

- From the Desk of Tracy L. Paterson, CEO -

Dear Friends,

Please excuse this quickly written letter to you but our little office has had a very busy summer and I don't think we'll be slowing down anytime soon! You see, we've been hard at work raising money for more defibrillators, a new NICU incubator, an upgraded ultrasound probe sterilizer, a bladder scanner and a pain pump.

And just this week, we received an urgent request from our Emergency Department team for two more vital signs monitors.

With the higher volume of patients coming to the ED, the staff are increasingly having to use non-conventional spaces within the department to look after patients. This means that more of the frequently-used equipment is needed because there just is not enough to go around.

And, vital signs monitors are the workhorses in the Emergency Department.

They are the most essential piece of equipment for front line patient assessment because every patient who visits the ED has their blood pressure, heart rate, blood oxygen level and respiratory rate measured quickly & painlessly to help determine next steps.

Plus, during their visit, a patient may stay hooked up to a monitor because the doctors & nurses want to be alerted if there are any fluctuations that could mean a change in the patient's status or because they need to evaluate the effectiveness of medication that the patient has received.

And because the vital signs monitors are mobile, patients do not have to go to the monitor, but rather the monitors are brought to them, ideally aiding in patient comfort.

We know that our hospital's ED wait times have not been the best. And, I wish I could tell you that it can easily be fixed. But, as you know, our health care system is in crisis... it is coming out of a two-year pandemic, but also bracing for possibly more waves of COVID-19; the number of family doctors in our community has been declining so folks do not have a regular doctor to visit and will often head to the ED as their avenue for help; and medical staff are burning out causing staff shortages in the hospital.

This is why now is the time that we need your support the most.

We can't let the hospital staff or our patients down.

We can't let a relatively inexpensive piece of equipment (vital signs monitors are only \$6,000 each) be the cause of more stress and anxiety for both patients and staff.

That is why I am asking you to please make a generous donation today so that we can fund this equipment ASAP!

Yours in philanthropy,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tracy".

PS - As a donor myself to Ajax Pickering Hospital, I know that our donations are immediately spent on equipment that is needed, including vital signs monitors in the Emergency Department.