



**I thought I was invincible!**

I was heading into my last year of high school, and life was good!

My only worries were homework and looking after my horse, Caroline.

Until I heard three tiny words...

The words that no one wants to hear: **“you have cancer”**.

But, at the very beginning, when the scariest thing was the unknown, when we did not know what was wrong, the staff at Ajax Pickering Hospital helped make me (and my parents) feel supported, and as comfortable as possible as I went through different diagnostic tests.

That’s why I’m emailing you today.

I didn’t know it at the time, but donations from generous supporters like you, help fund equipment & technology like what was used to determine my cancer diagnosis.

Your generosity helps all the hospital staff look after their patients – whether the need is as complicated as providing lifesaving diagnostic testing or as simple as a comforting touch.

**So will you please share a kind gift of health this holiday season? Your donation will mean so much to me and all the other patients who are dealing with their own cancer diagnoses this holiday season.**

**Make a Donation to Support our Hospital this Holiday Season**

It doesn’t matter what day of the year it is or what season we are celebrating;

the Ajax Pickering Hospital is there to care for every single one of us.

My friend who works at the hospital has told me about how the nurses probably spend more time at the hospital than they do at their own homes with their own families.

And that one of the fantastic things about Ajax Pickering Hospital is that staff do not consider it as just a workplace but really as a home-away-from-home, their colleagues are like family members.

That means that a lot of the staff make every effort they can to bring some of the joy and colour of the yule-tide festivities onto their units, as well as some of the sounds of the seasons.

They've probably already started decorating as you read this email!

At the same time as I was recovering from the soreness of the thyroid biopsy at home, its tissue samples were being processed in the hospital's lab then being studied under a microscope by the pathologist.

Several weeks later, I had surgery to remove my whole thyroid but knew I would be back in the hospital in the New Year to be put into isolation so that I could have radioactive iodine treatment.

Clearly cancer didn't care that I was an otherwise healthy person, that I was trying to figure out what I was going to be when I "grew up" and that cancer treatment had not been part of the plan.

**I consider myself lucky, though.**

**Thanks to the great care I received at Ajax Pickering Hospital, on Christmas morning, I woke up in my own bed, at home, not the hospital.**

**The twinkling lights that I saw through my half-opened eyes were from my family's Christmas tree, not bedside medical monitors.**

**The constant background hum was carols, not the din of doctors and nurses on the unit.**

**Diagnosing and removing my cancer so quickly meant that I got to open presents & eat Christmas dinner at home with my family.**

Your donations to Ajax Pickering Hospital make this happen because they help fund more equipment & technology that the amazing doctors & nurses use every single day to care for their patients, like me.

**So during this season of giving, I am personally asking you to share a meaningful gift with our community's hospital. Your kind and thoughtful gift of health could help someone else like me be home to celebrate the holidays with their friends & loved ones.**

**And that is truly a gift worth giving!**

**[Click HERE to make your donation](#)**

All the best of the season to you and yours,

Kate  
ex-patient & cancer survivor

*[PS, if you would like to read more, click here](#)*

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