Partners in Care, Partners in Community

Community Report 2018-2019

St. Mary’s General Hospital Foundation
Your spirit of generosity ensures St. Mary’s General Hospital will stay at the forefront of exceptional care and achieve the best health outcomes possible for our patients today and in the future.
Canadians expect access to quality healthcare. Repeatedly recognized as one of Canada’s leading acute care hospitals, in June, St. Mary’s was awarded Exemplary Standing from Accreditation Canada for outstanding commitment to providing the safest, highest quality care for patients and their families.

Take pride in your role in making this a reality. Over this past year, every area of the hospital has benefitted from the generous donations of community members and corporate partners. These investments have made possible the purchase of medical equipment and innovations in healthcare at St. Mary’s for the benefit of the communities it serves.

This report highlights some noteworthy initiatives and investments, which have, and will continue to impact the lives of your family, friends and neighbours. Large or small, each is an essential contributor to the ongoing effort to equip the talented staff and physicians of St. Mary’s.

You are both the backbone and the inspiration for St. Mary’s continuing commitment to provide the very best in patient-centered healthcare.

Thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,
Susan Dusick
President, St. Mary’s General Hospital Foundation

“Thanks to you, amazing things happen every day at St. Mary’s.”
Susan Dusick, President, St. Mary’s General Hospital Foundation
St. Mary’s Awarded Accreditation with Exemplary Standing

In June, St. Mary’s General Hospital achieved Accreditation with Exemplary Standing from Accreditation Canada. This is the highest rating for a Canadian hospital.

Accreditation is an external peer review process which assesses hospital practices against standards of excellence in healthcare. Exemplary Standing is a significant achievement and the result of St. Mary’s collective commitment to providing patients with safe, high-quality care and demonstrates that St. Mary’s performs above and beyond national standards.

St. Mary’s was recognized for cardiac and respiratory excellence; relationships with community partners; for the investments made in St. Mary’s staff, which included enhancements to health and wellness programs; and as a leader in LEAN Management, which delivers exceptional care while optimizing work processes.

A national and provincial leader in quality and patient satisfaction, St. Mary’s dedicated staff and physicians passionately strive to provide the safest, highest quality care for patients and their families.

Thanks to St. Mary’s dedicated staff, volunteers and physicians 100% of the Required Organizational Practices were met.
You made it happen.
New laparoscopic equipment has many benefits.

Compared to patients who undergo traditional surgeries, those having minimally invasive procedures experience less physical trauma; resulting in reduced pain, greater mobility, shorter hospital stays.

That’s because during this laparoscopic technique, which has been applied to several surgical procedures, a miniature telescope with a light source is inserted inside the patient, and its high-resolution video camera becomes the surgeon’s eyes during the procedure. For this reason, the vast majority of surgery at St. Mary’s is performed in this manner.

Last fall, St. Mary’s identified an urgent need to replace obsolete laparoscopic equipment. The expeditious response from the community was simply inspiring, donating the required $369,000 in just two months.

Thanks to you, St. Mary’s will now have updated laparoscopic equipment in all eight operating rooms; ensuring patients across all treatment areas benefit from the best possible surgical experience.

“Thoracoscopic surgery, coupled with our innovative care model, results in reduced postoperative complications, shorter hospital stays, and greater patient satisfaction with a quicker return to home and work.”

Dr. Paul Chiasson, Thoracic Surgeon,
The Launch of TAVI

Thanks to the financial support of donors, last fall St. Mary’s Regional Cardiac Care Centre was thrilled to begin offering a minimally invasive heart procedure called Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI).

The TAVI procedure is recommended to patients with severe aortic stenosis who have been carefully screened and are at a higher risk should they undergo a valve replacement through traditional open-heart surgery.

Post-surgery, TAVI patients are discharged within 24-48 hours, compared to five days for those undergoing open-heart procedures. Performing TAVI at St. Mary’s is a big win for patients of Waterloo-Wellington, who previously had to travel outside the region and wait up to 90 days to receive this minimally invasive treatment.

“TAVI is now the established technique for high-risk patients with severe aortic stenosis. It can greatly improve the quality of life and survival.” Dr. Jaffer Syed, Interventional Cardiologist
New Cardiac Surgery Serves Younger Patients

At the age of 24, I was diagnosed with a heart murmur. For almost 30 years, I didn’t think about it and led a very active life. A new family doctor suggested it was time for a cardiologist to check it out. I assumed this was a routine exploration, so following an echocardiogram and stress test, I couldn’t believe it when I was informed my aortic valve was starting to stiffen, and eventually would need to be replaced. I was shell shocked.

A couple of years later, I started getting short of breath and once felt like fainting after climbing just a few stairs. But I ignored it. I put it down to the wine with dinner, being tired, or being out of shape.

Testing at my next annual cardiologist appointment revealed that my valve stiffening had gone from moderate to severe. I was quickly referred for surgery to Dr. Ashe at St. Mary’s, who offered three options; a tissue valve, a mechanical valve, or the Ross Procedure, in which my aortic valve would be replaced with my pulmonary valve, and then my pulmonary valve replaced with a donated human valve.

Dr. Ashe explained that this option was not available to all patients, but at the relatively young age of 55, and given my active lifestyle, I was an ideal candidate. Though the Ross Procedure was more complex, there would be less risk of requiring a replacement valve in the future.

On April 29th, I underwent the Ross Procedure; the entire team at St. Mary’s was amazing, truly world-class. Now I’m feeling great, back to my favourite activities, and listening closely to my body. People need to know we have the best cardiac centre in our own backyard.

Denise Case

“Using nature’s own valve designs gives our deserving young adult population the opportunity of a normal, active quality life and normal life expectancy.”

Dr. Kassem Ashe, Cardiac Surgeon
Your investment is fundamental to the health of your community

Not covered by Ontario’s current healthcare funding model, it’s only thanks to your financial contributions St. Mary’s can purchase the innovative equipment and essential tools used throughout the hospital that staff depend on daily for the delivery of patient care.

Your generosity is directly impacting the lives of countless patients and their families and is key to ensuring a vibrant, healthy community. Thanks to you, St. Mary’s is providing incredible advances in healthcare that are resulting in the best health outcomes possible for patients today and into the future.
Some key equipment purchased with community contributions in fiscal year April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019

**INR Analyzers**
$56,000

**Mini C-Arm**
$82,000

**OR Instruments**
$100,000
(some items included in this amount)
- Sternum Saw
- Rhinolaryngoscope
- Lighting
- Saggital Saw

**TAVI Equipment**
$275,000
(some items included in this amount)
- Instruments - scissors, clamps, forceps, retractors, etc.
- Cautery Unit
- Cardio Help Machine
- Handheld Ultrasound
- Diagnostic Monitors
- Injection System

**Anesthesia Equipment**
$1,000,000
St. Mary’s Volunteer Association Raised the Bar!

Patients at St. Mary’s General Hospital are benefitting from new and critically important vital signs monitors, thanks to a record-setting donation of $325,000 by the hospital’s Volunteer Association to St. Mary’s General Hospital Foundation.

“This is our single largest donation to the Foundation since we have been operating our businesses. We are excited to give back in a significant way to patient care by directing our donation to new vital signs monitors throughout the hospital. Our incredible volunteers and Tim Hortons staff are very proud to provide excellent customer service to the patients, families, and hospital staff visiting our retail businesses at St. Mary’s.”

*Linda Maxwell, President of St. Mary’s Volunteer Association*

These funds were generated by Volunteer Association-run businesses; the often frequented Tim Hortons, Madeleine’s Gift Shop, and lottery booth located in St. Mary’s hospital lobby, as well as a busy lottery booth at St. Jacobs Farmers’ Market in Waterloo.

St. Mary’s General Hospital is privileged to have 325 volunteers supporting patients, families, and staff. These committed and community-minded individuals are an integral part of the St. Mary’s family. Volunteers offer compassionate assistance when people are at their most vulnerable, greeting new arrivals, helping families locate loved ones and so much more in addition to providing financial support for capital projects.

Each day, visitors to the hospital lobby are greeted with the warmth and kindness of St. Mary’s volunteers and staff as they provide directional support and customer service. We are grateful to recognize that their generosity does not stop there. The annual donation made by St. Mary’s Volunteer Association enables the purchase of needed equipment, playing a significant role in the delivery of patient care throughout the hospital.
Thank You!

For your warm welcome and ongoing support of the patients and their families.
The Voisin Family – a legacy of commitment and caring

On a sunny June day, four generations of the Voisin family gathered on the carnival grounds at The Boardwalk for a photo in Celebration of Community. Behind this community is St. Mary’s, a strong and vibrant hospital that is always there when you need care.

With gratitude, carnival proceeds from Sunrise Shopping Centre and The Boardwalk were given to St. Mary’s General Hospital Foundation’s Susan Dusick and now former Hospital CEO Dr. Andrew Falconer.

To acknowledge this special occasion, Frank Voisin, 96, was joined by his children Greg, Jane Simpson, and Vince Varga; his grandchildren Cynthia (and husband John Sehl), Harmony, Simon, and Steve Voisin; his great-grandchildren Anthony, Mary Ella, and Jack Sehl.

Frank was on numerous committees for the hospital from 1972-2003. He leaves a legacy of commitment and caring for Kitchener-Waterloo.
Out in the County

Toward the end of each summer, the Waterloo County Steam-Threshers Reunion hosts its annual antique tractor and steam engine show in Wallenstein, raising money for local charities. Last year, St. Mary’s General Hospital was a recipient of their generosity. Attended by enthusiasts and the curious alike, the two-day event features tasty food, beautiful morning tractor rides and evenings filled with amazing music.

Bruce-a-thon!
What’s that you ask?

In May, the ambitious hearts of KW Cardio Pulmonary Services (CPS) signed up once more to get a taste of their own medicine, this time calling on the team from St. Mary’s Cardiac Rehabilitation to join them in the second annual Bruce-a-thon! The Bruce Protocol is a treadmill exercise test used to evaluate cardiac function through gradual increases in speed and incline. Echo Technologists, Cardiac Technologists, Cardiac Rehab and Doctors alike gathered pledges of support for St. Mary’s Regional Cardiac Care Centre. In the end, the Doctors team triumphed for 2019; no doubt training to retain this title is already underway for 2020!
She Shares More

A network of like-minded women joined together to form She Shares More, with a vision to pool their donations and make a difference in our community by investing in healthcare at St. Mary’s General Hospital. Members of this passionate group managed to amass $25,000 in their first year.

In December, the group met to hear St. Mary’s staff members from three different departments present details of their funding priority. Though each were deserving projects, in the end, She Shares More members voted to replace the platelet incubator/agitator in the laboratory. This tool provides optimal storage conditions and an alarm system, ensuring platelets are always available on site for cardiac procedures and trauma patients.

She Shares More members enjoy several benefits throughout the year, including education and social events. Outside the hospital, this group aims to promote the power of philanthropy and educate women, creating awareness of women’s health issues, and improving the health of the entire community.

For more information on She Shares More Giving Circle contact Julie Powell at jpowell@supportstmarys.ca or 519-749-6878.
RedDAY rallies the community!

In a heartfelt display of love for the women in their lives, record numbers of workplace teams, St. Mary’s staff, community organizations, media partners, and local dignitaries joined forces on Friday, June 7th to celebrate RedDAY!

Wearing red and sharing heart-healthy messages on social media, this effort raised awareness of the serious risk of female heart disease and raised funds for St. Mary’s Regional Cardiac Care Centre.

Manulife, a longtime St. Mary’s supporter and partner in the promotion of women’s cardiac health, extended an encouraging RedDAY Giving Challenge, generously offering to match up to $200,000 in community donations. In response, individual contributions and creative workplace fundraisers contributed an inspiring $302,625! With Manulife’s match, RedDAY raised a total of $502,625!

These funds will go a long way in the effort to raise the $2.8 million community investment required to bring a crucially needed third catheterization suite to St. Mary’s Regional Cardiac Care Centre. THANK YOU!
While government funding provides for the day-to-day operational costs of the hospital and the staff within its walls, the current funding model assumes that our community will finance the on-going purchase of all new and replacement equipment required for patient care.
The next priorities

You entrust St. Mary’s General Hospital to care for your health and wellbeing during the most vulnerable times in life, and you understand that to do so St. Mary’s requires financial support.

Providing exceptional healthcare requires a partnership with the community to raise the funds that help place needed equipment, large and small, into the hands of St. Mary’s healthcare teams.

In the coming year, some of the necessary equipment St. Mary’s needs your support to replace include; critical care ventilators that offer support for patients unable to breathe on their own; ultrasound systems that provide diagnostic imaging; ECG case systems that assess cardiac function during exercise; and high-level disinfection systems for medical devices and equipment.

It is exciting to witness the impact new and replacement equipment, with its upgraded technology, has on the St. Mary’s ability to deliver superior results for patients. Without you, this would not be possible.

Thank you for your support of healthcare in our community. Your investment today will help ensure the effective care you’ve come to expect at St. Mary’s is always here when you or your loved ones need it.

Let’s make sure it’s here when you need it.

Donate online today!
supportstmarys.ca/equip

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Yes! I want to help St. Mary’s:

Please accept my one-time investment of:

- $1000
- $500
- $250
- Other $__________

Paid by:
- Cheque (Payable to St. Mary’s General Hospital Foundation)
- Credit Card (Complete information below)

Credit Card:  
- Visa
- MasterCard
- AmEx

Card #: ________________________________
Name on Card: ________________________________
Expiry: ___ / __________
Signature: ________________________________

☐ I wish to give anonymously and not be named in Foundation communications.

☐ I would like to be contacted by a Foundation representative to learn more about making a gift of securities.

☐ I would like to be contacted by a Foundation representative to learn more about leaving a gift in my will. (If you have previously notified us of a gift, thank you.)

I would like to make a monthly donation to St. Mary’s General Hospital Foundation:

- $25
- $50
- $100
- Other $__________

I authorize St. Mary’s General Hospital Foundation to debit the amount indicated above each month from my:

- Bank (Withdrawn: 1st of each month, include void cheque)
- Credit Card (Withdrawn: 30th of each month, complete info to left)

Telephone: ________________________________
Email: ________________________________

☐ Email my tax receipt
CHARITABLE BUSINESS
NO. 119189017RR0001

TAX RECEIPTS WILL BE ISSUED
FOR ALL DONATIONS RECEIVED.

911 Queen’s Boulevard
Kitchener, ON N2M 1B2
TEL: 519.749.6797 FAX: 519.749.6945
foundation@supportstmarys.ca
www.supportstmarys.ca

Member Foundation