



Between Friends

A NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE MONCTON HOSPITAL FOUNDATION INC.

FRIENDSFOUNDATION.CA

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FALL 2019

Thoracic Surgeon Performs a Unique High-Risk Surgery at The Moncton Hospital Using Donor Funded Equipment

One of only a Handful of Surgeons in Canada Employing this Complex Minimally Invasive Technique – Patient Grateful to Surgeon and Donors



Dr. Joseph Ojah, Thoracic Surgeon, discusses post esophagectomy care with Pam St. Pierre at her follow-up appointment

“He saved my life.”

Parmelia (Pam) St. Pierre of Maltempec, a small community outside Caraquet, is forever grateful for Thoracic (esophagus, chest, lungs) Surgeon Dr. Joseph Ojah for successfully performing a high-risk procedure to remove a cancerous esophageal tumor.

A few years ago, the active 66-year-old was having difficulties swallowing, to the point that it was becoming quite worrisome. After several examinations, her Gastroenterologist in Bathurst diagnosed her with esophageal cancer. More tests were conducted on Pam at The

Moncton Hospital (TMH) before her being referred to Dr. Ojah to discuss her biopsy results. She had a choice – a regimen of chemotherapy or surgery to remove the esophagus and most of her stomach. She chose the latter. “I wanted to get rid of this cancer 100% and felt strongly that this was my best option – I was right.”

Little did she know at the time, Dr. Ojah is one of only a handful of surgeons in Canada (the only one in New Brunswick) performing a procedure called *Totally Minimally Invasive Ivor Lewis Esophagectomy* using minimally invasive equipment

funded by donors. This highly specialized technique involves complete removal of most of the esophagus and stomach, containing the tumor and lymph nodes, and reconstructing a swallowing conduit through multiple keyhole abdominal and chest wall incisions. Dr. Ojah has been on staff at TMH for just over a year and has already performed four of these highly complex surgeries (he performed more than 25 in his fellowship training in British Columbia) which can take between 8-9 hours to perform. For the patient, this minimally invasive esophagectomy means decreased lung complications, decreased pain post surgery, less overall trauma and anxiety, less blood loss, less risk of infection and other complications. This translates into faster recovery time, and much less discomfort and scarring than with conventional open surgery. Post surgery, Pam was in hospital for a mere 10 days. This is a much shorter stay than would have been required had she had the more invasive open procedure which is what was being done before the arrival of Dr. Ojah.

“He has the heart of an angel and the fingers of a fairy,” says Pam describing Dr. Ojah’s amazing surgical ability.

Dr. Ojah is very grateful to the donors who, just a few years ago, contributed close to \$500,000 for the purchase of two leading-edge Minimally Invasive

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Surgical Suites replacing aging equipment. These procedures, which use tiny telescopic cameras, scopes and instruments, minimize surgical incisions to reduce trauma to the body.

“It invigorates me to have the privilege of

providing high-level thoracic surgical care to all of our New Brunswick and Maritime patients. A core component of that is, indeed, advanced surgical equipment that can be funded through the gracious efforts

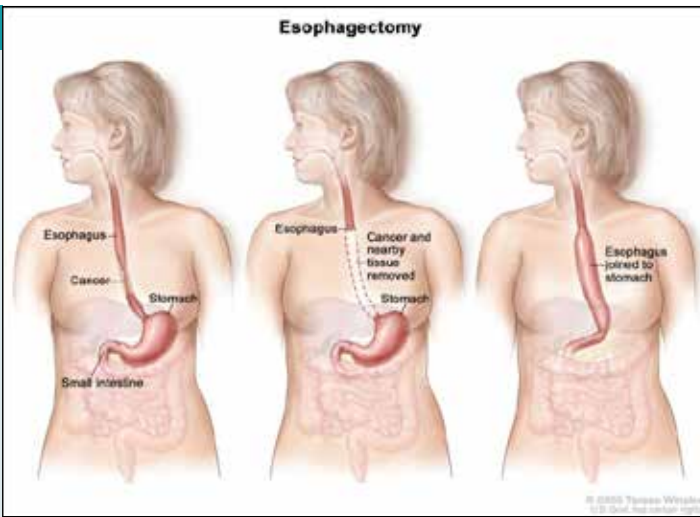
of the Foundation and donors. The bottom line is that patients do better and can return to their daily lives,” say Dr. Ojah

Pam has much more energy and is content to be on the road to recovery. She will return to TMH to have a check-up a few times annually for five years for routine post cancer surgery monitoring. She is reassured that there is a slim chance that cancer will return and is happy to live with those odds. In the meantime, Pam, who has been retired for several years, keeps busy cross stitching and caring for her three dogs, birds and fish. “I am really ecstatic that I am alive. I am thankful not only to Dr. Ojah but to the generous contributors to the Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation.”

Because of the exceptional care received, Pam made a donation to honour Dr. Ojah as her *Hospital Hero*. For more information on this program visit www.FriendsFoundation.ca/Heroes

DID YOU KNOW?

Esophageal cancer is cancer that occurs in the esophagus—a long, hollow tube that connects your throat to your stomach by running through the center of your chest, behind your heart and between your lungs.



The Friends Fund Transformation of Post-Op Waiting Room from a Dark and Dated Space to a Bright and Welcoming Environment

In conjunction with the Physical Resources Department who updated the flooring, walls, and ceiling and a donor who contracted the services of a designer, the new Post-Operative (Post-Op) waiting room has been overhauled.

The Foundation was happy to provide the furnishings (hospital-grade that meet current infection control standards) and décor to complete this long overdue update.

Families and friends will find a calming decor to help them bide their time as they wait for their loved one’s surgical outcome.

This highly functional space boasts new modern furniture, artwork, USB charging stations for phones and tablets, a large television as well as an electric fireplace that gives the room an inviting, comfortable ambiance.

A small kitchenette with a sink, ice maker and fridge is also available for use and a private bathroom as well.

A smaller, separate area with a door can



be found at the back of the room offering privacy for a family meeting with medical staff or volunteers, or if someone simply needs to retreat to a quieter place.

Most importantly, this updated waiting room will alter the experience of those that have loved ones undergoing medical procedures and surgeries at The Moncton Hospital.

YOU help save lives and improve health



Rebecca Schofield Fund Established to Help Cancer Patients at TMH #SmileInBeccasName

Money will be used on things that would make Becca smile

The legacy of Rebecca (Becca) Schofield, who inspired the #BeccaToldMeTo global movement with her message about selflessness and spreading kindness, will live on. The parents of the Riverview teenager, who passed away in 2018 from brain cancer, are ensuring that her legacy continues with the #SmileInBeccasName fundraising initiative

Anne and Darren Schofield partnered with the Foundation on an ambitious fundraising initiative - the *Rebecca Schofield Fund* supporting cancer patients at The Moncton Hospital. Donations to this fund will help generate the \$250,000 needed to create an endowment which will sustain the program and carry on Becca's wishes well into the future.

During her recent cancer treatment Becca received an anonymous gift of money with the instructions that it could only be used on things that would make her smile. That was the day she coined the phrase 'smile money'. "Acts of kindness," Becca would say, "will make people smile."

"We are working with the Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation to help us continue Becca's journey, and to change lives by sharing 'smile money' with those who



need it most," offered Anne and Darren Schofield. "We know she would be thrilled today knowing that continued acts of kindness serve as the heart of the Rebecca Schofield Fund."

The Rebecca Schofield Fund will assist cancer patients at The Moncton Hospital with needs and amenities that most of us take for granted. It will help patients with things like transportation to and from treatments and doctor's visits, grocery cards, and headwear for chemo treatments.

On July 19th donors gave their smile money during the Smile Money Giving Marathon helping raise over \$32,000. Donations can be made online at InBeccasName.ca; by phone at (506) 857-5488; mail to [InBeccasName c/o Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation](mailto:InBeccasName@FriendsOfTheMonctonHospitalFoundation.ca), 135 MacBeath Avenue, Moncton, NB, E1C 6Z8 (Please make your cheque payable to Friends of The Moncton



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Come in 135 MacBeath Ave., Moncton, NB E1C 6Z8
Call 506.857.5488
Click FriendsFoundation.ca
Email Friends@HorizonNB.ca

We would love to hear your comments and suggestions. Call or write **Julie Thébeau** at 870.2699 or Julie.Thebeau@HorizonNB.ca

Hospital Foundation noting #SmileInBeccasName in the memo). You can also visit the Friends kiosk located in the main lobby of The Moncton Hospital to make your donation.

Share your story of donating to #SmileInBeccasName @InBeccasName on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Use the hashtag and tag @InBeccasName in your posts to help us spread the word.



Grateful Mother Sees Impact of the Friends Foundation Through Daughter's Horrific Car Accident

"I had no idea how much the hospital and Foundation did, until my family was affected by it."

-Mary-Lynne

Mary-Lynne Girvan will never forget the day she got the terrifying call that her daughter was rushed to hospital following a mid-morning single vehicle crash. This past June, Mary-Lynne and her husband Barry were just outside Wolfville, Nova Scotia about to enjoy the day touring wineries with friends when they got a call no parent ever wants to receive. It was Constable Underhill from the Moncton RCMP, giving them the devastating news that their beautiful 21-year-old daughter Grace had been in a serious car accident and was unresponsive. Mary-Lynne and Barry, who reside in Indian Mountain outside Moncton, had an agonizing 2-and-a-half-hour drive home before they could see their daughter. "The entire time I kept talking to her in my head, saying 'Grace don't go, it's not your time, please don't go,'" she recalled.

After what seemed like eternity, Mary-Lynne learned that her daughter was transferred to the Neuro Intensive Care Unit (ICU) with various injuries including brain trauma, a fractured skull, a broken neck, cracked ribs and bruised lungs.

Grace's neurosurgeon explained that the next 72 hours were critical. Mary-Lynne and Barry sought solitude in the Neuro ICU family room, a comfortable and private area where they prayed and reflected on the fate of their precious daughter. They



Grace in Neuro ICU following car accident in June.

later learned that this space and its calming environment was made possible through donations to the Foundation. Thankfully, Grace did not require surgery. In fact, she made remarkable improvement every day, moving from Neuro ICU, to the 4100 Unit and then onto the Rehabilitation Unit where the long road to recovery was about to begin. "Grace was excited about this because she was ready to do some of the work herself to get better," her mom echoed. Mary-Lynne was pleased to learn that the Rehab Unit, Grace's new "home" for a while, had undergone a complete transformation in 2011 thanks to donors. Over \$440,000 was raised and spent on many improvements like the creation of a Mobility Center, expansion of the Daily Living Suite, and the addition of an examination room and increased therapy space.

Mary-Lynne emphasized that "in almost every room in this hospital you can see enhancements that the Foundation has made." She had no idea how impactful their donations were until she witnessed it first hand. *"We are very thankful for The Moncton Hospital and its exceptional care team, and to the Foundation and its donors for the modern equipment and renovations which allow the medical professionals to do their jobs and, in my case, saving my daughter's life."*

Home now, Grace is making many positive strides. Mary-Lynne says she has recovered from many of her injuries, allowing her to focus on her main issue - aphasia. (Aphasia is an impairment of language, affecting the production or comprehension of speech and the ability to read or write). "We know her bruises and bones will get better but her brain is going to take a long time and lots of hard work to heal." Grace is an amazing and determined young lady who has taken the year off university to concentrate full time on her rehabilitation.

The Girvan family has put the past long hard couple of months behind them as they look forward to helping Grace get back to the active life she had prior to the accident. "The staff at TMH have been amazing for Grace's recovery and mine. We are forever grateful."



From left to right: Dr. Charbel Fawaz, Neurosurgeon and Dr. Jeff Pike, Physiatrist and Medical Director of Neuro/Rehab Program, discuss personal rehab plan with Grace Girvan and her mom Mary-Lynne Girvan.



Michelle Pettipas, Physiotherapist, assists Grace in Rehab Gym.

Five Donor Funded Modern Infant Warmers Make The Moncton Hospital Their New Home



Ashely Friars, RN, with Infant Warmer

The birth of a baby is one of life's most wondrous moments and few experiences compare to this event. Newborn babies have amazing abilities, yet they are completely dependent on others for feeding, warmth and comfort.

Due to the success of our 2018 campaign, the Foundation was able to purchase three additional specialized beds for newborns in the Labour and Birthing Unit for a total of five – reaching full capacity for the unit!

The modern infant warmers, costing over \$200,000 in total, will provide a warm, comfortable and developmentally supportive environment for newborn babies who experience difficulties immediately after birth.

This sophisticated warmer technology is a great help to staff in the Labour and Birthing Unit as it is very simple to use, and is overall making a great improvement to the care offered to infants.



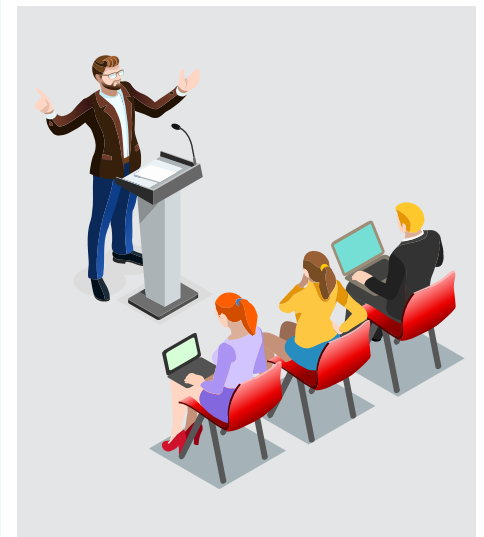
Donor Dollars

The Foundation is committed to leadership in transparency and accountability.

To view our audited financial reports, visit:

FriendsFoundation.ca/Accountability

Foundation Supports Staff in Achieving their Education and Professional Goals



The Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation recognizes the importance of continuous learning to the success of both individual workers and to The Moncton Hospital as a whole. Last year over \$38,000 in grants was offered to 85 staff members attending conferences and workshops or pursuing other educational opportunities in their respective fields.

YOU make better patient care at The Moncton Hospital

Cancer is Complicated. Giving is not.

Patient Grateful to Donors and for Exceptional Care

Seventy-one year old Larry MacDonnell of Riverview could barely contain his emotion as he spoke at the kick off of the 5th annual NB Doctors Cycling Against Cancer event this past June.

“My grandfather died from bowel cancer. No one talked about it. Dad died with lung cancer, we didn’t have much time and couldn’t talk about it. Mum battled bone cancer for two years. Very angry and depressed. She wouldn’t talk about it. She died a week after I told her about my esophageal cancer. She wasn’t there to talk about it.”

Six years ago, when Dr. Mohammed Harb, Larry’s medical oncologist, said the words ‘You have cancer.’ It was the most difficult day he and his wife Gwen ever faced.

‘This will be tough. Not a sprint, a marathon. Your glass is still half full,’ were Dr. Harb’s encouraging words to Larry.

About six years after hearing those terrifying words, followed by a difficult surgery and what seemed like never ending chemo and radiation treatment, Larry experienced a joyous moment when Dr. Harb smiled his wonderful smile and said ‘There is no evidence of cancer.’

Larry is grateful for the care he received and thanks donors who give to oncology so the clinic has the best tools to give their patients a fighting chance. “And one more thing,” quips Larry. “Talk to your health care providers, participate in the screening and testing programs. Early detection saves lives.”

The 5th Annual NB Doctors Cycling



Larry MacDonnell and Dr. Mohammed Harb embrace at the June launch of NB Docs Cycling Against Cancer

Against Cancer event raised over \$70,000 for the Dr. Sheldon H. Rubin Oncology Clinic and the in-patient unit. Total fundraising over the five years has surpassed \$330,000 which went toward the purchase of numerous items including equipment, tools and devices used during cancer treatment, as well as items that help make the patients’ families more comfortable such as sleeper chairs. Each year, this physician-led group of cyclists have been joined by pharmaceutical representatives, staff from The Moncton Hospital, family, friends and cancer survivors. The event takes place over five days with a total of 500 kilometers cycled.



Calendar of Events

Trojan Trek

Harrison Trimble High School students raising money for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
Early morning, Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Zumba in Pink for Breast Imaging Services

Lou MacNarin School, October 2019

Annual Donor Dinner

Recognition of donors who have given over \$10,000 cumulatively
The Moncton Hospital, Monday, December 2nd

C103 and New Country 96.9 Radiothon

Main Lobby, The Moncton Hospital
February, 2020

Swing Into Spring Gala

Casino NB, Saturday, April 18, 2020

To view a complete list of events, visit:

FriendsFoundation.ca/Events

RIGHT NOW, WE NEED YOUR DONATION.



DONATION FORM

Yes, I want to touch lives



and enhance patient care



Tel: 506.857.5488

FriendsFoundation.ca/donate

I would like to contribute a **one-time gift** of \$35 \$50 \$100 I prefer to give: _____

OR

I would like to join the **Faithful Friends Club** and give a **monthly amount** of \$20 \$35 \$50 I prefer to give: _____

TO BE DEDUCTED ON: 1st or 15th of the month (include void cheque **OR** provide credit card information)

A tax receipt will be mailed to this address

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

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I have enclosed a **CHEQUE** made payable to the Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation Inc.

OR

I prefer to use my **CREDIT CARD**: VISA MasterCard AMEX

Card Number: _____

Expiry Date (month/year): _____ Signature: _____

Charitable Registration: 11893 3134 RR001

Send or drop off completed form to:

Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation,
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Moncton, NB E1C 6Z8

OR
donate online.

