

March 17, 2023

Dear Friend,

I'd been waiting nearly a year to be lying where I was.

Dr. Allan Eckhaus had already been in to see me and just injected me with the local anesthetic that I needed for the minor procedure by my eye that I was seeing him for; it would take a few minutes to take effect.

Even though I work 40+ hours a week at the Ajax Pickering Hospital, have a mum newly diagnosed with a cardiac issue and a dad with dementia, I had never been on this side of the gurney (so to speak) - interacting with the hospital on the patient side.

I looked around the room in the Ambulatory Care Unit, and remembered touring donors and showing it off when it opened as part of the hospital expansion in 2011. I recognized a lot of the equipment because at some point or another in my nearly 20-years of fundraising for Ajax Pickering Hospital I had talked to a donor about its importance.

But in this very instant, my confidence was waning a bit.

I knew logically I was in good hands with Dr. Eckhaus and Lisa, his nurse, but I could feel some anxiety starting to take root.

And that's when Lisa came in and put a warm blanket over me. From her years of experience, she knew that its comforting warmth could be more reassuring than even the best of words.

Now I wouldn't be a fundraiser worth her salt if I didn't ask you today to consider making another generous donation to Ajax Pickering Hospital so that we can fund even more life-changing equipment, like a blanket warmer.

*...over*

In just moments after Dr. Eckhaus returned, a sterile surgical cloth was covering my face. So now, between not being able to feel anything and not being able to see anything, I could completely understand the stress that patients feel because I was feeling it too.

I could imagine what it was like to be sitting in a hospital gown, prepped for a life-changing cancer or orthopaedic surgery... being in a strange place, with lots of comings & goings, anxious and fearful about what was to come.

But, hopefully like for those patients, that warm blanket was helping me feel calmer! Feeling like I was being enveloped in a hug.

And thanks to donors like you, thousands of other patients are feeling that comfort too.

From the outside, a blanket warmer doesn't look very special... kind of like a big metal fridge. But it is a vital piece of equipment in any department.

In the last 12 months alone, the Ajax Pickering Hospital Foundation has been able to fund four blanket warmers for our hospital, one each for the Intensive Care Unit, the Medicine floor, the Post-Anesthetic Care Unit and Day Surgery.

This piece of equipment is as important to patient care as the high-tech tools that donors have also recently helped fund: defibrillators that will restart a heart, the knee stabilizer equipment that will improve orthopaedic surgeries and the plasma thaw bath that will quickly thaw blood to the correct temperature before it is rapidly infused into a patient who is in a critical situation.

A question I get asked a lot is why doesn't the government cover the costs of all this equipment? The simple answer is that the government does fund the majority of health care costs; however, there are some equipment costs that need to be covered by donations from the community.

**And that is why your generosity is so important to the Ajax Pickering Hospital and the doctors & nurses who use the equipment every day to care for everyone who comes through our hospital's doors.**

Luckily for me, my minor procedure did not need Dr. Eckhaus to use any complicated equipment. A small bandage by my eye was the only evidence that I'd "been in the hospital".



*Dr. Eckhaus & me with the blanket warmer in the ACU*

Six weeks later, the scar is starting to fade, but the impact on me made by that warm blanket hasn't.

And, I want to make sure that all our patients have that experience too.

So will you join with me today and make a donation to help fund more equipment that can range from the life-saving high-tech tools to the ones that make a patient visit so much better & less stressful.

This is why I am a donor, just like you. I want everyone in our community to be able to receive the best health care, close to home. I work side-by-side with the doctors & nurses who deliver that health care, and I see on a daily basis how hard they work and how compassionate they are towards their patients.

I know that we are in some uncertain times, and that we are all having to make decisions about how we keep supporting our community. But, **is there anything more important than the health of your family & loved ones?**

Your generous donation today will make a big difference to future patients at Ajax Pickering Hospital.

Yours truly,



Jennifer R. Collins  
Director, Philanthropic Operations  
And donor

PS – Your generous donation of will help fund even more life-changing equipment so that the staff of Ajax Pickering Hospital can look after our community.

PPS – When I told Dr. Eckhaus that I was writing this letter to you, he wanted to pass on some advice: First, please ask your family doctor or dermatologist to check your moles. Second, with the summer months fast approaching please be diligent about basic sun protection. Limit your exposure to the sun by always using sunscreen and adopting good sun avoidance habits like wearing hats and sunglasses.

If you are able to follow these two little pieces of advice, you can really lower your skin cancer risk and protect your health.