be established with gifts of \$50,000 and more. A disbursement of \$690,000 is planned for March 2026.

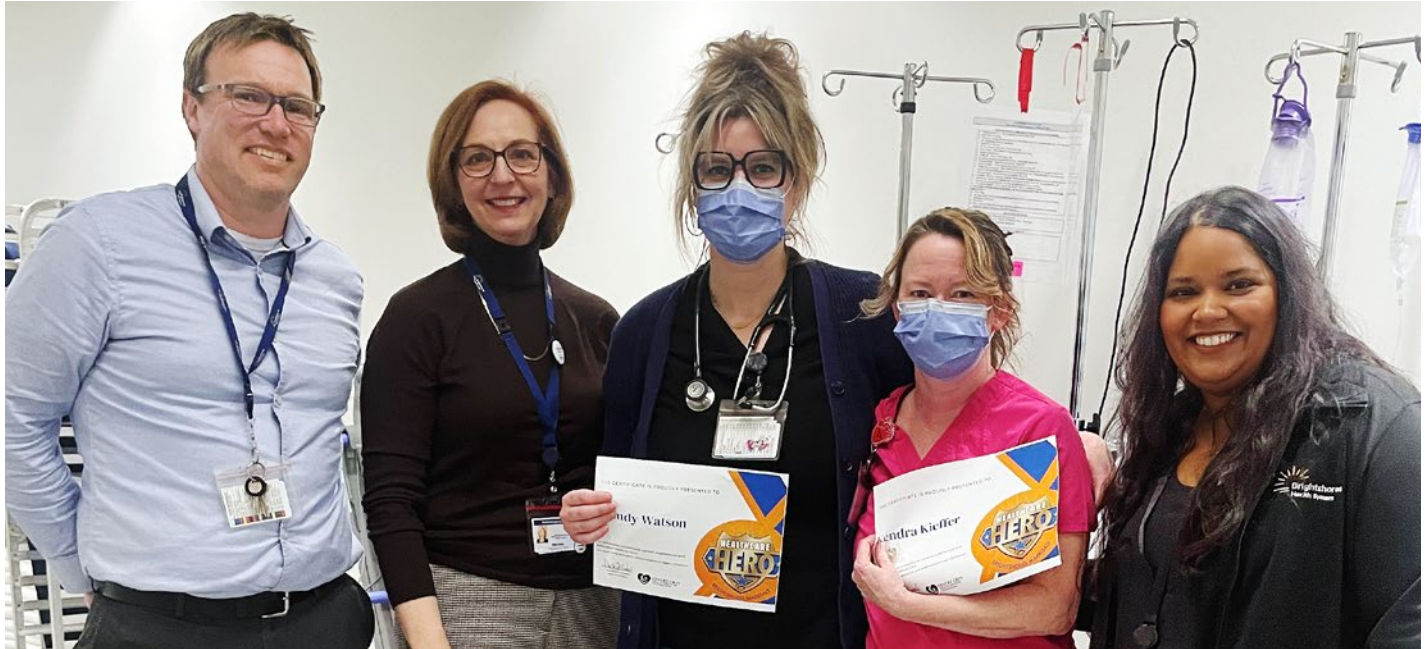


Showered with Kindness

Brightshores Southampton Hospital will soon boast newly renovated patient showers. These upgraded showers will improve accessibility for patients and have increased safety features. Compassionate people like you are supporting the people, places and things that contribute to patient care and comfort. Thank you to all of the incredible donors who showered their support into this project!



Brandy and Kendra are Healthcare Heroes



Recognizing a Healthcare Hero is a special way to say thank you and honour care that you or a loved one received. It can be anyone from the volunteer who brought you a warm blanket, the nurse who took your blood pressure, or the doctor that diagnosed your condition. These people leave a lasting impression and

donating in their honour is a great way to say thank you.

The Trebilcock family donated to recognize the staff that provided exceptional palliative care for their mother Jan. The compassion, professionalism and kindness of Brandy, Kendra and the team left a lasting impact on their family.

When you recognize a Healthcare Hero we'll provide those staff with a certificate, a pin and pass along any kind words you may want to share.

Each of the five foundations listed below can help honour your Healthcare Hero. Stop by in person, pick up the phone or go online to say thank you today.

Proudly Supporting Brightshores Health System

Brightshores Health system includes six hospitals (located in Lion's Head, Markdale, Meaford, Owen Sound, Southampton and Warton) and the new Wellness & Recovery Centre. It is supported by five charitable foundations.

Each foundation listed below raises funds for their local hospitals and for regional services. Improvements at one location help

enhance the entire system.

Government funding only provides for ongoing hospital

operations. Donors help the hospital to purchase new equipment, renovate and upgrade facilities, and provide opportunities for staff to further their education and training.

We want to thank everyone in Bruce and Grey who supports Brightshores Health System and helps improve care for our community.



www.brightshores.ca



www.brightshoresfoundation.ca

www.bphfoundation.com

www.cghsfoundation.com

www.mhfoundation.ca

www.smhfoundation.ca