

Message From SPH Foundation



Each year, our Spirit Newsletters are a celebration of our donors and serve as a tribute to the generosity of the community in which we live. Because of this truly spectacular generosity and dedication, we are able to support our Hospital's mission to provide a community of health, hope and compassion for all.

As a Foundation, we seek projects that will have wide-ranging and long-lasting impact on those who enter St. Paul's Hospital and the Hospice at Glengarda, as well as those who live in the communities we serve. We are so fortunate to have the support of donors who also wish to strive for innovation in health care, and share our dream that the residents of Saskatchewan

have access to the best health care possible. In the pages to follow, you will learn about the varied and valuable avenues through which our donors have chosen to show support for our facilities and our mission, as well as the transformative technology that we have had the privilege to bring to our Hospital.

The da Vinci Surgical Robot will revolutionize surgery for patients in Saskatchewan. The first of its kind in the province, the Robot (affectionately known as "Daryl") will enable less-invasive surgeries for thousands of patients, significantly reducing both in-hospital and recovery times thereby improving patient experiences and outcomes. As well, surgical waiting times will be

reduced and, importantly, talented surgeons eager to use "Daryl" will look to further their careers at our Hospital. Without the support of our donors and our partnership with the Ministry of Health, we could not have realized our goal of bringing this extraordinary piece of medical technology to our city, so quickly!

I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to you, our donors. Through your vision, commitment and generosity, we are able not only to acquire state-of-the-art equipment in our facilities, but also to provide strong and essential support for programs as well as comfort items that make both our Hospital and our Hospice places where each person who enters will be met with excellent and compassionate care. We indeed are deeply grateful.

SPH Foundation Volunteer Board of Directors 2022 - 2023

Standing center (I-r) Dr. Bruce Berscheid, Emmanuel Health Designate; Dr. Vivian Walker, Board Chair Back row (I-r) Ron Hyggen, Director; Chris Boychuk, Director; Larry Long, Director; Shari Watson, Secretary; Carmen Levandoski, Director; Neil Weber, Past Chair; Kevin Sharfe, Director

Seated (I-r) Nicholle Povhe, Treasurer; Tracy Muggli, St. Paul's Hospital Executive Director; Gwen Dueck, Vice-Chair; Doreen Howlett, Director; Lecina Hicke, St. Paul's Hospital Foundation CEO; Steeg Holmes, Director

Lecina Hicke,

St. Paul's Hospital Foundation CEO





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The Spirit

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A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The province's first surgical robot is a marvel of technological achievement, with the potential to change the trajectory of patient care in Saskatchewan — and it's been made possible thanks to donors such as the Merlis Belsher Family, who supported the robot with a stunning \$1.1 million gift.

The da Vinci surgical system is a console of surgical instruments guided remotely by the surgeon, with the precision to perform minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery. Less invasive surgeries result in reduced blood loss, less pain and shorter recovery times,

ultimately allowing for increased numbers of surgeries to be performed.

One surgeon using the device is Dr. Peter Spafford, clinical professor in the division of otorhinolaryngology (head and neck surgery) with the Department of Surgery at the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine. Dr. Spafford, who first met Merlis Belsher through fundraising efforts for the new University of Saskatchewan hockey arena that now bears Merlis's name, says Merlis exemplifies the kind of forward-looking person who will spearhead bringing technology such as the da Vinci Surgical Robot to the province.

"Merlis is an incredible person," Dr. Spafford says. "He's highly intelligent and has a vision other people don't have. He inspires me."

As luck would have it, a series of connected but disconnected conversations inspired Merlis to support this marvel of medical technology. In speaking with Dr. Spafford as his physician, Merlis learned he had recently travelled to Montreal to learn how to use a surgical robot.

Merlis recalled being especially impressed by the doctor's dedication to his craft, and intrigued by the futuristic technology. Months later, when speaking with SPH Foundation CEO Lecina Hicke, Merlis learned that the Foundation was going to be raising funds to bring a surgical robot to St. Paul's Hospital and was moved to act. He learned everything that he could about the robots, and saw what a boon they could be to the province's health care system.

"A less invasive surgery means a quicker recovery and less time in the Hospital," Merlis comments. "This robot will recruit doctors who are familiar with using this machine and retain the doctors we have here."

In addition to the Belsher Family's \$1-million gift, the family is providing a matched gift of up to \$100,000 to help inspire community support.

The robot is named "Daryl" in honour of Merlis's late son, Daryl Belsher, who passed away in Fall 2021.

This project was also made possible thanks to a community of other generous donors, including

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(I-r) Patrick Belsher, and father Merlis Belsher announce their generous \$1 million gift alongside SPH Foundation CEO, Lecina Hicke

major gifts from Kinsmen
Foundation, Danny and
Marc Minogue, Ruby Dyck,
Brent Suer and Dale Pollon,
Inland Steele and North Prairie
Developments. Many donors
also responded with generous
donations to our Foundation's
April 2022 "Seeds Of Hope" letter.

The cost of purchasing this robotic system was approximately \$2.5 million. The Ministry of Health contributed \$1 million to fund the purchase, and will cover annual operational expenses. St. Paul's Hospital Foundation raised more than \$1.5 million for the robot, including the donations from the Merlis Belsher Family.

SPH Foundation CEO Lecina Hicke has known Merlis for many years, first connecting with him through his support of Luther College in Regina, his alma mater.

"For as long as I have known Merlis, I have known him to be a man of great vision and humility," Lecina says. "The Merlis Belsher Family's support of our province's first surgical robot truly is a meaningful gift to our community, promising

better patient experiences and outcomes while supporting the growth and advancement of our surgical programs and specialties."

"Bringing the da Vinci surgical system to Saskatchewan also marks the beginning of a province-wide surgical program, the only one of its kind in Canada," says Dr. Ivar Mendez, the provincial head of surgery for the Saskatchewan Health Authority and the University of Saskatchewan.

He compares the surgical robot to the introduction of cell phones, which have forever changed our lives.

"It's a technological revolution that we're leading," says Dr. Mendez. "Merlis Belsher is a man of vision. His support for and transformative gifts to Saskatchewan strongly advance both innovation and health care."

Dr. Varun Bathini, a urologist at St. Paul's Hospital and the lead of the provincial robotics program, agrees, saying robotic surgery is going to become ubiquitous. "We hope to evolve our robotics program so we have them at multiple sites across the province. This will push the envelope for the types of surgeries we can do," Dr. Bathini says.

St. Paul's Hospital Executive Director Tracy Muggli agrees that robotic systems have a bright future at Saskatchewan hospitals.

"This type of equipment advances one of the key Emmanuel Health values of innovation by boldly leading the way with courage and continuously improving and advancing creative solutions," she says.

We are very deeply grateful both to the Merlis Belsher Family and also to the community for its further remarkable support, which together have made possible this innovative leap forward in surgical care. The robot has already been purchased and is on site at St. Paul's Hospital. Training and integration are now underway, with the first surgery expected this fall.



The Mistletoe Charity Ball and Baskets brings you two remarkable ways to support St. Paul's Hospital!

THE MISTLETOE CHARITY BALL

Saturday November 19, 2022 at the Sheraton Cavalier 500 Dollars per Person | 4,000 Dollars per Table of Eight (Partial Tax Receipt)

THE MISTLETOE CHARITY BASKETS

Delivered anywhere in Saskatoon on December 10, 2022

Diamond Basket – 500 Dollars | Emerald Basket – 300 Dollars | Ruby Basket – 100 Dollars

(Partial Tax Receipt)

This year's Mistletoe Ball and Baskets will raise funds for a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner upgrade. The upgrade will have an immediate positive impact on patient care, reducing patient exam time by up to 40%. More patients will be served in less time, helping to address the ever expanding wait list for Diagnostic Imaging. You can feel good knowing that your support of the 2022 Mistletoe Ball and Baskets will expedite diagnosis and associated treatment plans, ultimately resulting in improved patient outcomes and experiences.

For more information call 306.655.5821 or visit sphfoundation.org/mistletoe



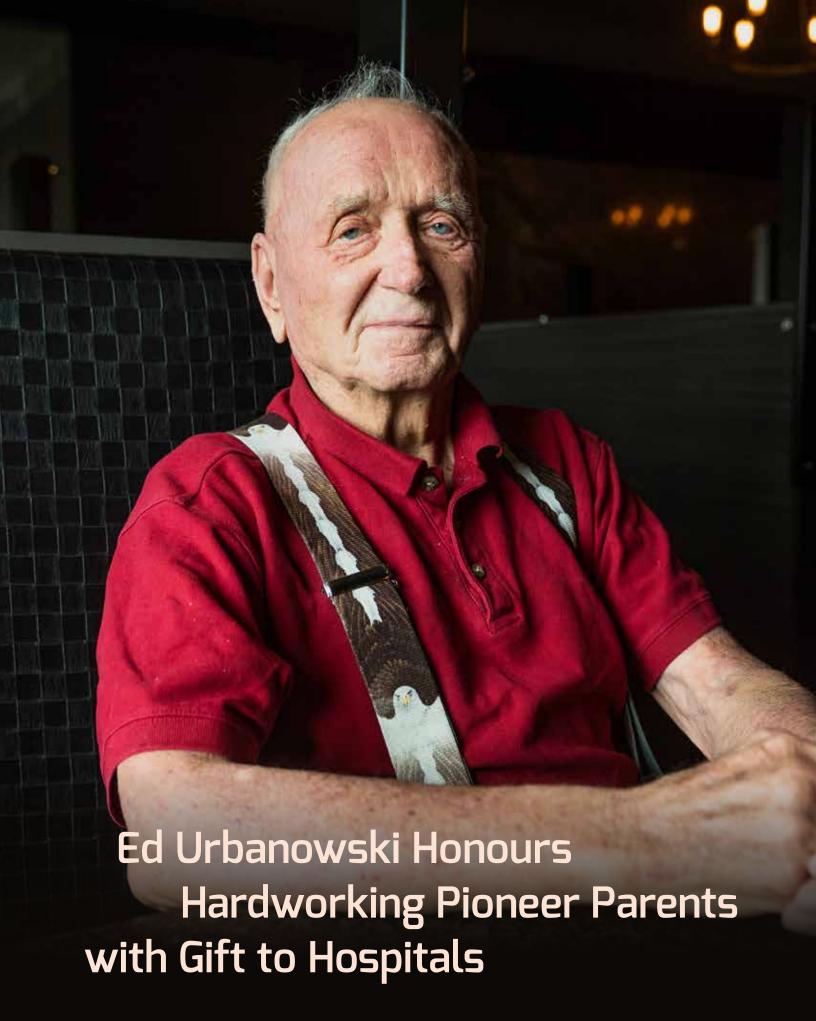




THANK YOU TO THE 2022 MISTLETOE VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

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HONOURING THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE

Born and raised on his family's homestead in the Fairholme area of the province, Ed Urbanowski spent most of his life working hard with his family on the farm before eventually taking it over.

"I was a kid who always wanted to be a cowboy," Ed says. The family farm was located about ten miles east of the town of Turtle Lake. Ed remembers walking the two and a half miles home from school as a young boy, as well as searching for the cattle and bringing them home.

Farm life was difficult in the beginning, but to Ed it also was rewarding. His family found good success with ranching, and Ed stuck with it even though the work was hard. Eventually, he was the only one of his siblings left on the farm. Although the others moved away, Ed felt firmly supported by the home community — he says that there were always great neighbours willing to lend a hand.

Beyond the work of farming, Ed loved the land he lived and worked on: the wide-open prairie, the quiet woodlands filled with poplars and aspens, and especially the beautiful lakes. He lived on the farm until last year, when he had to sell the land because of an unfortunate injury. The sale included provision that one of Ed's favourite spots on the property, an area around Stony Lake, be preserved in a natural state so that future generations could enjoy it in the way he always had.

"It's nice there," he says. "A
person hates to leave land you've
loved, but you can't take it with
you." Ed called that corner of
Saskatchewan home for many
years, and the landscape was a
balm for his soul. Yet he also had a
taste for adventure and travelled
to Hawaii, South America, South
Africa and Arizona after he
retired. Now, at 94 years of age,
he says he feels blessed in life and

wants to give back to allow others to benefit from his good fortune.

Ed has made a generous donation of \$200,000 each to St. Paul's Hospital, Royal University Hospital, Saskatoon City Hospital, and Battlefords Union Hospital. He says that he wants to support each of the hospitals so that the money can support various kinds of care. As the last remaining of his parents' children, he also wants the donation to honour his parents, Anton and Victoria Urbanowski, who both worked extremely hard to make their farm successful. "They'd done pretty good, so I decided it would be nice to give a donation in their name," he says.

While the farm was under his care, Ed says, he always aimed to be a steward of the land. And now that his time to care for the land has passed, with this donation he also becomes a steward of the community.

When Mervin P. Schneider retired from owning his Radio Cab taxi in 2001, he knew he would be needing something to keep him busy. So when the Kidney Foundation called him asking if he'd be willing to canvas for them, he agreed.

"I'm sitting around here in my first year of retirement with time on my hands and thought, why not give it a try?" he says. "It was March and it was cold — I froze my fingers — but I took a liking to canvassing and by golly, I did it for ten years, for eight different charities."

From 2002 to 2012, Mervin canvassed for a truly impressive number of organizations including the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Kidney Foundation, Cancer Society, Salvation Army, Lung Association, MS Society of Canada, Alzheimer Society and Diabetes Canada. "I had a very good inner feeling when I turned hundreds, sometimes thousands, of dollars over to the charity when I was done," Mervin says. "I enjoyed the walking and I enjoyed meeting people."

Mervin ultimately became an area captain, organizing other volunteers. During his time ringing doorbells, he also began working with Meals on Wheels. He delivered meals every weekday for fifteen years, working Monday to Friday from 2005 to 2020. The pandemic temporarily put a damper on Mervin's volunteer activities, but at 80 years of age, in 2022, he resumed delivering Meals on Wheels.

In addition to supporting a wide variety of non-profit organizations, the Catholic community is also deeply important to Mervin — he's active with his church, St. Philip Neri Parish, and is a member of the Knights of Columbus. He says that because he is Roman Catholic, St. Paul's is his hospital of choice.

"I've always thought hospitals perform a very important function in our society, and that's why I put them at the top of the list for my bequests," he says. For that reason, Mervin has decided to leave St. Paul's Hospital Foundation an astonishingly generous \$600,000 gift of shares in his Will. He chose to leave his gift as shares after working with a lawyer to update his Will, breaking up his estate into shares rather than into dollar amounts. He also named SPH Foundation as the beneficiary of his Knights of Columbus Life Insurance Policy. He discovered his passion for volunteering after he retired, but he began donating far earlier than that, supporting hospitals and other organizations

"Those were busy working years," he now reflects. "I always worked long hours and didn't have time for anything else. Then when I retired, I got into volunteering."

since the '70s.

These days, although he's not volunteering as much as he once did, Mervin remains very active with upkeep on his house and yard on a corner lot in the Eastview neighbourhood of Saskatoon.

Mervin has been a longstanding donor to the SPH Foundation since the 1980s, and we are very grateful that he has chosen to think of St. Paul's Hospital in his Will.





DISTANCE MAKES THE HEART GROW FONDER

Why Calgary-based Donors John and Shirley Wolfe Support Saskatoon Hospital

Shirley Wolfe was working a routine day as an operating room nurse at St. Paul's Hospital when she unexpectedly shifted roles from nurse to patient. She was pregnant with her first child, and the baby was arriving prematurely. Luckily, her doctor was at the Hospital at the same time and was quickly at Shirley's bedside.

"Our oldest child went directly from the OR to the case room," Shirley's husband John says with a chuckle. Their second child, also born at St. Paul's, arrived under less dramatic circumstances.

Shirley worked at the Hospital from 1965-67. They had moved to Saskatoon from Calgary, into an apartment near St. Paul's Hospital. Shirley was looking for a job as a nurse, and was thrilled to be hired on the spot.

John worked hard in Saskatoon to build the Wolfe Group of Companies,

establishing the construction company and gaining a strong roster of employees to whom he sold the company in the early '90s. Under the new owners, the business evolved into Quorex Construction – the company that built the Hospice at Glengarda.

Because the Wolfes got their start in Saskatoon, the couple has always "held a soft spot" for the city. So although the family moved back to Calgary in the early '90s and have lived there ever since, they continue to support St. Paul's Hospital.

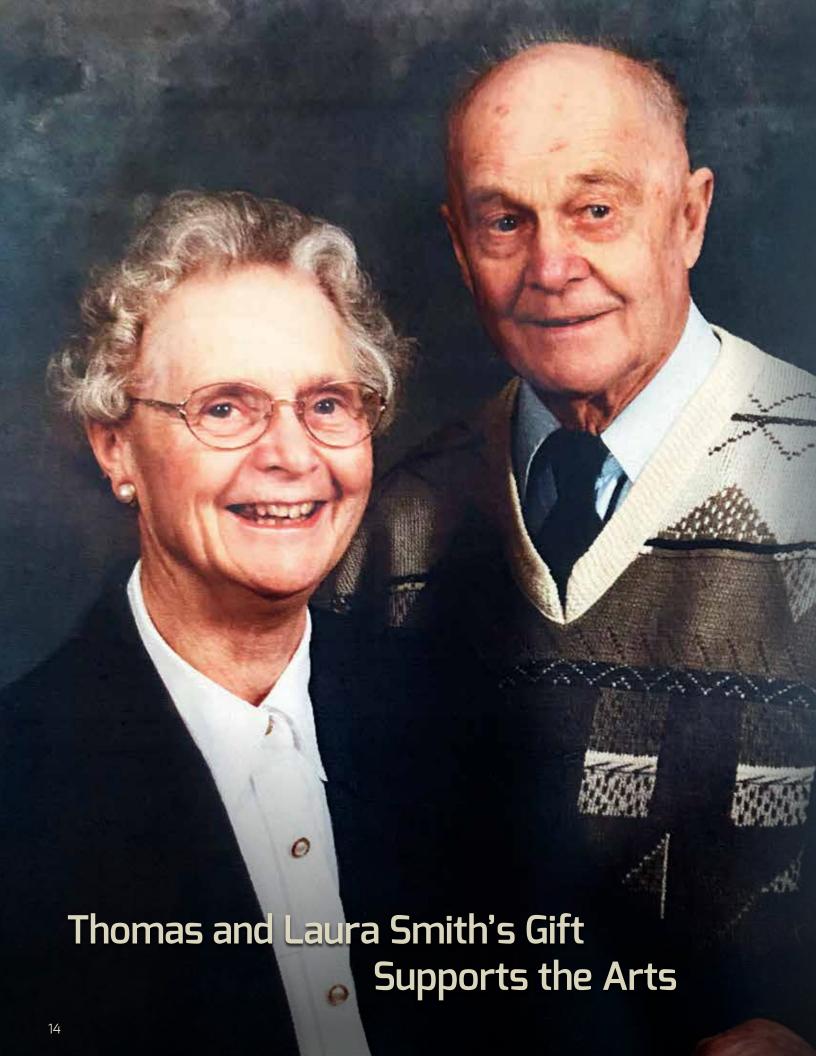
The Wolfe family recently made a donation of \$100,000 to St. Paul's Hospital Foundation. Their generosity was inspired by their desire to give back to the city that helped them along that early road to success. The gift will support the area of greatest need. "Saskatoon has been very good to me," says John, "and as far as I'm concerned,

St. Paul's is the centrepiece of health care in Saskatoon." This isn't the first time they've supported the Hospital: in 1975, Shirley helped furnish one of the children's wards.

While the Wolfes don't visit
Saskatoon very often these days,
they're reminded of the beautiful
skies and sweeping landscapes
through paintings in their home
by Saskatchewan landscape artist
Cecil E. James, purchased at an
SPH Foundation Art Auction many
years ago.

And because John knows that many of his former employees still live here in the city, he says he is happy to support them and their community through his family's donation. In John's words, "It helps the community; it makes the community stronger, and a better community to live in. Whenever I give I feel really good about it, and so does Shirley. It makes us feel whole."





Framed photo: Inga Sherven at SPH 1916

INSPIRED BY REMARKABLE WOMEN

An amateur archaeologist,
Thomas Smith loved to
share his knowledge and
to tell stories. "He usually
had an artifact or two in his
pocket," says his second cousin
Kathy Gray, executor of his
estate. "He took every chance
he could to share — not just
financially, but with his time and
knowledge, too."

By his life's end in June 2021,
Thomas and his wife Laura
had collected more than 3,000
archaeological pieces. Because
the artifacts held strong
importance to Thomas, in his
final three years he framed
his collection in display cases
for donation to the Melfort
and District Museum. His
love of learning also shone
through his donation: he designed
the collection to be portable so it
could be borrowed by schools.

Tom was born in Melfort and grew up on a farm near Pathlow, Sask., where he and Laura settled after their marriage in 1950. It was on that farm that Thomas found his first archaeological pieces, sparking a lifelong passion that he

and Laura came to share. Thomas's father was a cattle buyer and his mother, Olena (Sherven) Smith, an accomplished artist. The Sherven-Smith Art Gallery in the Kerry Vickar Centre in Melfort is named in her memory.

Throughout his university years, Thomas lived in Saskatoon with his aunt Inga (Sherven) and uncle Tom Brydon. According to Kathy, those years spent with the Brydons were precious to him. Tom was an only child, while the Brydons had many children and welcomed their cousin like another brother. During his time with the Brydons, his aunt Inga often spoke about her years of nursing experiences working at St. Paul's Hospital, and those stories had a deep impact on him.

Thomas left a generous gift of \$365,000 to St. Paul's Hospital. Named "The Thomas and Laura Smith Memorial Endowment Fund in Honour of Inga Sherven," their generous gift will support the Hospital's Healing Arts Program. Kathy says Tom's

fine gift, reflecting interactions with his aunt, demonstrates how we may never realize or appreciate the extent and depth of one person's impact on another.

"St. Paul's Hospital was near and dear to him because of Inga," Kathy concludes, "and I'm sure the entire Brydon family never realized the impact they had on Tom."

THE HOSPICE AT GLENGARDA

Bringing Joy and Solace through Holistic Care

St. Paul's Hospital has a centurylong history of responding to the unmet needs of our patients through delivery of compassionate service and holistic care. Now continuing to fulfill that same mission are the Holistic Care Team at the Hospice at Glengarda, which includes Creative Arts Coordinator Monique Blom, Spiritual Care Practitioner Ana Gheyssen, and Music Therapist Michaela Olson. This team works very closely with Life Enhancement Guide Holly Sander and Social Worker Kristin Hubic in delivering holistic care alongside a larger team of clinical and support staff.

Entering into Hospice care can be a tremendously challenging transition for patients and their families. Developing an end-of-life Holistic Care Plan involves addressing the social, emotional, physical, cognitive, and spiritual needs of the patient and their loved ones. The Holistic Care Team responds to the wishes and needs of those who enter the Hospice in a host of meaningful ways; writing songs and crafting artwork together, creating legacy gifts for family members, and simply being deeply present for heart-to-heart conversations.

A Meal to Be Remembered

The Holistic Care Team at Glengarda had the privilege of working with a patient in crafting a video demonstrating how to cook her family's favourite meal. The Team prepared the ingredients, shot video of the patient cooking, and played the roles of "studio audience" and "host" to create a video for the family that will keep loving memories alive for years to come. The patient was pleased with the results, saying that on her own, she never would have thought to do something like this. Holistic Care staff often work with patients and families to help create these types of legacy gifts.

Music to Nourish the Soul

After learning of a couple's love for gospel music, Spiritual Care Practitioner Ana Gheyssen and Music Therapist Michaela Olson, joined forces to sing and play the couple's favourite songs on guitar and harmonium, bringing joy to their time at the Hospice. As Michaela reflects, "Music can create a safe space for patients to express feelings that aren't easily put into words."

Continued on page 19



Spiritual Care Practitioner Ana Gheyssen



Caring for Those Who Are Left Behind

After learning of a family member's apprehensions about what life would be like after her spouse had passed, members of the Team introduced the woman to new hobbies including windowsill gardening and playing the ukulele. When the time came for her to sit vigil with her husband, she often asked for members of the Team to sit with her. She expressed that she never would have dreamed that she would meet such kind, caring people, available and willing to take care of her as her husband lay dying. "Through compassionate presence and supportive listening, I was able to provide this family with personalized care that addressed their spiritual needs," says Ana.

A Night at their Favourite Restaurant

On a patient's 40th wedding anniversary, the Team brought in

special furniture, special plates and cutlery, and the couple's favorite food to create a "restaurant" atmosphere in their room. The patient's wife later wrote, "Thank you to everyone involved in our special anniversary celebration. It meant so much to both of us, and to have made such a special memory during the hardest time of our lives is over and beyond anything I could have imagined."

Community Support is Making a Difference

Holistic Care staffing at the Hospice is made possible through the Leslie and Irene Dubé Holistic Care Endowment. We thank our community for its visionary generosity in giving to the Endowment, thereby ensuring that holistic, creative and empathetic care remain offered as part of a well-rounded end-of-life experience at Glengarda, now and into the future.

"We, the Holistic Care team at Glengarda, are genuinely grateful for the opportunities to collaborate in support of patients and their loved ones. Truly, doing so is a gift. With the ongoing support from our wonderful community of donors, we will continue to support patients through the end-of-life process," says Creative Arts Coordinator Monique Blom. "We are indeed honoured to serve our community in this way," adds Spiritual Care Practitioner Ana Gheyssen.

If you would like to make a gift in support of the Holistic Care Endowment at the Hospice at Glengarda, contact: Pamela Hujber, Manager of Major Giving 306-655-5832 or pamela.hujber@sphfoundation.org.

UpcomingEvents



Mission in Action and Charism Awards SPH Cafeteria 12 noon



SPH Foundation Professional Development Awards

SPH Cafeteria 12 noon



Marguerite D'Youville Feast Day Celebration SPH Cafeteria 12 noon



Virtual Schwartz Rounds (for SPH employees) SPH Pylypchuk Hall 12:00 to 1:00 pm



Hospital volunteers serve at the Friendship Inn

for the St. Marguerite D'Youville Feast Day.



W.F. Mitchell Bioethics Conference

Health Discrepancies in Saskatchewan, From Analysis to Intervention - Dr. Cory Neudorf SPH Pylypchuk Hall 12:00 to 1:00pm



Survive and Thrive Urology Symposium

Delta Marriott 8:00 am to noon



Mistletoe Ball

Sheraton Cavalier 6:30 pm

Tickets: sphfoundation.org or call 306.655.5821



Mistletoe Basket Delivery

For more information on upcoming events visit: sphfoundation.org

Thank-You Motes

My husband was in SPH Emergency then on 5th Medicine. We are so grateful for the excellent care he received! Thank you to Bethany and crew in Emergency and the entire crew on 5th Medicine, especially those in Close Observation Room #542. We are so impressed with everyone's skill, professionalism, and kindness! - C

We are so prateful for the excellent care my dad received while on the Palliative Unit.

All of the staff were amazing! — C

My sisters and D were able to experience the special care for our father the last days of his life. We cannot thank every doctor and staff member involved in the care enough for their love and care during this difficult time for our family. Thank you for this special program that has the best staff to assist families through this process. - V

The Hospice provided the assistance and comfort needed to help Mom at the end of her days. We are incredibly grateful that she had the opportunity to be placed in your wonderful facility. - A

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for making my mom's last leg of her journey far less difficult. It's truly appreciated! - A



We love our Angels! It's an easy way to give AND it reduces our annual mailing costs



Your Purchase Makes a Difference









306-655-5856

Monday - Friday, 10am - 4pm Saturdays 11am - 4pm Closed Sundays & Holidays

All proceeds from Gift Shop support St. Paul's Hospital employee professional development and training.





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