

Sometimes the impact of your support & generosity to the Ajax Pickering Hospital cannot be measured in just numbers, i.e. the cost of a piece of equipment or the # of patients who will use it.

How can you put a numerical value or dollar amount on how much someone's life or current circumstances are significantly changed because of your support?

And this is most acutely the case during our Christmas backpack program for our Mental Health patients and clients.

**And we cannot thank enough everyone who took part in this program!**

Knowing that this group of patients are so often marginalized within society, the mental health team want them to thrive in the community as much as possible once they leave the Ajax Pickering Hospital. That is why the backpacks' contents range from some festive cheer as well as including resourceful and helpful items - from self-care to encouraging healthy leisure activities, clothes & toiletries.

And the backpacks themselves are practical, as the patients can be dealing with unstable or temporary living situations, and even possibly homelessness.

Last month, it was overwhelming the number of backpacks and items that were donated!

From companies whose employees used this project to give back to the community to businesses who had the perfect stock to donate, from individuals who just added a few extra items into their shopping carts to family & friends who organized collection drives, from donors who financially supported the project to our own hospital staff who see on a daily basis how incredibly their own patients are effected by this type of compassionate care.

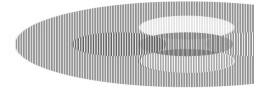
And after days of volunteers working to ensure each backpack or bag was filled based on staff's patient criteria and ready to go, we delivered:

**170 backpacks,**

**25 treat bags,**

and

**11 grocery bags**



That means that you impacted **206 people** across the inpatient units at both Ajax Pickering Hospital and Oshawa Hospital, as well as the clients of the Assertive Community Treatment Team!



I also wanted to make sure you read what Katherine, the hospital staff member who

works with us, emailed "The impact of your Foundation's commitment to making a difference in the community is truly evident, and we feel incredibly fortunate to be recipients of your kindness, and the support you constantly show me as a Recreation Therapist is truly one of the most magical parts of my job."

And two inpatient nurses also told us:

"I wish you could see their faces when they found out someone thought of them on Christmas morning."

"My patient needs a little bit of hope this holiday season, this bag did that for her."

**YOU made this happen... YOU put smiles on faces; YOU increased someone's self-confidence; YOU made life a little easier; YOU made someone's mental health journey more positive.**

**Now, that is priceless!**

**THANK YOU!**

If you want to get in touch with me, just give the Foundation office a call at 905.683.2320 x11501 or drop us an email at [aphfoundation@lh.ca](mailto:aphfoundation@lh.ca).

Or "like" us on [Facebook](#) to check out even more about what we are up to!

Yours in Philanthropy,

Tracy L. Paterson

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