

Support Report

BRIGHTSHORES HEALTH SYSTEM FIVE FOUNDATIONS



New ADUs add safety and increase efficiency because of you!

Staff safely and efficiently collect medications for patients from a new ADU.

Every year nearly 1.5 million doses of medication are distributed from the central pharmacy at Brightshores Owen Sound Hospital. That much medication has to be distributed safely and efficiently. The best way to do that is with Automatic Dispensing Units (ADUs).

Brightshores Health System has completed a major organization wide upgrade by moving every hospital to an all ADU model of medication distribution. It helps staff work more efficiently and safer for patients.

This required purchasing an upgraded software system and seventeen new ADUs which were installed in various departments across the Meaford, Owen Sound, Southampton and Wiarton Hospitals. This multi-million dollar investment in patient safety could not have happened without the generous support of donors.

An ADU is a high tech storage cabinet that's essential to care. It's a futuristic vending machine that's hyper focused on patient safety. It's a detail oriented tracking system that will only release what you need.

Operating an ADU is very simple. Staff sign into the machine using their fingerprint, select a specific patient, and the ADU will use lights to guide them to the only drawer that's unlocked. That drawer contains the specific

medication they need. Any high risk drug also has to be scanned with a barcode scanner – this is an extra layer of safety that will be more widely used with the new machines.

Having ADUs throughout the hospital gives staff direct but secure access to the medications they need when they need them. Inventory and usage is tracked carefully to ensure that every unit has what they need when they need it. This is especially important in places like the emergency department or the ICU where you might need a medication very quickly.

Each ADU is stocked by the amazing team at the central pharmacy. To do this efficiently bulk medications (tablets and capsules) are run through a high speed packing system affectionately known as "Mabel." The packager helps staff track inventory, labels medications and ensures correct dosages – this is done to ensure speed and safety at the point of care.

Because there's always more to do - the final part of this project will be replacing Mabel with a new high speed packing unit. The manufacturer is no longer making parts for the current model meaning they will become very hard to find. This is a critical piece of equipment

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Message from Ann Ford, President & CEO



As Brightshores Health System continues to grow and evolve, I find myself reflecting on the people who

make that progress possible. Each and every donor is at the centre of that. Your generosity and belief in exceptional care close to home strengthen our work every day.

This year marked an important milestone for our philanthropic community. Our five hospital foundations came together under a unified brand, creating a stronger, more connected partnership between our hospitals and the communities we serve. This alignment positions us to make an even greater impact for patients and families across our region.

We also spent the past number of months listening – to patients, families, staff, physicians, partners, community members and donors like you. What we heard helped shape our new strategic plan, Stronger.

Together. – A Shared Vision for the Future. This five-year plan sets a clear path forward and reinforces our commitment to enhance care, support our workforce and respond to the changing needs of local communities.

Donor support remains essential to this work. Because of you, we are investing in life saving equipment, enhancing patient spaces, expanding specialized programs and supporting ongoing professional development for our teams.

Thank you for your partnership, your trust and your shared commitment to healthcare in Grey-Bruce. Together, we are moving forward with purpose to build a future where care is stronger, experiences are better, and every person feels the difference Brightshores makes.

Care By the Numbers

Patient Care from April 2025-March 2026

 Inpatient Beds 246	 Total Admissions 11,179	 Emergency Visits 98,618
 MHA Visits 66,163	 Lab Visits 5,795,310	 Oncology Visits 19,192
 Ambulance Care Visits 38,944	 Dialysis Visits 5,075	 CT Scans 19,619
 MRI Scans 14,714	 Mammography Visits 8,728	 Inpatient Surgeries 2,646
 Day Surgery Procedures 13,484	 Cataract Procedures 1,920	 Hip Replacements 368
 Knee Replacements 669	 Hospital Births 696	

Total Admissions include: Mental Health and Rehab. MHA visits include: Aftercare Mental Health Services, Brief Counselling Services, Behavioural Support Services - Geriatric Outreach, Crisis Team, Crisis Support Unit, Psychiatry (Physician Only Visit), Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence, Social Work, Wellness & Recovery (WMS, ATS, RT), Community Addictions Treatment Services, Case Management - Visits (Aftercare, Dual Diagnosis, Intensive, PEPP, NP), Assertive Community Treatment Visits, Community Crisis Workers, North Bruce Team Visits, RAAM Visits



When asked why she donated. Eleanor said, "this hospital has always treated me so well."

A Portrait of Gratitude: Eleanor Pauling

Eleanor Pauling lives life in bright bold colours. Her health has been a struggle for several years now but talking to her you wouldn't know it. She's warm and inviting just like one of her paintings. Eleanor said, "The care I've had at the Owen Sound Hospital has always been excellent."

Eleanor moved to Owen Sound in 1975. She ran the Diamond Motel for 27 years. "When you run a motel you only get one week of vacation," she recounted. "But you always have space for family and people would travel from all over to stay with us."

After selling off the motel in 2002 she opened Bridges Gallery which featured 30 local artists. Heart problems started to slow her down but not before becoming Owen Sound Volunteer of the year in 2007 for her involvement with the Zonta Club, Community Art Banner program and more.

She has been to the hospital many times to manage her AFib. She noted that "everyone looks after you. Even when you can tell they're very busy." In January 2024, Dr. Lozon resected 18 inches of her bowel removing her cancer. And this past October Dr. Gladwell fixed her shoulder. She remembered that before the surgery "the pain was unmanageable. I could barely sleep it was so bad."

During her shoulder physio appointments at the hospital

she re-met Heather, a Physiotherapist at Brightshores. They're both pretty sure that Heather also helped Eleanor recover after her knee replacements years ago.

Eleanor gratefully said that "Heather is a blessing. She's thorough, compassionate and lovely. She tells you what you need to know." Everything has gone so well her shoulder feels like new.

What stood out is how Heather helped Eleanor with her other problem – her worsening hip pain. After several visits Heather could see that Eleanor's ability to walk was deteriorating. She referred Eleanor to the Rapid Assessment Clinic. After an assessment she was given an MRI that revealed a large tear in one of her hip muscles. She's scheduled for surgery this summer to repair it.

Painting pulled her through the long winter. She's preparing for the Owen Sound Artist's Studio Tour in the fall where she'll have sixty new paintings to display. She's also looking forward to getting back out and travelling again - seeing her children, grandkids and great grandkids who are scattered all over North America.

When asked why she donates to the hospital Eleanor said, "This hospital has always treated me so well. I wanted to let Heather and the other staff know that I appreciate everything they do."



Food Services staff at the Southampton Hospital receiving their Healthcare Hero certificate.



The 2nd Floor nursing staff at the Southampton Hospital receiving their Healthcare Hero certificate.

They're All Heroes

Tracey McGillivray and her father Ron are “eternally grateful for the skill and care [Nancy] received” and for the support that was given to them.

Nancy passed peacefully at the Southampton Hospital, in her 81st year surrounded by the love of her family. Tracey remembers, “my Dad and I stayed overnight for six nights. I remember so many of the overnight nurses working in the near dark, or whispering to whichever one of us seemed more awake so as not to disturb the other one who might be resting.”

Their stay at the hospital took place during renovations when the palliative care room was unavailable, but staff went above and beyond to make them comfortable. According to Tracey, “one shift even moved mountains (and beds, dressers, reclining chairs, etc.) to make us a room of our own to have some privacy in her last few days.”

Beyond that it was the small things. The way “they

talked to my mom and explained what they were doing even when we didn’t know how much she was hearing, treating her with dignity.”

Tracey says “the front line-staff members who helped us through that week my mom received palliative care are all heroes.” She doesn’t remember their names because “I thought they’d be burned in my memory forever. But I remember faces. They were all really kind.” Nurses, doctors, technicians, were all outstanding. “I remember the lovely lady from the kitchen who would ask about my mom, and who gave us teas.”

Tracey and Ron nominated the 2nd floor nursing and kitchen staff as Healthcare Heroes for the incredibly compassionate care that was offered to them and their family. The next time you receive exceptional care nominate that individual (or team!) as a Healthcare Hero to let them know they made a difference.

New ADUs add safety and increase efficiency

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needed for the care of all Brightshores patients. Government doesn’t cover things like this – it will require the generosity of people like you to purchase a new unit. In the exact same way that the community helped to purchase all those ADUs.

An ADU doesn’t look inside your body or monitor your vitals. They can’t diagnose anything and you won’t see them in an operating room. But an ADU is an essential part of care. Thank you to every donor who gave to ensure that every single patient gets the medications that they need safely and efficiently. Great care is something to be celebrated and it’s possible because of people like you!



New Equipment: Wiarton Comfortable Care

Like Goldilocks, a baby needs to be just right – not too hot, not too cold. Thanks to dedicated donors there’s a new infant warmer at the Wiarton Hospital Emergency Department. With this new equipment staff can continue to offer critical care to the area’s smallest patients.

Like Goldilocks, a baby needs to be just right – not too hot, not too cold.

The new infant warmer cocoons the patient with radiant heat, integrated vital-sign monitoring and built-in resuscitation support. This enables care teams to stabilize infants and keep them safe.

Births aren’t common at the Wiarton Hospital but newborns and infants do arrive needing urgent care for respiratory distress or other ailments. With the closest pediatric unit about 30 minutes away being prepared is essential. Because of donor support that care will be there when it’s needed.



A new infant warmer at the Wiarton Hospital means staff are ready to care for even the littlest patients.

New Equipment: Lion’s Head Showered with Generosity

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the strong support of the Northern Bruce Peninsula community, the shower room renovation at the Lion’s Head Hospital is now complete. The former residential style shower has been transformed into a spacious, fully accessible walk in shower designed to better meet hospital standards and patient needs.

...the new shower space is already making a meaningful difference.

This upgrade significantly improves safety, comfort, and dignity for patients—many of whom are older adults and require assistance with mobility—while reducing the number of transfers needed during bathing. It also creates a safer, more ergonomic environment for staff, helping prevent slips, falls, and repetitive strain injuries. Used multiple times each day, the new shower space is already making a meaningful difference in the daily care experience for patients and caregivers alike.



This upgraded shower area improves safety, comfort and dignity for patients.

Volunteering from the Heart

Emily Anderson understands local healthcare better than most teenagers. She recently received a pacemaker due to a medical condition. It was an experience that only strengthened her commitment to supporting local hospital care, because she has seen firsthand the impact that accessible, high quality care can have on individuals and families in our community.

Emily said, “I like volunteering because it lets me help others while making a meaningful difference in my community.” She’s been a dedicated volunteer throughout high school but now as a grade 12 student at Peninsula Shores District School she is undertaking a new responsibility as part of her high school co-op placement: Foundation Volunteer Coordinator.

Emily values the opportunity to make a meaningful difference and raise awareness about the importance of local healthcare. She encourages others to consider volunteering, noting that community support is essential to maintaining vital healthcare services close to home.

There’s so many ways to get involved with your location foundation or as a volunteer inside the hospital. If you’re interested in helping with fundraising please reach out to your local Foundation. If you’d like to be one of approximately 500+ volunteers who work within Brightshores’ hospitals please visit www.brightshores.ca/volunteering/ for more information.

We want to thank Emily and every incredible volunteer who gives their time for local healthcare!



Emily Anderson knows first hand how important local healthcare is – that’s why she volunteers!



Riders in the Beaver Valley Classic enjoyed a beautiful fall route while giving back to local healthcare.

Beaver Valley Classic Adds a New Gear

Riders from all over Ontario came together last fall to signal the changing of the seasons and take in this area’s incredible colours. In its 5th year the Beaver Valley Classic found an extra gear – participants shifted into generosity.

One hundred and ninety riders enjoyed either 60km or 120km courses that stretched across scenic back roads and gravel trails. Together they raised \$4,000 for Brightshores which was matched by corporate partner Burgundy Asset Management who brought the event’s grand total to \$8,000 for local healthcare.

Organizers Emma Stainton and Ayrton Dick started the event back in 2021 “to showcase the beautiful Beaver Valley to our cyclist friends” but as it’s grown they saw the opportunity to support a cause they care deeply about.

Emma and Ayrton chose to support Brightshores because they “are so grateful for the outstanding care Brightshores provides to people visiting Grey Bruce and its local residents.”

You can visit www.beavervalleyclassic.ca to find out more. Registration for this year’s event is already open! A huge thank you to the riders, volunteers, sponsors and the Beaver Valley Cycling Club who help make this annual tradition a success.

If you have a great idea for an event to support local healthcare or want to add a fundraising component to an existing event please get in touch with your local foundation who will be happy to help!

You Enhanced their Education

Last year donor’s contributed \$194,810.68 towards continuing education for Brightshores’ staff. This funding, provided through tuition reimbursement, helps ensure that staff can be at their best.

The following are a few of the programs completed by staff: Critical Care Nursing Certificate, Chemotherapy Immunotherapy Certificate, Trauma Nursing Core Course, Cardiac Rhythm Interpretation, Perioperative Nursing, Acute Care of at-Risk Newborns, Pharmacy Informatics Certificate, Post Anesthesia Care Nursing, CT imaging Certificate and more.

Hailey Weldrick is a fulltime nurse at the Markdale Hospital. She is the Scrub Nurse for the Endoscopy Unit and also works in Medicine and Surgery. She had previously received tuition support for her Perioperative Certificate which enables her to work in the operating room. Last year she used the funding for her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN). She had this to say about the program:

Dear Donors,

I would like to sincerely thank you for your generous support of professional development and continuing education for staff. Your contribution has made a meaningful impact on my ability to further my education and grow in my role within the organization.

As an employee of Brightshores for the past 18 years, this support has provided me with a valuable opportunity to continue investing my time, skills, and experience within the organization. It has also allowed me to further my education through my BScN, strengthening my clinical knowledge, critical thinking, and ability to provide high-quality, evidence-informed care.

This opportunity has not only supported my professional growth but has also positively impacted my personal life, allowing me to continue advancing my career while maintaining stability for my family.

I am truly grateful for your investment in staff and for recognizing the importance of ongoing learning in healthcare. Your generosity directly supports both staff growth and improved patient outcomes.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Hailey Weldrick



Tuition support from donors has helped Hailey advance her career.

Behind every piece of equipment there’s a great person providing care and connection. That’s what makes this program so important. Thank you to everyone who supports staff education – you are helping strengthen Brightshores and ensuring that staff are able to provide safe, high-quality and specialized care to this community.

New Equipment: Meaford Renewing Spaces that Bring Peace

Brightshores Meaford Hospital is undergoing an exciting transformation as three essential spaces — the Palliative Care Room, the doctors’ sleep rooms, and the Reflective Room — receive meaningful upgrades designed to enhance comfort, dignity, and calm for patients, families, and care teams.

This revitalization has been powered by extraordinary community generosity. Over the past three years, Hockey Hits Cancer has contributed more than \$25,000 toward the Palliative Care Room refurbishment. The remaining funds needed to complete these upgrades were proudly donated by wonderful people like you!

Thank you to everyone who helped make these improvements possible. You helped create warm, welcoming spaces that reflect the compassion of our community.



The newly renovated palliative room at the Meaford Hospital offers care and comfort.



This vein finder ensures staff can easily find a vein the very first time.

New Equipment: Markdale You Won’t Feel a Thing

Nobody likes needles. Thankfully, staff at the Markdale Hospital have a new tool that makes insertions more comfortable for patients. The AccuVein vein viewer uses infrared mapping to show care professionals what’s going on underneath the skin.

With a vivid map on the skins surface care providers can select the safest most comfortable veins and know that they’re getting it right the very first time.

We want to thank the Florence Nightingale Home Foundation, Order of the Eastern Star, for making this purchase possible. They truly understand that small comforts and compassions can make all the difference!

New Equipment: Southampton You Can Breathe Easier Because of Donor Support

We don’t even think about it because it happens so often; so easily. Breathe deep – exhale. But what if you couldn’t take that breathe?

Thankfully, with help from dedicated donors, there’s a new ventilator supporting patients at the Southampton Hospital. A ventilator helps your body to breathe by mechanically pumping air into your lungs. As you can imagine getting the airflow just right can be tricky and having the latest, most functional equipment is vital to care.

This new Hamilton T1 Transport Ventilator is designed to be used in hospital or on the move. It’s capable of working in either land or air transports if a patient presents at the Southampton Emergency Department and needs an emergency medical transfer to a larger centre like Owen Sound or London.

Thank you to the hospital staff and donors who support this community letting everyone breathe a little easier.



Donor support helped purchase this new ventilator at the Southampton Hospital.

Cooking up Care

Brightshores Wellness and Recovery Centre recently received the 2026 national Award of Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Quality Improvement – an honour that celebrates excellence, leadership and impact across Canada’s healthcare system.

This award from the Canadian College of Health Leaders recognized the transformative approach of the centre which offers stable housing and integrated treatment for individuals with complex needs, providing wraparound services under one roof to support every step of the individual’s recovery journey.



New kitchen equipment means more opportunity and better meals for clients.



Sean helps teach kitchen skills and prepares food for clients at the Wellness and Recovery Centre.

The centre, which is the first of its kind in Ontario, is already showing signs of impact with substance-use related emergency department visits declining at local hospitals.

The staff, the clients and the donors who made it all possible are showing that this is making a difference.

For all the good work that’s already been done things continue to improve at the 45-bed facility. Construction was recently completed on a new fully upgraded kitchen which unlocks better patient care and new opportunities for clients.

The kitchen which includes an industrial oven, two residential ovens, industrial stand mixers and commercial

slicers is used to prepare meals and train clients for life beyond the centre. Through partner programming with Canadian Mental Health Association in Owen Sound, clients can now benefit from expanded pathways to skill-building for personal use and employment.

Clients can learn kitchen/cooking basics like how to budget, shop and prepare food for themselves – building the confidence needed to prepare healthy meals independently. They’re also able to learn and practice the skills they would need to work in a kitchen environment – gaining valuable employment opportunities.

The new kitchen means clients can enjoy fresh meals made with intention. They now take these meals together in a larger dining space that fits with the center’s holistic approach to care. Sharing a meal helps nourish our bodies, our minds and our spirits. It’s a natural extension of the centre’s four pillars of recovery: Hope. Meaning. Belonging. Purpose.

Of course none of this would be possible without the incredible trust and compassion of local donors who gave generously to bring this project to life. Donors have helped create a space that nourishes both body and future opportunity. Thank you to everyone who has and continues to support the establishment and growth of the Wellness and Recovery Centre.

Ruth Tompkins: Centennial Donation Starts a New Chapter

One hundred thousand dollars to celebrate one hundred years. It was how Ruth Tompkins planned to commemorate her centennial.

She completed her donations - \$50,000 to the Golden Dawn Senior Home Redevelopment Fund and \$50,000 to establish a new named endowment with the Bruce Peninsula Hospitals Foundation – but sadly passed on August 13th, just a few weeks shy of her milestone birthday.

Ruth loved to sew, to cook and to garden. Singing was a huge part of her life. She was a longtime member of the Bruce Peninsula Spirit Singers and continued singing in the Christ Church choir into her early nineties.



Ruth Tompkins made local healthcare a part of her life story.

Ruth’s connection to the area was established at an early age. As an infant, she travelled up the Peninsula with her grandfather while he surveyed the land where St. Margaret’s Church was to be constructed.

Ruth’s gift to Bruce Peninsula Hospitals Foundation was used to establish a named fund as part of the Caring for Tomorrow Endowment... to support new medical equipment, facility improvements and staff training at Lion’s Head Hospital.

She grew up in Saskatchewan, was educated in London, and spent her working years in Toronto but always stayed connected to the area - often visiting her cousins and sister.

Thirty five years ago she retired to Lion’s Head and then later in life, moved into the Golden Dawn Senior’s apartments living independently for many years. Ruth spent her final few months in the facility’s nursing home.

She was always community minded and felt that her centennial donation supported “two of our most important health care facilities.”

Ruth’s gift to Bruce Peninsula Hospitals Foundation was used to establish a named fund as part of the Caring for Tomorrow Endowment. The Tompkins James Memorial Endowment will be invested, with a portion of annual income used to support new medical equipment, facility improvements and staff training at Lion’s Head Hospital.

Ruth also left the Hospital a gift in her will, which shows the commitment to local care that you’d expect from someone like her. Ruth’s legacy will have a positive impact on our community for years to come.

If you’re considering a gift in your will or want to know more about creating an endowment, you can contact

Willard Vanderploeg
Charitable Giving Advisor,
by phone at (519) 376-2121 ext. 2736
or by email at wvanderploeg@brightshores.ca

Ruth’s dedication to local healthcare is part of her story and it can be part of yours as well!

A Sample of Strength

In the photo Stephanie is testing six new point of care urinalysis machines. The units are validated here at the Owen Sound Hospital before being distributed to their final destinations at one of Brightshores' six emergency departments (Lion's Head, Markdale, Meaford, Owen Sound, Southampton, and Wiarton). Once in use they will be able to perform a urinalysis in just 45 seconds. This will help staff look for infections, kidney dysfunction and more.

This is what it means to be a system. Staff in one hospital impacting care in another. Replacing all the equipment at once like this saves time and money. It makes it easier for staff to work in different hospitals without training on a bunch of different machines. It's one example of how donor dollars are used efficiently to have a huge impact on the health of our community.

Stephanie is testing new urinalysis machines that will be used throughout Brightshores Health System.



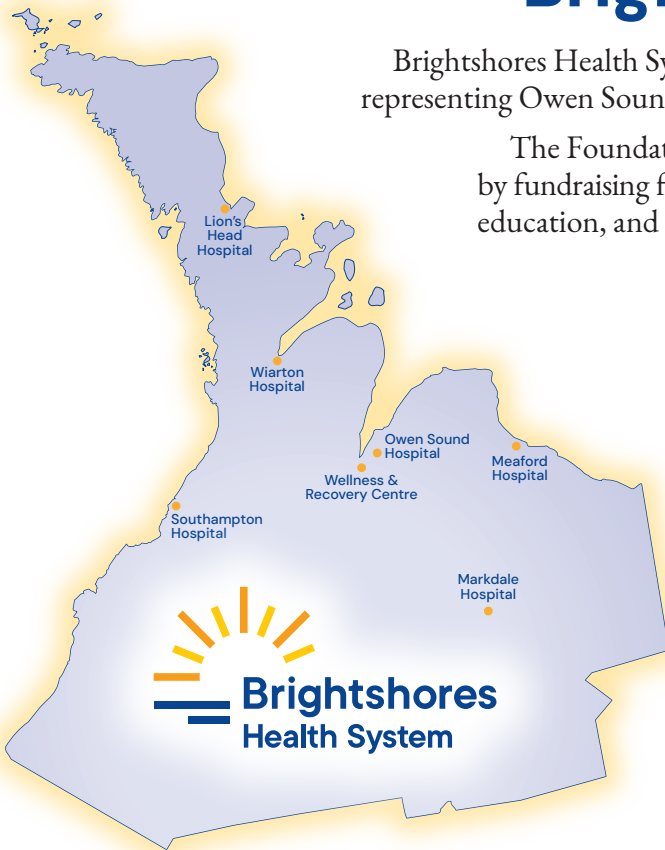
Proudly Supporting Brightshores Health System

Brightshores Health System is supported by five dedicated hospital foundations representing Owen Sound, Bruce Peninsula, Saugeen Shores, Meaford, and Markdale.

The Foundations are united in a commitment to strengthen local healthcare by fundraising for vital medical equipment, technological advancements, staff education, and facility improvements.

While grounded in the needs of local hospitals, they work collaboratively within this broader network of foundations to support a regional approach — advancing healthcare solutions that benefit communities across Grey and Bruce counties.

Brightshores and the Foundations would like to thank everyone in Grey and Bruce who supports local healthcare!



Visit www.donatetobrightshores.ca to find information for each Foundation

Bruce Peninsula | Markdale | Meaford | Owen Sound | Saugeen Shores