

**Give today,
save lives
tomorrow**



Donor Report

2025

Walking, Talking, Thriving: Michelle's remarkable stroke recovery at Hamilton General Hospital. (See page 6)

A message from the Board Chair & CEO

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud to share that 2025 was a record year at Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation (HHSF). Our achievements are a testament to the incredible generosity of our community and the dedication of our supporters, partners, and staff. Together, we have raised the bar for what is possible and set new standards for the impact we can achieve.

Building on this momentum, we took bold steps to shape our future by introducing a comprehensive new strategic plan. This roadmap focuses our efforts and provides a clear, actionable vision to guide our growth and deepen our impact across the communities we serve. Change brings opportunity, and last year, we embraced the chance to refine our purpose, align our goals, and ensure we can support the vital work of Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) for years to come.

Thanks to your unwavering support, remarkable stories of resilience, progress, and healing are brought to life each day at HHSF. Throughout this annual report, you'll discover the direct impact of your generosity: enabling care teams to deliver exceptional service, empowering groundbreaking research, and creating thoughtful spaces where patients and families feel supported and cared for.

Whether helping a child navigate a difficult diagnosis, providing critical resources for acute adult care, or enhancing the quality of life for aging patients, your contributions ensure no one walks their health journey alone. Every milestone we reach and every life we touch is a direct result of your compassion. On behalf of the patients, families, and staff whose lives you have changed, thank you.

With our new strategic plan in motion, we move forward with renewed energy and a sharp focus. We have a clear path to expand our reach, drive health care innovation, and support the exceptional care provided at HHS to the more than three million people we serve in south-central Ontario.

Thank you for standing with us during such a pivotal year. Your steadfast belief in our mission fuels our progress, and we are incredibly proud to partner with you as we build a healthier future for everyone.



Anissa Hilborn, CEO
Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation



Holly Simmons, Board Chair
Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation

Reflections of Excellence

A community united by care

Your generosity is the force behind everything you'll read in these pages. It fuels the breakthrough research, exceptional care and life-changing programs across Hamilton Health Sciences. Together, you are building momentum that transforms lives every single day.

"Because of wonderful people that donate, there are a lot more people who have the opportunity to get better."

- Sara Kovac, Hammer Plunge patient ambassador

"I'm the beneficiary of someone's generosity, and my gratefulness is immense."

- Carolyn Nicholson, grateful patient

"We never know what the future holds but Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre has given me one."

- Doug McLaren, grateful patient

"Donor support allows us to ask the critical, underfunded questions."

- Dr. Amaris Balitsky, hematologist

"To ensure patients with complex chronic conditions get optimal care, they should go to places like McMaster Children's Hospital. Bundled care makes a world of difference."

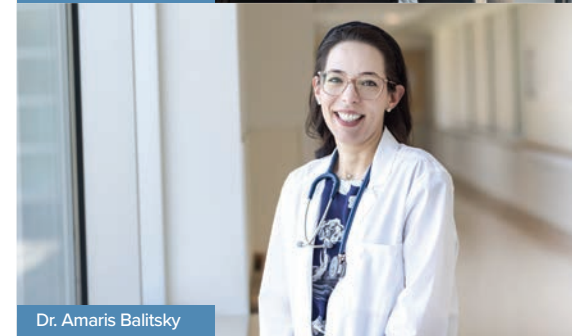
- Conrad Pow, MacKid dad



Sara Kovac



Doug McLaren



Dr. Amaris Balitsky

What Sets Hamilton Health Sciences Apart

Snapshots of impact

Only hospital system in Canada providing specialty health care at every stage of life

Whether it's high-risk prenatal care, complex surgeries, or palliative care, HHS is there providing continuous care for patients from pre-birth to end-of-life.

Top 5 research hospital in Canada in 2025

Consistently ranked among the best for over a decade, HHS attracts world-class clinical researchers dedicated to developing new treatments and improving patient care.

Largest prosthetics and orthotics program of its kind in Canada

The program restores mobility, functionality, independence and confidence for thousands of patients.

On-demand professional medical interpretation in more than 240 languages

Expanded 24/7 translation technology to all ambulatory care across all sites, generously funded by RBC Foundation, so that language is never a barrier to care.

Women and Children's Health

Caring for families, from the very beginning

Because of donor generosity, families across the region have access to the most specialized pediatric and maternal care in Canada. At McMaster Children's Hospital (MCH) – together with McMaster University Medical Centre (MUMC) and Ron Joyce Children's Health Centre (RJCHC) – your support fuels women's health as well as specialized care through pregnancy, birth, childhood, adolescence and beyond, supporting families at every stage with expertise unlike anywhere else in the region.

- **Canada's largest Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and the region's only level 3B**, providing the highest level of intensive care for the most fragile and premature newborns
- **Only pediatric trauma centre** in south-central Ontario
- **455,000+ pediatric visits annually**, serving families across the region and beyond

Protecting sight for the smallest patients

LCBO Customers

A portion of the **\$1,115,522** raised through the LCBO's *Share the Joy, Give with Purpose* in-store campaign helped purchase a new retinal laser for pediatric ophthalmology. This technology allows care teams to treat retinal tears and prevent vision loss, especially for premature babies receiving intensive care in the hospital's NICU.



Dr. Kourosh Sabri wearing retinal laser

Fighting for kids' health

Champions for Charity

The largest community-led event for MacKids, *Champions for Charity*, challenges business leaders to step into the boxing ring to support children's health. Organized by Olympian Mandy Bujold, the April 2025 event brought together an extraordinary network of fighters, sponsors, and donors to raise **\$717,063**, more than doubling their previous record-setting total.

This powerful show of community support is directly impacting care for MCH's smallest and most vulnerable patients. Part of the funds raised will support the purchase of three new NICU ventilators. Ventilators provide essential respiratory support for newborns who are unable to breathe on their own or are breathing insufficiently. Through their generosity, *Champions for Charity* supporters are helping give more babies the strongest possible start, and more families the hope they need in life's most critical moments.



Champions for Charity



Aaliyah, MacKid

Ringing the Bell

Beating cancer, inspiring giving

In August 2022, 10-year-old Aaliyah began experiencing severe leg pain. A visit to McMaster Children's Hospital revealed a frightening diagnosis: acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). "The first thing I asked was if I was going to die," she recalls. Her care team offered hope and guidance, explaining that ALL has a high treatment success rate.

McMaster Children's Hospital, one of Ontario's specialized pediatric oncology centers, provided life-saving treatment as well as emotional and psychological support. Thanks to donor-supported child life programming, child life specialists helped Aaliyah understand procedures, prepared her for each treatment, and comforted her with humour and reassurance. "They consistently made us both feel like everything is fine, that they're always here to help any time," says her mother, Natasha.

Aaliyah faced two years of treatment, including frequent chemotherapy, tests, and procedures. In December 2024, she rang the oncology clinic's bell to mark the end of treatment, celebrated with cheers from her care team and a traditional Indigenous healing ceremony in Makayla's Room, an Indigenous space for cultural learning and connection. "I definitely couldn't have asked for a better medical team. They all go out of their way to make you laugh and smile," says Aaliyah.

Her journey was made possible in part by generous donors. Donor support for child life services, research, family-friendly spaces and the renovation and expansion of the pediatric oncology clinic helped make her battle with cancer more manageable.

In 2025, Aaliyah became MacKids' Children's Miracle Network (CMN) champion. Through this role, she shared her story with CMN partners, inspiring communities and corporate supporters to help raise \$2,096,052 in 2025 to support life-saving treatments, cutting-edge research, and essential equipment for young patients.



Aaliyah visiting Walmart



Aaliyah visiting The Brick

CMN Partner Highlights

- ▶ **RE/MAX agents and brokers** raised **\$154,875** through the *Miracle Home Program* and local events.
- ▶ **The Brick** raised **\$184,861** through their annual point-of-sale and national campaigns, with Aaliyah sharing her story.
- ▶ **Walmart corporate, associates and customers** raised **\$458,658** across multiple campaigns supporting MacKids.
- ▶ **Costco staff and members** contributed a record **\$615,695** through their annual spring campaign.

Cardiology, Stroke & Neurosciences

Top care for hearts and minds

Hamilton General Hospital (HGH) is a regional leader in heart, brain, and stroke care. Donor support helps health care teams deliver life-saving treatment for patients with the most complex conditions. Your giving empowers this provincial referral centre with the resources it needs to combine advanced cardiac surgery, integrated stroke programs, and cutting-edge neurosurgery with innovative research. It means patients receive leading care that improves recovery outcomes and advancing medical knowledge.

Ontario's top provider of cardiac surgery, performing life-saving interventions for complex heart conditions

Largest integrated stroke program in the province, from acute treatment through rehabilitation

One of five neurosciences centres in the province with a designation for minimally invasive neurosurgical procedures



Vector Equestrian

Monitoring recovery, strengthening care

Vector Equestrian

Through its annual charity horse show and dinner, Vector Equestrian directed **\$37,844** to the Stroke Unit at HGH, funding telemetry packs and monitoring equipment. Continuous cardiac monitoring is critical for stroke patients because it enables rapid intervention and safer recovery. The gift was inspired by a family's personal connection to stroke and a desire to strengthen care.

A transformational commitment to cardiac care

Harry Oakes

Former cardiac patient Harry Oakes made a **\$560,000 pledge** to advance cardiac surgery. His support funded new cardiac ultrasounds, cell-saver technology, and a Plasmablate™, enhancing surgical precision, reducing blood loss, and improving surgical outcomes and recovery times for patients facing complex heart procedures.

Compassionate and supportive end-of-life care

Hillfield Strathallan College and the Paikin Family

Thanks to a **\$120,000** gift we were proud to celebrate Andrea's Three Wishes in 2025, a compassionate end-of-life program in the neurotrauma intensive care unit and other departments across HGH. Inspired by Andrea Tkaczyk's legacy, the program helps create meaningful moments of comfort, dignity, and connection for families during their most difficult goodbyes, including support from a child life specialist for children when visiting their dying loved ones.



Andrea's Three Wishes

Walking, Talking, Thriving

Michelle's remarkable stroke recovery

Michelle White lives a full life surrounded by family, creativity, and the love of her two energetic dogs. She works for the local school board and shares a love for painting with her daughter, a registered nurse. Walks with her daughter, mother, and dogs bring her joy – though a little slower now.

Her life changed suddenly in January 2023 when, while recovering from a procedure to address debilitating headaches, Michelle suffered a major stroke.

Michelle remained unconscious for weeks. “My daughter said that I might not wake up,” Michelle shared. When she did wake, she couldn't speak or move and had no understanding of what had happened. “It was very scary,” she said. “I didn't understand what was going on. I was just crying.”

Without immediate intervention and specialized stroke care available at Hamilton General Hospital (HGH), she may have permanently lost her ability to speak, move, or live independently.



I never thought that I would actually be able to go back to work. Now I can.

Michelle spent three months as an inpatient at HGH, home to Ontario's largest integrated stroke program. She began intensive therapy supported by nurses and therapists. Her rehabilitation continued at the Regional Rehabilitation Centre, where physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy helped her regain movement and speech. “I didn't think that I would be able to move my legs because I couldn't feel them. Now I'm walking,” she said.

Eight months of speech therapy helped Michelle regain her voice. Today, she's walking, talking, and back at work. “I never thought that I would actually be able to go back to work. Now I can.”

Michelle's recovery was made possible by the expertise, equipment, and compassionate care she received – support that donor generosity helps sustain across Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS). Wanting to give back and pay forward the care that changed her life, Michelle became an ambassador for the Foundation's *Gift of Health* campaign. The community rallied to raise a record \$1 million to support HHS's highest-priority needs, including the purchase of 75 vital-signs monitors. Michelle hopes that same generosity continues for the next person whose life depends on it.

Michelle with physiotherapist Simonne Paine



Trauma and Burn Care

Expert care for life's most urgent moments

Every gift strengthens our hospitals' ability to respond when life changes in an instant. Across south-central Ontario, patients facing life-threatening injuries rely on specialized trauma and burn teams delivering rapid, expert care. As a regional leader in emergency response, advanced surgical treatment, and rehabilitation, trauma and burn programs at Hamilton Health Sciences combine clinical excellence with pioneering research to give critically injured patients the best possible chance at survival and recovery.

Second-largest trauma program in Ontario, and the largest outside Toronto

One of only two specialized burn centres in the province

Home to a dedicated Burn Research Centre advancing new therapies

Community power for emergency care

Hammer Plunge and community donors

A remarkable show of community support is helping transform emergency care at Hamilton General Hospital. From brave participants in the inaugural *Hammer Plunge*, to a landmark gift from The Ron and Nancy Clark Foundation to many other generous donors across the region, philanthropy is driving the expansion and modernization of one of the region's busiest emergency departments. Donor support is funding the redevelopment of care spaces to improve efficiency, patient comfort, and clinical flow, while also providing high-demand equipment that enables teams to respond quickly and effectively to trauma and medical emergencies.

Answering the call for burn care

Hamilton Professional Fire Fighters Association

A **\$20,000** donation from the Hamilton Professional Fire Fighters Association, raised through their charity golf tournament, is supporting the Burn Unit. This gift helps ensure specialized care, equipment, and resources are in place for patients recovering from serious burn injuries.

Special thanks to the following partners for their generous contributions to support the Emergency Department redevelopment:

- Beverley and Robert Corsini
- Don and Sheila Pether
- Mr. Peter Pursall and Dr. Celine Pursall
- Bob Collins and Mary McGreevy
- Sharda Sharma
- Slate Asset Management LP
- The Planning Partners Inc.
- The Schwenger Family Foundation



Dr. Marc Jeschke

Funding the Future of Burn Care

Restoring function, renewing hope

On a warm summer evening in 2019, conversation flowed across a backyard filled with friends enjoying a relaxed get-together. Then, in an instant, the calm was shattered. As an ethanol-fueled fire pot was refilled, it erupted into a sudden fireball. A burst of heat and flame tore through the air, engulfing two guests – Cindy Iannucci and Margaret Mackrell – before anyone could react.

The burns were catastrophic. Both were rushed to hospital and placed in medically induced comas under the care of Dr. Marc Jeschke, whose expertise they credit with saving their lives.

The road back was long, complex and ongoing. For significant deep burns, Margaret underwent numerous surgeries and skin grafts and a stem-cell treatment on her face. Cindy suffered severe burns to half her body and to date has undergone 23 surgeries, multiple skin grafts and completed months of intensive inpatient rehabilitation. Both receive ongoing laser therapies.

When their physicians, Dr. Jeschke and Dr. Shahriar Shahrokhi relocated to Hamilton Health Sciences, Cindy and Margaret followed. At Hamilton General Hospital (HGH), they found advanced burn care and a team committed to restoring their function, mobility and dignity. "My experience at Hamilton General Hospital has been first class," says Margaret. She and Cindy also sing the praises of all the health care teams and administrative workers involved in their care, particularly nurse practitioner Stephanie Chadwick and administrative assistant Susan Kurtz.

Grateful for the care that saved their lives, Cindy and Margaret both made personal gifts and supported a fundraising effort to equip Hamilton's burn program with an intense pulse light and diode handpieces. For burn survivors, this technology can reduce redness, relieve tightness, ease pain and improve range of motion. That means fewer limitations, greater comfort and a better quality of life. To date, \$92,200 has been raised toward the \$125,000 goal.

"Anything that can take us that bit farther along in a very long journey is a wonderful thing," says Margaret. "Margaret and I will benefit from it and so will so many other people," adds Cindy.

Through their advocacy and generosity, Cindy and Margaret are transforming their trauma into hope by ensuring future burn patients at HGH have access to the exceptional, advanced care.



Margaret and Cindy



Teeing Up for a Healthier Future

A winning round for pediatric cardiac care

Last August, the CPKC Women's Open demonstrated that a premier sporting event can also be a catalyst for lasting impact. Hosted in support of transforming pediatric cardiac care at McMaster Children's Hospital (MCH), the PGA Tour event marked the culmination of a months-long national fundraising effort led by CPKC.

Beginning in February, CPKC matched donations from individual and corporate donors, as well as grassroots community initiatives including digital valentines, new monthly donors, and *MacKids Walk & Wheel*. Together, donors, families, and care teams rallied around a shared goal: advancing specialized cardiac care for patients across the different age groups served - from womb to adolescence, the full spectrum of care.

Proceeds are already driving the hospital's Integrated Cardiac Health Initiative, an ambitious program designed to transform the patient and family experience. Plans include welcoming clinical spaces, patient equipment, expanded services such as 24/7 cardiac diagnostics, a co-designed digital portal to strengthen communication and follow-up care, and a new research chair position.

The impact of this work is reflected in patients like Amela. At just two days old, she was rushed to MCH with critically low oxygen levels and diagnosed with severe heart defects. Amela was admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, where she received an emergency procedure to stabilize her condition. Thanks to the fast response and expert care of the cardiac team at MCH, Amela had the best possible outcome. Now a thriving teenager, she sees her cardiologist only once every two years. "She's perfect," says her mother, Sabrina. "Her heart is as good as it can get."

Amela stepped into the spotlight last summer as the tournament's charity ambassador, meeting supporters and sharing her story with attendees. As the final round concluded on August 24, CPKC shared that an unprecedented \$4 Million had been raised through this partnership to transform pediatric cardiac care.

"We're incredibly grateful to CPKC and everyone who rallied behind this cause," says Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation CEO Anissa Hilborn. "This is a truly unique and extraordinary investment into children's cardiac care. Their generosity is helping children with complex heart conditions access exceptional, specialized care from the time they are still in their mother's womb until they graduate to adult care when they are 18."

Three Projects, One Vision

The Ron and Nancy Clark Foundation's extraordinary year of giving

In 2025, The Ron and Nancy Clark Foundation made a profound commitment to the health and well-being of communities across south-central Ontario: investing \$6,395,000 across three landmark projects at Hamilton Health Sciences. These gifts reflect The Ron and Nancy Clark Foundation's long-standing belief that exceptional health care begins with the right spaces, the right tools, and the right support.

\$5 million of this incredible gift is supporting the major revitalization and expansion of the Emergency Department (ED) at Hamilton General Hospital. As the gateway to the region's most critical specialty programs, including trauma, cardiac, and vascular care, the ED serves more than 50,000 patients each year. The current space has long outgrown its capacity, and this transformative gift is enabling a purpose-built environment where patients receive faster, safer, and more comfortable care.

At Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre, part of this gift is also helping bring two important advances in cancer care to patients.

Funding is supporting the acquisition of a PET/CT* scanner, a powerful imaging technology that allows physicians to detect cancer earlier, monitor treatment more precisely, and tailor therapies to each patient's unique diagnosis.

The gift also enabled the adoption of magnetic seed technology, an innovative, non-radioactive technique that allows surgeons to locate and remove breast-cancer tumours with remarkable accuracy. This tool replaces traditional wire localization methods and thereby offers patients a less invasive, more precise surgical experience. Magnetic seeds are now in use, with the technology expected to benefit approximately 300 patients a year.

"The Foundation believes that giving back to health care is one of the most meaningful ways to support our community," said The Ron and Nancy Clark Foundation.

Anissa Hilborn, CEO of Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation, added, "The Ron and Nancy Clark Foundation's generosity is extraordinary. And what moves us most is that they keep showing up, year after year, for the patients and families who need it most. They are true partners who understand that what we're doing is changing lives."

* positron emission tomography (PET)/computed tomography (CT)

Cancer Care

Leading the way in cancer treatment and discovery

Philanthropy helps patients facing cancer access the most advanced treatments, research, and compassionate support at every stage of care. As a provincial leader in oncology, Hamilton Health Sciences' integrated program delivers advanced therapies, pioneering clinical trials, and specialized services for both adults and children.

Only program in south-central Ontario treating all cancer types

7,500 new diagnoses annually supported by comprehensive care teams

Provincial leader in stem cell transplants and CAR T-cell therapy

Precision tools for lifesaving treatment

DKM Foundation, Wray and Marie Knox, community donors

Many generous donors came together to raise more than **\$500,000** for urgently needed equipment for the Radiation Unit at Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre, including upgrades to the hospital's linear accelerator technology and purchasing immobilization boards. These resources allow clinicians to deliver precise, high-dose treatments that reduce treatment times and protect healthy tissue while targeting cancer more effectively and improving patient comfort.

Fueling breakthroughs in breast cancer research

BRIGHT Run

The community came together in a powerful show of support through *BRIGHT Run*, raising an incredible **\$534,655** to advance breast cancer research. Driven by dedicated participants, teams, sponsors, and donors, this event continues to fuel progress and bring hope to those affected by breast cancer. In 2025, this generosity funded critical studies focused on preventing cancer in high-risk patients and unlocking new insights through clinical sequencing data to better understand breast cancer risk. With every dollar raised, the *BRIGHT Run* community is helping move research forward and bringing us closer to earlier detection, more personalized treatments, and better outcomes for patients and families.



John and Catherine at Illuminight

From Planning a Funeral to Planning the Future

Community-supported care lights the way forward

On July 29, 2020, John Byl collapsed unexpectedly while filming student demonstrations for a children's physical education project. The next thing he remembers was waking up in hospital.

Doctors quickly discovered the cause: John's lungs were filled with blood clots from a massive pulmonary embolism. But as they ran tests to determine the source of the clots, they found something even more concerning: his left kidney was overtaken by a baseball-sized tumour. The diagnosis was renal cell carcinoma, an aggressive high-grade cancer variant.

Within weeks, John underwent a complex operation led by surgical oncologist Dr. Zareba and involving multiple specialists. Though the surgery successfully removed the kidney, a biopsy confirmed the cancer had already begun to spread. After recovering from surgery, doctors found new metastases in his liver, lungs, adrenal gland and spine.

"John planned his funeral a couple of times that first year," remembers his wife, Catherine. "He was dying. His liver was shutting down." The best-case scenario at the time was roughly four years. He was referred to medical oncologist Dr. Lalani at Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre (JHCC) and began immunotherapy.

That was nearly five years ago.

Immunotherapy – which stimulates the body's immune system to attack cancer cells – was a turning point. The results were dramatic. Tumours shrank substantially and some even disappeared.

Today John is living with cancer on his own terms. He credits his care team at JHCC along with the entire hospital community for his survival, from doctors to food service staff. In gratitude, John served as patient ambassador for *Illuminight*, which raised \$222,146 to support patient care and research at the hospital – a role he embraced to honour the team that, he says, "used their hearts and minds to make sure that I would be well."

As the only facility in south-central Ontario equipped to treat all types of cancer, JHCC provides access to leading expertise and advanced treatments, including immunotherapy. Its role as a leading teaching hospital and research centre means patients like John benefit from the latest medical advancements delivered with compassion and skill.

Senior Care

Compassionate care for life's later chapters

As our population ages, more families are navigating the complex realities of dementia, chronic illness, and palliative care. Donor support helps older adults receive the specialized, compassionate care they deserve. At St. Peter's Hospital (SPH), expert teams provide rehabilitation, dementia care, and palliative services that prioritize comfort, dignity, and quality of life for patients and their families.



Canada's largest inpatient palliative care program

Dedicated rehabilitation facilities provide low-intensity, longer-stay treatment and therapy for patients with complex conditions

World-class dementia and behavioural health care, informed by research from the GERAS Centre for Aging Research



Behavioural health team with therapy animals

Bringing comfort through animal therapy

Community donors

Community donations supported animal therapy visits for the behavioural health unit at SPH. Through structured animal-assisted interactions, patients living with dementia experienced improved mood, reduced anxiety, and meaningful engagement. These visits brought comfort, connection, and moments of joy beyond their hospital routine.

A legacy of comfort and care

Estate of June Young

A generous estate gift from June Young included funding for new beds in the Behavioural Health Unit. Legacy gifts like this have the power to shape health care excellence for years to come. These specialized, adjustable beds improve safety, independence and comfort for patients living with dementia and complex behavioural needs.



From the Grill to the Bedside

Eastern Star & Hamilton District Masons' roast for dignified care

Every year, the end of summer brings neighbours, families, and community members together for the Eastern Star and Hamilton District Masons' annual corn roast, a beloved tradition with a meaningful purpose. In 2025, the event raised \$5,150 in support of palliative care at St. Peter's Hospital (SPH), reflecting both community generosity and a shared commitment to compassionate end-of-life care.

The corn roast has supported SPH since 2005. After a pause during the COVID-19 pandemic, the event returned in 2024, raising approximately \$2,500. Building on that momentum, organizers expanded the event in 2025, increasing participation and nearly doubling the funds raised.

"Masonic organizations are friends to the community and we're happy to help out wherever we can," says organizer Christopher Hall.



Corn roast cheque presentation

Funds raised will directly support patient care and priority needs within SPH's palliative care program. Care focuses on pain management, emotional support, and dignity, with home-like spaces for families and specialized equipment to ensure patients' final days are as peaceful as possible.

Conversations that put patients first

Community donors

The *Serious Illness Conversation Program* at SPH helps clinicians have earlier, more meaningful conversations with patients and families about goals of care. Started in 2024 as a pilot project, the program was extended in 2025 through to 2027 thanks to **\$65,327** in donor support. This investment is strengthening communication to create care plans that align with patient wishes and leading to improvement in the patient care journey and quality of living and dying.



Music therapy session with Bonnie Brittain

Healing through music

Community donors

Thanks to donor support, music therapy enriched care for patients at SPH in 2025. Through shared songs and meaningful interaction, this therapeutic recreation program reduces isolation, supports cognitive and emotional well-being, and helps patients stay engaged during extended hospital stays – demonstrating how donor generosity brings comfort, connection, and dignity to every stage of care.

Research

Innovation that changes lives

Research driven by donor support is transforming the future of care across Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS). From uncovering disease causes to testing breakthrough therapies, researchers are advancing treatments, accelerating diagnoses, and improving outcomes. This culture of discovery means patients today and generations to come benefit from bold ideas, leading science, and world-class clinical innovation.

- **Top five** research hospital in Canada in 2025
- **Ontario's second-largest** research and teaching hospital
- **2025 saw 850+ researchers and 1,000+ research staff** undertake groundbreaking research across all areas of health care

A night dedicated to discovery

Breakthrough Bash

Community supporters gathered at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum for the reimagined *Breakthrough Bash*, raising **\$642,772** to advance cancer research. Funds have supported Breakthrough Awards for six HHS clinician-researchers to accelerate promising cancer studies, with additional funding supporting new pediatric research projects and an international visiting fellowship in cancer research.

Training the next generation of GU cancer specialists

Corporate partners

A new two-year genitourinary (GU) oncology fellowship, led by Dr. Aly-Khan Lalani at Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre, welcomed Dr. Samuel Chan in July 2025. The program trains future oncologists in advanced care and research for prostate, bladder, and kidney cancers.

Supporting the future of research

Community donors

With **\$300,000** in funding from Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation, the Early Career Awards support emerging investigators as they build innovative research programs. By investing in early-stage scientists and clinicians, these awards strengthen the values of learning, mentorship, and discovery that empower HHS to advance both education and breakthrough research.

Failing Fast, Learning Fast

The F2 grant program

At Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS), innovation is driven by a simple but powerful belief: the fastest path to better patient care sometimes runs through bold ideas that haven't been proven yet. That's the philosophy behind the F2 Fail Fast grant program, a research initiative made possible through the generosity of Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation donors.

The F2 program provides grants to support high-risk, high-reward projects at their earliest stages. This year, the Foundation provided \$25,000 to support these projects. Unlike traditional research funding, which often requires substantial preliminary data, F2 welcomes ideas that are raw but potentially transformative. The program is open to the full breadth of HHS innovators – researchers, clinicians, trainees, and health entrepreneurs – and targets challenges spanning clinical care, operations, technology, and patient experience.

“Failing fast doesn't mean giving up. It means learning quickly,” says Dr. Marc Jeschke, Vice President of Research and Innovation at HHS. “By investing in early validation, we avoid spending years on ideas that aren't viable, and instead channel energy and resources into the most promising directions.”

This past year, six projects received F2 funding, each addressing a distinct gap in patient care. Among them, the INJECT trial is testing a novel surgical technique – a targeted injection of local anesthetic during abdominal surgery – that may reduce visceral pain, nausea, and opioid reliance after laparoscopic procedures. If successful, the approach could become a standard part of surgical care. Another funded project is developing bacteriophage “cocktails” to precisely target harmful gut bacteria in patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) – a condition affecting more than 320,000 Canadians – potentially laying the groundwork for Canada's first phage therapy pipeline for IBD at HHS.

The remaining projects address everything from mindfulness-based pain management for fracture patients, to pharmacist-led blood pressure screening in youth, to culturally affirming wellness programming for neurodivergent children.

Donor support is essential to making this kind of early-stage risk-taking possible. As Dr. Jeschke notes, “without that kind of visionary support, many of today's most promising innovations would never get off the ground.” Through F2, Foundation donors are helping build a health system that learns and improves faster.



Jon and Janice Jurus at *Breakthrough Bash* 2025



Grant recipient, Dr. Rahul Chanchlani



Grant recipient, Dr. Sheri Nsamengang

Meet our Board of Directors

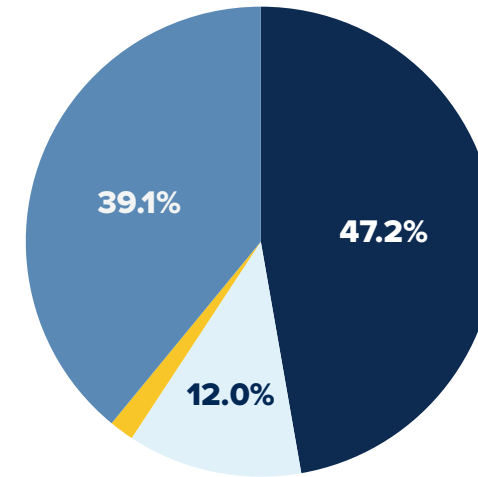
2026-2027

The work of Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation is made possible by the dedication of remarkable people, including the volunteer leaders who guide our mission. Our Board of Directors gives generously of their time, expertise, and passion, ensuring that every dollar raised translates into meaningful impact for patients and families across our region. We are deeply grateful for their steadfast commitment to building a healthier region.

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Funding What Matters

Where your giving goes



Your generosity makes care possible. The disbursements reflected on this page represent donor dollars working across every corner of Hamilton Health Sciences, from the equipment at a patient's bedside to the researchers unlocking tomorrow's treatments. Every dollar entrusted to Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation is directed with purpose, flowing into investments that together strengthen the quality, safety, and humanity of care in our region.

- **Equipment & patient amenities: \$8,428,123**
- **Redevelopment: \$2,143,109**
- **Research & fellowships: \$6,966,579**
- **Education & bursaries: \$302,189**

Total: \$17,840,000



Equipment and patient amenities

Donor generosity puts better tools, like a retinal laser (p. 3) directly into the hands of care teams and greater comfort into the lives of patients and families at some of their most vulnerable moments.



Redevelopment

Investments in redevelopment, like that of Hamilton General Hospital's Emergency Department (p. 7), transform the spaces where care is delivered, creating modern, healing environments that support both clinical excellence and patient dignity.



Research and fellowships

Funding for research and fellowships, like the GU fellowship spearheaded by Dr. Lalani (p. 15), fuels the discoveries and trains the next generation of innovators who will change what's possible in medicine for patients here at home and around the world.



Education and bursaries

Support for education and bursaries empowers the dedicated health care professionals at Hamilton Health Sciences, like the Health Professional Bursaries, to deepen their expertise, ensuring your community benefits from the very best in evolving medical knowledge and practice.

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