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 Hamilton
General Hospital
Foundation

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When Brandon Clark felt the shotgun blast rip through his back, he could hardly believe that it was really happening to him.

“I’ll never forget April 12, 2015,” says Brandon, a resident of Hamilton. “I was with a few friends and we’d gone to one of their houses after a night out. After about five minutes, there was a knock on the door and my friend answered it. A total stranger was standing there with a shotgun. He shot two of us before turning the gun on himself.”

Rushed to Hamilton General Hospital, Brandon underwent emergency surgery in the Trauma Unit to stop the bleeding and repair his injured pancreas. He had two more surgeries to remove

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A Second Shot at Life



FALL
2017

A Second Shot at Life

(Continued from page 1) his left kidney, resect his colon and seal his abdominal wall.

“It was a painful recovery because of the surgical work done to my abdomen,” Brandon recalls. “It made me realize how much you use your abdomen in everyday life, such as lifting your legs, getting in and out of bed, and sitting and standing.”

The recovery process was both physically and psychologically challenging for Brandon, who had nightmares about the incident.

“It was unreal how amazing the nurses were. They would take the time to talk with me and help me through the difficult times. They really care about their patients.”

Brandon was discharged after five weeks, but an infection of his wound resulted in a fever and

necessitated another 10-day stay at The General.

“It took about a year before I felt like my old self and the incident felt like a thing of the past,” says Brandon. “The experience has changed me for the better and I’m determined not to take anything in life for granted. I’m in better shape than ever, I’m doing more with my life and I’m grateful to be given a second shot at life.”

Inspired to “pay it forward” and support the hospital that helped him, Brandon was proud to participate in 2016’s *Strides for The General* and help raise money to support priority needs at Hamilton General Hospital.

“To inspire people to donate to The Foundation, I would remind them of

the great work The General does day in and day out. Everyone at The General was phenomenal and I don’t think I would be here today if it wasn’t for the care I received.”



To watch a video about Brandon’s journey or to make a donation, visit hamiltonhealth.ca/brandonc

Working Together to Save Trauma Patients

It can mean the difference between life and death. Every day, patients like Brandon Clark require the life-saving services provided by the Trauma Program at Hamilton General Hospital, the adult regional trauma centre for specialized care.

“Patients with severe injuries are transported here by ambulance or helicopter from throughout the region, often from other hospitals,” explains Barbara Klassen, Trauma Program Coordinator. “Our Trauma Team Leader and interdisciplinary specialists collaborate in the care of patients from the moment of their arrival in the Emergency Department, and oversee care until their discharge.”

Specialists of different disciplines – such as vascular, respiratory and neurosurgical care – are brought onto the team as required. Every second counts for trauma patients with serious and complex injuries, and having a close collaboration between different specialties, such as orthopedics and general surgery, ensures the best care.

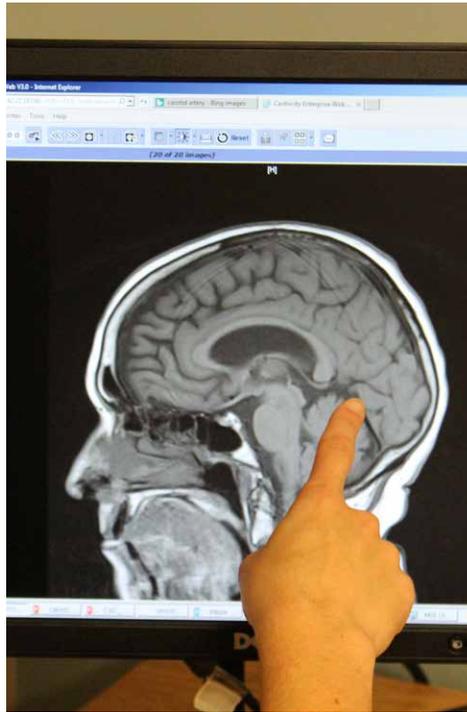
“Our team members are passionate about what they do. They are driven to provide excellent trauma care because our ultimate goal is to have best patient outcomes.”



Regional Leaders in Stroke Care

Time is of the essence when a person has a stroke and having access to the right services can make all the difference. Hamilton General Hospital is renowned as the regional leader in providing life-altering stroke care.

Earlier this year, the Ontario Stroke Network identified The General as the top performer in the province in “door-to-needle” time for a treatment called tissue plasminogen activator (tPA), which is administered at a number of centres in the region. It is often the first line of treatment in stroke care. Ischemic strokes, which are treated with the tPA medication, are caused when a blood clot is formed in an artery to the brain. The medication dissolves



the clot and improves blood flow to the brain. The median time between a patient arriving at the Hospital and receiving tPA is 31 minutes, making The General the quickest stroke centre in Ontario to administer the treatment.

This achievement is another proud addition to the Stroke Program’s decorated legacy. In 2015, Accreditation Canada recognized The General for distinction in “Acute Stroke Services” and “Inpatient Stroke Rehabilitation Services.” The Integrated Stroke Program, which is the largest in the province and allows patients to move seamlessly between acute and rehabilitation services, also received accreditation status in 2013.

Helping Patients Stand Tall

“One of the hardest things for some patients is something that many of us take for granted - getting from a sitting to a standing position,” says Diana Herrington, a physiotherapist in the Spinal Cord Injury Program at the Regional Rehabilitation Centre. “Thanks to the support of Hamilton General Hospital Foundation, we have an incredible piece of equipment designed to help patients do just that.”

The Sit-to-Stand Trainer helps patients reach a standing position using a counter-weight mechanism and a harness. Mounted on wheels for portability, the unit fits through any standard doorway and can help patients who are in a bed, chair or wheelchair.

“The Trainer allows us to provide different levels of assistance to the patient without putting strain on the physiotherapist,” Diana explains. “We can gradually decrease the level of physical assistance we give them until they have gained enough strength to stand by themselves.”

Diana is grateful for the support of The Foundation, which made the purchase of the Trainer possible. It is used by patients in the Spinal Cord Injury, Stroke, Amputee and Acquired Brain Injury Programs.

“Donors are truly helping to change lives,” she says. “This equipment directly impacts the quality of life and independence of our patients.”



The Full Spectrum of Neuro Services at the NAC

Established in 2002, the Neuroscience Ambulatory Centre (NAC) at Hamilton General Hospital has more than 21,000 patient visits annually. The program has grown to include a full spectrum of neuroscience-based services.

“We have strong specialists in many areas, including stroke prevention, epilepsy, Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and concussion, among others,” explains Barbra Kubilius, Clinical Manager of the NAC and Epilepsy Monitoring Unit. “The Centre is home to an interdisciplinary team comprised of neurologists, neurosurgeons, interventional neuroradiology physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses and social workers.”

Barbra is passionate about the NAC’s role in educating both patients and the next generation of caregivers.

“Our patient education includes teaching people about disease prevention and management. We also promote learning for neurology and neurosurgery residents, who gain practical experience with NAC clinics. Education is an important part of what we do, in addition to critical patient care.”

Grateful for the support of Hamilton General Hospital Foundation, Barbra has seen first hand how donor support has enhanced patient care through the NAC.

“Funds raised by The Foundation have helped enable the purchase of important equipment to help our specialists at the NAC deliver the best care possible for patients from throughout the region.”



Quality Health Care is Everyone’s Business

Operating a successful business can be about more than making a profit or beating the competition. Businesses can also make a genuine, positive impact on the lives of people in their community.

The Care4 program is an innovative fundraising partnership that empowers businesses to demonstrate social responsibility by making a financial commitment on behalf of their customers to Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation. When consumers make a purchase from a Care4 partner, a portion of the purchase (unique to each partner) directly supports patient care, education, research and equipment purchases across the supported sites of Hamilton Health Sciences.

You can support Care4 in different exciting ways:

- 1) As a consumer – by choosing products and services from Care4 program members.
- 2) As a business owner – by joining the program as a Care4 partner.

Visit hamiltonhealth.ca/care4 to see a list of member businesses. Join our caring community. Whether your business is large or small, the Care4 program is right for you. Please connect with Beth at 905-521-2100 ext. 44847 or whitebe@hhsc.ca.

