Hopeful MOMENTS

Dear Friend,

I used to be grateful to have the hospital nearby, to help should something come up. My wife, Sheila, and I believed in supporting the Ross, because we both understood that the hospital was important to all of us throughout Kawartha Lakes.

Then it became very personal.

In January 2023 our daughter went for bloodwork. She hadn't felt well for a few months and had experienced a series of infections and significant exhaustion.

The doctor in the Emergency Department came in and delivered the news with heart-breaking care and kindness: Jocelyn was very sick and had almost no immune system left. There were three possible conditions to blame – none were easy. They said that it would be a long road ahead.

In a moment, our lives changed.

While awaiting an appointment at the Durham Region Cancer Centre in Oshawa, Jocelyn waited at home. Periodically, she would need to go to the Emergency Department at the Ross to have them assess new developments and issues. The care that she experienced in the midst of waiting for a life changing diagnosis was second to none.

A bone marrow biopsy confirmed that Jocelyn had a rare form of leukemia – acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL). On the day of the diagnosis at Durham Region Cancer Centre she was sent immediately to Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto since she was considered an emergent case and had to be treated in a special leukemia ward where she was isolated from germs and infection.

It was a challenging time of ups and downs. We all have vivid moments that float to the surface. For Sheila, it was a volunteer offering to bring her a ginger ale as she struggled to process more bad news. Jocelyn remembers hearing her children play nearby as she sat with her husband, Kurt. Believing she was dying, she asked him *'What do we do?'*

Sheila made the decision to take a leave from her work to help look after Jocelyn and her family. Kurt's mother moved out from BC to help as well. I adjusted my work so I could support Jocelyn in Toronto. Part of that involved learning everything we could about acute promyelocytic leukemia and tracking her bloodwork, first every 3 hours, then every 6, then every 12. I made spreadsheets.

We learned that it takes an army of people to deal with some health situations. Our entire family has a new respect for the nurses who are there for their patients, day and night.

We also have an enormous appreciation for the technology that's used to support patients' care. In particular, we learned to count on the information that was shared into Jocelyn's electronic medical record that she had direct access to through an app on her phone.

be exceptional...
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HOSPITAL
Foundation

Yes, I'm making a donation to give more people hopeful moments.

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Use the enclosed envelope or mail to: 10 Angeline St. N., Lindsay, ON K9V 4M8
Please see other side for information on making monthly donations. All donations are tax creditable however, tax receipts will not be issued for donations under $10, unless requested.
Charitable Business Number: 11912 4121 RR0001

Every time new test results were available, she was able to see the results and prepare for conversations with the many specialists that were engaged with her care. Despite how dire the situation felt, we felt connected. *We could see the activity that was taking place and that felt empowering in the midst of uncertainty.*

In addition to my work I was doing online to stay close to Jocelyn, I was trying to keep up with my commitment as campaign chair for the Ross Memorial Hospital Foundation. It was a role I accepted before Jocelyn got sick.

And it's a responsibility I feel even more passionate about now. It's not just 'the right thing to do'. *This is about saving lives.* This is about raising funds to pay for the medical technology and equipment that the doctors, nurses, lab techs and pharmacists need to diagnose and treat patients like Jocelyn. Right here – where we live. Tools that are not covered by government funding. Critical elements that are solely reliant on the support of us as community members.

Fast forward 10 months… I was in a Foundation board meeting when Jocelyn called me, almost exactly a year ago. **That's when she told me she was cancer free.**

I will cherish that moment for the rest of my life.

That's why I'm writing to you today.

Your support makes a difference. Your donations help save lives. Will you consider making a gift that will grow services and spaces at the Ross and ensure access to leading edge tools and technology? You can give patients their best chance for a good outcome and share more hopeful moments.

We know that not everyone is as lucky as Jocelyn. We've been blessed. That's why my family is supporting Ross Memorial's highest priority needs, too. Sheila and I grew up in families that supported our neighbours and communities during times of need, and we're grateful to be in a position to help today.

We hope you will, too.

It takes all of us to make sure our hospital facilities are equipped to handle our rapidly growing population, and our community's evolving healthcare needs.

Along with this letter, you received an ornament in the shape of a quilt square. Please sign it or share a hopeful holiday message. Send it back to us with your donation and we'll hang it on the Foundation Christmas trees to show everyone at the Ross how much this community cares. Just as quilters like Sheila and Jocelyn form colourful mosaics out of fabric, together we can create a blanket of happy, healthy wishes for the future.

From my family to yours, thank you for taking the time to hear our story. We wish you many hopeful moments in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Tim Shauf
WE ARE THE ROSS Campaign Chair, RMH Foundation Board

Monthly giving is convenient and makes it easy to lend your support.

I wish to make a monthly gift of:

☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 or ☐ $.......... per month for .... months.

Deduct it from my bank account:

☐ I've enclosed a cheque marked VOID. Bank deductions will be made on the 15th of each month.

Signature ....

Charge it to my credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

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Expiry Date ....../...... Signature ....

Create a Legacy

☐ Please send me information on how I can include Ross Memorial Hospital Foundation in my Will.

☐ I would like to receive the Foundation Gratitude Report. Here is my email address:

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For our complete privacy statement, visit our website, www.rmh.org/foundation.

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