



## MAINTAINING LEADERSHIP IN CARDIAC SURGICAL CARE

Hamilton General Hospital is home to the leading cardiac surgery program in Ontario. To remain at the forefront of cardiac care, the program continuously requires advanced technology.

A specialized portable ultrasound machine, which is essential for monitoring the quality of veins in patients during bypass surgery, was purchased for the operating room. Additionally, the electrophysiology (EP) lab has acquired two EchoPACS software packages, which are critical for viewing and analyzing multi-dimensional ultrasound images.



## FOCUSING IN ON PRECISE SURGICAL CARE

When surgical precision matters most, a neurosurgical microscope can make a life-saving difference. We completed our campaign to purchase two new neurosurgical microscopes that provide enhanced visualization for highly delicate surgery in the brain and spine. This technology is critical in the treatment of brain cancer.

Donor support was vital to helping us meet our campaign goal and put these valuable tools in the hands of surgeons at Hamilton Health Sciences.



Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation provides vital funding to enable the best possible patient care. We inspire and motivate gifts that fund medical equipment and patient amenities, innovative research initiatives, essential redevelopment of clinical care spaces, and the education and training of health care providers.

As a registered charitable organization, we proudly support patients and families across south-central Ontario, and from outside the region, who receive specialized care at Hamilton Health Sciences including Hamilton General Hospital, Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre, McMaster Children's Hospital, and St. Peter's Hospital. The associated programs at the Regional Rehabilitation Centre, McMaster University Medical Centre and Ron Joyce Children's Health Centre are also included.

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# IT'S VITAL TO CARE.



## DONOR IMPACT REPORT

## PORTABLE ULTRASOUND A VITAL TOOL

On average, the teams at Hamilton General Hospital are called into action more than twice a day to save a trauma patient's life. As a regional adult trauma centre, the speed of their response is often critical – there's no time to spare when it comes to making a diagnosis and providing treatment.

A new Point-of-Care Ultrasound machine is helping with that response time. Rather than having to send a patient to the Diagnostic Imaging Department, ultrasounds can be conducted immediately in the Emergency Department.

## BOOSTING THE IMMUNE SYSTEM TO FIGHT LUNG CANCER

Immunotherapy is when your own immune system is used to attack cancer cells. It is a relatively new option in cancer care and offers promise for some patients.

Dr. Jonathan Bramson and his colleagues at Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre are researching advancements in this field specifically for lung cancer.

## HAVE WHEELS, WILL TRAVEL

Five new "workstation-on-wheels", also known as "WOW" carts, in the Oncology Day Services program at Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre are allowing staff to quickly access patients' electronic health records.

These carts enable more comprehensive and efficient care, as staff can review and update important medical information as they work with their patients on the unit.



### Thank you to our valued donors.

To read our Annual Report or view our Donor Appreciation Video visit [hamiltonhealth.ca](http://hamiltonhealth.ca).

**A MESSAGE FROM  
PEARL F. VEENEMA,  
PRESIDENT AND CEO**



Every act of kindness makes a difference. Like the rippling in a pond caused by a thrown pebble, donor support of Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation benefits you, your loved ones, your neighbours and entire communities throughout south-central Ontario and beyond.

It could be your newborn son taking those precious first breaths at McMaster Children’s Hospital, or your mother receiving treatment for leukemia at Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre. It could be your sister undergoing heart surgery at Hamilton General Hospital, or your best friend recovering from a stroke at St. Peter’s Hospital. Whether as an inpatient or through one of the many outpatient programs, people across this region are touched by the teams at Hamilton Health Sciences.

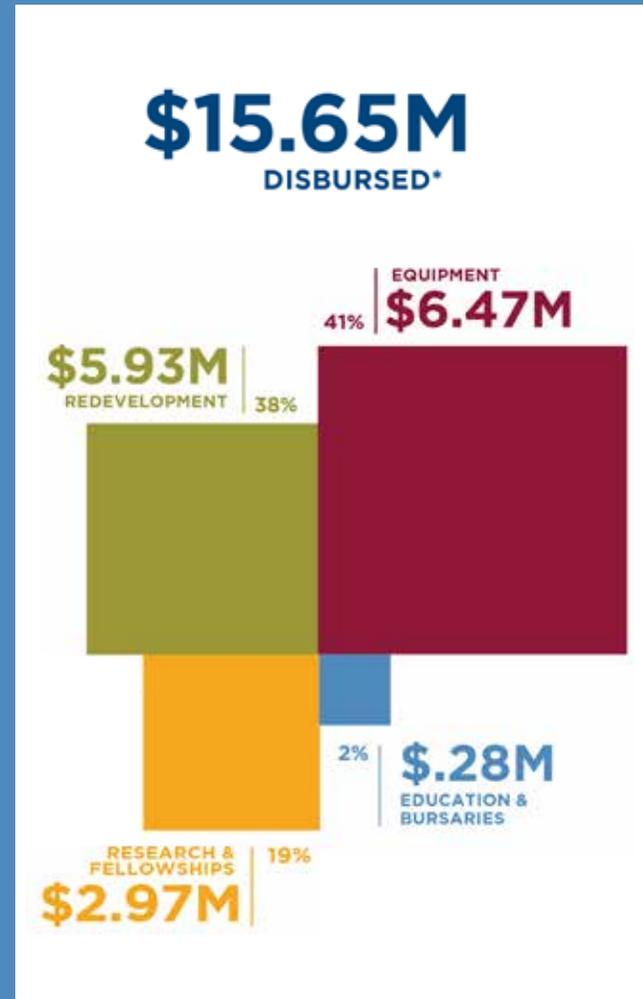
Donor contributions make sure that the physicians and clinical teams have the vital equipment and patient amenities they need to make those first breaths easier. They help create the best clinical environment for patient care. They fund life-altering research into causes, treatments and even cures; and they enable continuous learning. These are just some of the ways that we are able to demonstrate why *It’s Vital to Care™*.

Thank you to all of our donors for making a difference.

**2018 FINANCIAL DISBURSEMENTS**

In 2018, Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation was pleased to disburse \$15.65 million to enrich patient care across Hamilton Health Sciences.

Across the spectrum of life’s journey, donor dollars enable a broad range of tools to enhance the care provided by the clinical teams and physicians.



*\*Our audited financial statements are available on our website, visit [hamiltonhealth.ca](http://hamiltonhealth.ca)*

**EQUIPMENT AND PATIENT AMENITIES:**

Each year, we purchase hundreds of pieces of vital medical equipment and supporting patient amenities that range from the most basic, such as vital signs monitors and wheelchairs, to the most sophisticated diagnostic and surgical equipment such as ultrasounds and neurosurgical microscopes.

**REDEVELOPMENT:**

Redevelopment is ongoing as clinical needs evolve and our supported sites continue to experience increased patient volumes and program expansion.

**RESEARCH AND FELLOWSHIPS:**

Enabling tomorrow’s care through today’s research, the team across Hamilton Health Sciences is recognized as being one of the top 5 research programs in Canada, and one of the top 25 in the world.

**EDUCATION AND BURSARIES:**

Ongoing education of individuals and teams across the clinical spectrum is an essential part of investing in an academic teaching hospital.

“My sincere thanks for the wonderful care I received, and for the kindness, care and compassion you give daily.”

- DP, Hamilton



**CHILD LIFE PROGRAM ENSURES THAT KIDS CAN BE KIDS**

Child Life Specialists help patients and families cope with illness through fun and emotionally supportive activities that prepare them for surgery or treatments like chemotherapy.

The Child Life Team also supports many patients who are in hospital for an extended stay. Unable to attend school, these children benefit from learning materials to support their educational needs. Donor funding also provides much-needed games and movies as well as amenities like Wi-Fi passes, bereavement supplies and bravery beads.

**HEALING POWER OF FRESH AIR**

Sometimes, a breath of fresh air can make a big difference in how you feel. Even children know this instinctively, and now there’s research to back that up. Evidence now suggests there is a positive link between physical activity, play, mindfulness and mental health.

With this in mind, a new outdoor Child and Youth Mental Health Wellness Courtyard at McMaster Children’s Hospital is enabling patients to enjoy sunshine and fresh air as part of their therapy. This secure, healing environment was made possible thanks to the remarkable generosity of corporate partners, community-event holders and individual donors.

**A LEGACY OF SAFETY FOR STAFF AND PATIENTS**

Sometimes emotions run high in a health care environment. Fortunately, there are well-defined strategies that can help staff handle those situations and restore calm.

As a former Intensive Care Unit (ICU) nurse, Linda Lindsay understood the importance of continuing education and training for nurses. Linda left a gift in her will that enabled ICU nurses from Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre to attend a crisis-prevention training program. The course taught them about the safe management of confrontational and disruptive individuals. They will share their knowledge and train other nurses in the ICU.



**ROBOTIC PETS A NOVEL DEMENTIA THERAPY**

The Behavioural Health Program at St. Peter’s Hospital is home to a new litter of 10 robotic cats and dogs. These pets help patients with dementia by promoting social skills, easing anxiety and enhancing sensory stimulation.