

Lake of the Woods District Hospital Foundation

Spring/Summer 2021



**\$1.23
MILLION**
FOR YOUR
HOSPITAL!

**LWDHF ONLINE
50/50
YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
HELPS YOUR HOSPITAL!**



Donor Impact Our Pandemic Year 2020-21

15,636
patient days of care 

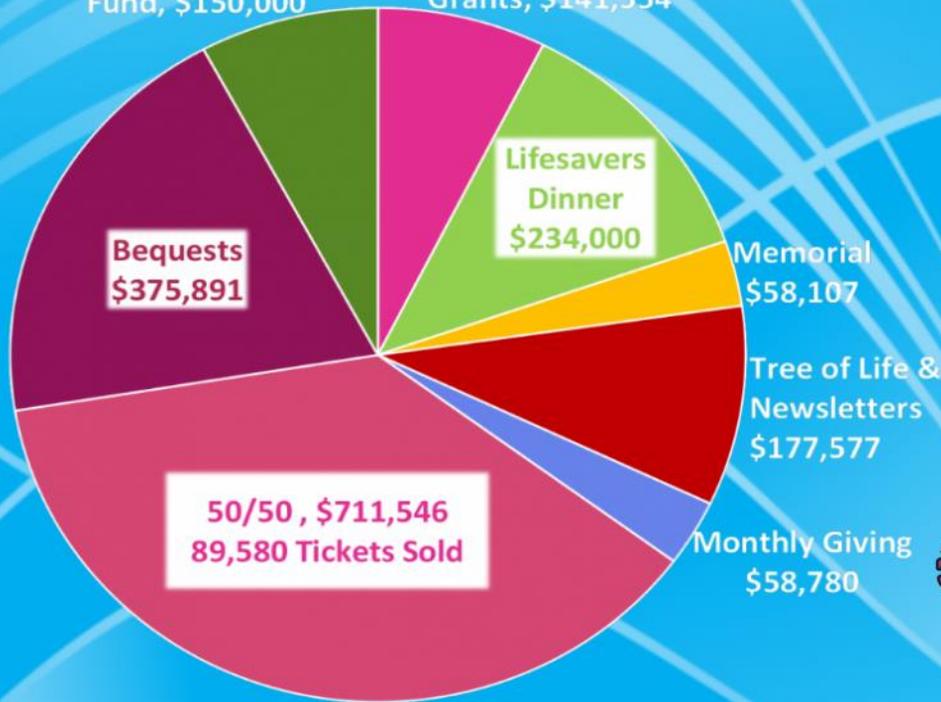
\$1.23 Million
new equipment & infrastructure



14,775
emergency room visits

COVID Emergency Fund, \$150,000

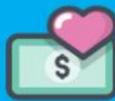
Major Gifts & Grants, \$141,554



474,820
lbs of laundry 

18,000+
COVID Tests @ LWDH & Assessment Centre 

- Reverse Osmosis Unit
- ECG Machine
- Dock Replacement
- Ophthalmology Equipment
- 15 Patient Beds
- 2 Ventilators
- 50lb Washer
- Chemo Chairs x 4
- Centrifuge
- X-Ray for Spine Surgery
- Portable Ultrasound-OR
- Anaesthesia Pumps x 4
- Hip Instrument Sets
- Negative Pressure Machines



**Over \$1.5 million in equipment needs
2021-2022**

2000+
volunteer hours

\$513.42
average gift

2545
number of gifts

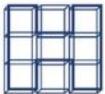


THANK YOU!

To our generous community for donations made to the Lake of the Woods District Hospital throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



Safety Bay Financial • Dairy Queen • Amanda Boucha, KCA • Crystal Stevens • Abe Loewen
 Lake of the Woods Brewing Company • Rita Boutette • Birchwood Terrace • Sharon Minaker
 Jamie Craven • Kate MacIver, Blue Spruce Studios • Lana Wong • Theresa Stevenson, STAHS
 Caleigh Belair, MNP • Purolator • Justin Longe, Contractor • Amanda McCool • Michelle McMahon
 Al Townsent, Sioux Narrows • Shirley Mack, BBSS • Linda Pyzer • Kris Carlson, Docks and Lifts
 Ontario Power Generation • Megan Baker • Seven Generations • Marjorie Birch
 Bob Standson, Mind Ray • Peter Scheibler, CARSTAR • Ann Frechette • Dr. Dean Kozak,
 Lakeside Dental • Kenora Chiefs Advisory • Wendy Robertson J&J Repair Mobile Service
 Jami Henley, Jaunt About • Marilyn Duffield • Canada Post • KACL, Keric Funk
 Peter Ratuski, Clearwater Market • Nora Brough • Vicki Soderman • Kenora Public
 Library • FIREFLY, Kenora, Early ON Centre • Kenora Catholic District School Board
 Kim Beach • Cindy Grano • Jodi Milne • Kathy Dawe • No Frills • Todd Smith
 Melanie & Murray McDougald • Norine Schram • Owen Doerksen, ON Dentist &
 Star Nails • Jason Eerola • Mrs. Birch • Quilters Guild • Becky Sharples
 C&M -R-CJ-J • Chantal Plourde, Channy's Homemade Goodies
 Nicole Nabb • Dorothy Beach, Alice Fenelon and Kim Beach
 Vicki Soderman • Lorilie Vanbelleghem • Denise and Paul Forsyth
 Fatima Martin • Club Coffee - L.P. Toronto • Ford Motor Company
 of Canada, Ltd • Roger Horton • Paula Peacock • Anne Shankowsky
 Tina Brookes, Talbot Marketing Kenora • Kathy Schneider
 Gwen Carlson and Karen Williams • Mandy Porphet • Kristin Berard
 Mary Margaret O'Flaherty • McMunn and Yates • Marley Perron
 Nancy Bergman • Jill Boese • Hungry Pug & KTOWN Curry
 Stacy del Fabbro • The "Cookie Fairies" (Kenzie, Gail, Lana,
 Koby, Sophie, Myah & Brielle) • Mandy Morphet



Lake of the Woods
District Hospital

2020 was a year that no one was prepared for. It came at us full force and Canada is still struggling to regain control and start living what will most certainly be a new normal. The support of our communities throughout this ordeal has been truly overwhelming. Not only did you donate towards equipment but there were staff lunches, cleaning supplies and PPE, coffee, gifts for staff and so much more! Your loving care helped give your hospital the strength and spirit to face this pandemic head on.

Thank you. Your support means more than you know.



**THANK YOU FOR STANDING TOGETHER
WITH YOUR LWDH!**

congratulations to ALL of our winners!



Our first winner!
Tiffany Dyck of Keewatin!



Carleigh Paul took home
September's jackpot!



Curt Hendrickson from Kenora jumps for
joy taking home October's jackpot!



November's winner,
Shelley Pakiren of Kenora!



March's winner, Gloria George of
Nestor Falls!



Jonathan Ho of Sioux Lookout wins
in January!



Lani Sheldon and Greg Rapinda from
Kenora split February's big win!



April's winner, Rick Savage of
Kenora!

LWDHF online 50/50 gives away over \$857,000!



YOU win big, WE win big! Since the launch back in July 2020, supporters and purchasers of LWDHF's online 50/50 have

helped raise over \$857,000 for Lake of the Woods District Hospital! Your chance to win has helped impact patient care by bringing new equipment to your hospital.

What's been bought?!?

Reverse Osmosis

Machine: for the Dialysis expansion enabling



more patients to receive their treatment here at home where their support and family systems are. *more on pg. 6.

Electrocardiogram: for Diagnostic Imaging. An ECG is the simplest and fastest test used to evaluate the heart and an important diagnostic tool to determine course of care for the patient.

50 lb. Washing Machine: just one of a team of machines that helps to clean the over 475,000 lbs. of laundry at the hospital each year.

Replacement Probe: for the portable ultrasound machine for the ICU. This small but mighty device is used to guide physicians when inserting drains into the abdomen or lungs, to place central IV lines in critically ill patients and anaesthesia has been using it for insertion of spinal needles and epidurals to give anaesthetic medication to our total knee and hip replacement patients.

Manual Treatment Table: for the Rehabilitation department. This adjustable platform table surface is specially designed for therapists to treat and tend to patients.

Each ticket bought helps us purchase important medical equipment so our community can receive the care we need right here at home...where we live, work and play!

Thank you to The Dingwall Group for helping us kick off our 50/50's each month and we're thrilled to have you as our new \$1,000 Early Bird sponsor!



You must be 18+ and in the province of Ontario at time of purchase. Lottery license #12070.

www.lwdhf5050.ca



Winter 2020

33rd Annual Tree of Life Campaign

The Tree of Life is the longest running hospital tradition; starting even before the hospital foundation was formed. Since it began, the Tree of Life has raised over \$1 million for your hospital!

The 33rd Annual Tree of Life raised \$35,000 for patient care this past year; continuing a Kenora tradition and brightening the night for all those passing by the hospital. Thank you for getting your bulb in memory or honour of someone special in your life and lighting up our tree with love and memories.



B

Thank you to the staff at Beaver Brae Secondary School for your generous donation of \$1,240 to the Tree of Life. Money raised came from Beaver Brae's November professional activity day.



Thank you Ontario Power Generation Corporate Citizenship Program for your incredible donation of \$10,000 to LWDHF to help purchase 2 Negative Pressure Machines in support of the COVID-19 LWDH Emergency Fund. OPG makes it a priority to support communities that their employees and families call home and we are honoured that they have chosen LWDHF for this donation. Thank you OPG!



2020 cancelled a lot of things including the staff Christmas party. Bowman Electric donated to LWDHF with what would have been spent on their Christmas party in honour of their staff. Gregg & Dylan Bowman presented Executive Director Jess Rheault a cheque for \$2,500 in support of the Chemotherapy Department at Lake of the Woods District Hospital! Thank you for thinking of your hospital for this special and generous gift!

Thank you to our community partners for their generous contributions to the Dialysis expansion to help complete the purchase of the new Reverse Osmosis Machine. \$8,800 from Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund and \$9,000 through the Community Foundations Dream Fund Grant.



With a very generous \$100,000 donation in her late husband William's memory, Nora Marr kicked off the fundraising efforts for the Reverse Osmosis Machine (RO Machine) for the Dialysis expansion. The RO Machine purifies the water needed to administer dialysis treatments. It is absolutely vital to patient care and treatment. On January 15th, 2021 a small Grand Opening to celebrate the expansion was held on the unit. As the largest donor for the RO Machine, Nora was an important guest of honour. Thank you Nora! (Nora pictured second in on the right)

New Chairs for Chemo-Inspired by patient care

The Chemo Department at LWDH is staffed by some of the most caring, empathetic and passionate nurses. The care that they give every day inspires many family and friends to make donations throughout the year for that department. We have received such donations from grateful patients who have had treatments and are now in remission and we have also received memorial donations from families who have lost a loved one to cancer. The donors cannot say enough about the care received from the nurses in chemo. To quote, "they are a ray of sunshine on a cloudy day".

Thanks to the generosity of families affected by cancer, the Chemo Department has received four new chemo chairs with a fifth on the way. Patients spend hours in these chairs during treatment and now they will be much more comfortable during what is already a difficult time.

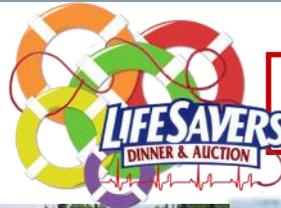


Pictured: Showcasing one of the new chairs is Stephanie Preston, RN; one of the rays of sunshine from Chemo.

An Uncertain 2021 Summer



Save the date:
Thursday, July 15, 2021



Save the date:
Saturday, August 7, 2021

PAR 3 CHARITY CHALLENGE
DRIVEN BY THE
Dingwall
GROUP



This last year has been a whirlwind. The worldwide pandemic has impacted every corner far beyond what we imagined. Here we are again at the start of what should be our planning phase for a busy summer of events, which as each day passes, becomes more evident that for a second year, we may not be able to see our donors face-to-face again. Our dates are booked and we are hopeful we will get to celebrate, toast and golf with all of you.

The support we received from our Lighthouse families, Lifesaver's patrons and sponsors and golfers last summer was the hope that kept us going during an unprecedented and unpredictable time. Your continued support and belief in your hospital on Lake of the Woods was a blessing. Thank you!

Funds raised through our 2020 virtual Golf and Lifesavers appeals had a huge impact at Lake of the Woods District Hospital. The old **docking system** for patients, visitors and staff was replaced and numerous pieces of equipment for surgical services like a **portable ultrasound, 4 anaesthesia pumps, laparoscopic video monitoring equipment, x-ray for spine surgery and hip instrument sets** were brought in.

Spine Surgery- LWDH performed its first spinal fusion surgery becoming the first non-teaching hospital and one of its size to perform such a procedure in Canada. (see page 15 for full story)

Hip Instrument Sets: allows LWDH to perform a far less invasive procedure allowing for quicker patient recovery and mobility. First non-tertiary hospital in Canada to perform this procedure.

Your support helped make medical history at your hospital. Thank you!

We are hopeful to see you soon. Stay safe.

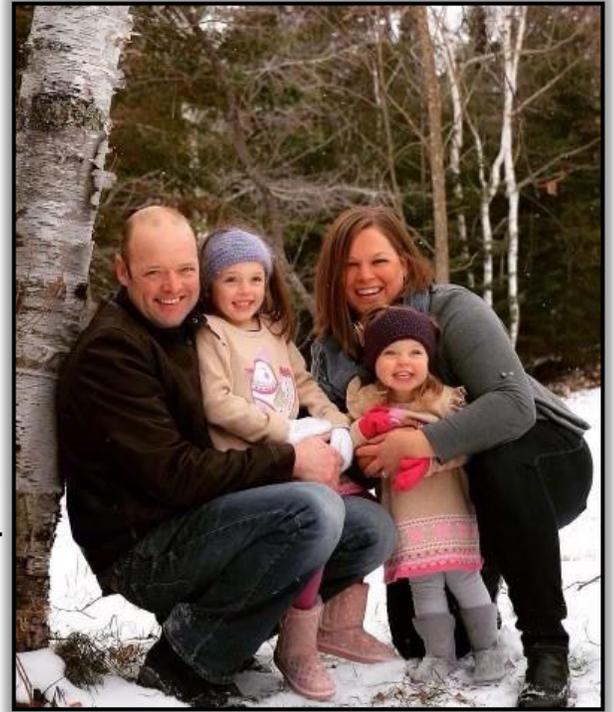
FOLLOW US ONLINE!



See what we're up to
throughout the year!

Working for you, Janet Paulson & Jennifer Buchanan -LWDH Staff Spotlight

“I’ve been here for 15 years now and I’ve worked a lot of places in the building. My coworkers become family because we spend so much time together.” -JP



Janet Paulson, Infection Prevention and Control Practitioner/Nurse since 2016

Q: Prior to the pandemic, what did your position at LWDH entail?

A: Everything related to infection control from daily surveillance of emerge and inpatients to consulting with construction renovation.

Q: How has your role changed over the last year?

A: 80-95% of what I do is COVID related directly or indirectly. Staff work restrictions, sick days, assessment centre, hospital and patients. With the vaccine rollout to staff, we are now scheduling, staffing, educating and learning how to navigate the Ontario CoVax database.

Q: What has been the most challenging thing at your job?

A: Time. Just keeping up with the changes and making sure we are circulating information appropriately and in a timely fashion. Also keeping up with questions from emails and phone messages as they all need to be addressed for everyone’s safety.

Q: What has been the most rewarding part of your job?

A: Having a great team. Recently the staff worked so well together to identify and declare an outbreak. The ability of the team to contain it with no further spread after the fact, and were able to declare the outbreak over 14 days after it began. Which was the best case scenario.

Q: Do you think that all of that preparation impacted the handling of the outbreak?

A: It did for sure. We were able to get all of our surveillance testing of staff and patients done really quickly. The lab was able to test the majority of samples on-site for patients. We were able to do our true exposures and symptomatic staff on-site as well, having that resource and the ability to do that made the difference.

Q: Is there anything in particular that you would like the community to know about working in health care during the pandemic?

A: We are not out of this yet. Early on they predicted it would be a 2 year thing and we are only in year one. We still need to wear our masks, physically distance, and wash our hands so that we can see a decrease in our community positivity rate.

Q: Do you have a favourite story to tell about your time at the hospital?

A: I’ve been here for 15 years now and I’ve worked a lot of places in the building. My coworkers become family because we spend so much time together. Since I’ve been in Infection Control I get to know almost every department and get to know all the staff. My work family is bigger now than when I worked in just one department.

Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself outside of the hospital.

A: The Paulson’s are very big Lake of the Woods lovers. We spend as much time as possible on our houseboat, fishing, lots of swimming and exploring. We prefer the boat but have done lots of ice fishing this year. Normally we look forward to a winter vacation but not recently. This year will be our 5th year travelling to Sioux Narrows by houseboat, we go for a week and it beats any Mexican vacation.



Jennifer Buchanan, Occupational Staff Health Nurse

“The most rewarding is when I see a positive change. When I’m able to identify a positive change and improve something for an individual or an entire department.” –JB

Q: What is your position at LWDH?

A: I am the Occupational Staff Health Nurse. My main responsibility is the safety of our staff, be it through immunizations, return to work or modified work, flu clinics, mask

fit testing and policies; making sure staff are working safely.

Q: How has that changed, now that we are a year into the pandemic?

A: Since Covid the role has really expanded. Janet Paulson and I have joined forces and now we call ourselves IPC/OHS Team. The Infection Prevention & Control and Occupational Health Team because the majority of our time now is spent on Covid related tasks; developing and implementing new policies and procedures, keeping our staff safe, providing staff education and updating everything based on the Provincial guidelines. The pandemic has really brought us closer working as a team and we are also thrilled to have the help of Lynn Ronnebeck our retired IPC nurse who helps us out a lot.

Q: What would be the most challenging thing about your job at this time?

A: The changes are the most challenging. Early in the pandemic, every day we were telling people something different. That’s really gotten better, things are consistent now. There’s just slight changes, it’s more thought out and we are able to implement things that have a bit more lead time.

Q: How did all of the prep work help when the Covid-19 outbreak was declared?

A: The big thing is our PPE and making sure staff are wearing PPE properly. The preparation of our staff on what they need to do when we have positive patients is what really helped us with that. It’s important to encourage and remind staff that they’ve got this! They’ve been trained and they know what to do.

Q: What do you find that has been the most rewarding for you?

A: The most rewarding is when I see a positive change. When I’m able to identify a positive change and improve something for an individual or an entire department.

Q: Is there something you’d like the community to know about working in health care during the pandemic?

A: It’s really been tough for everybody. There has been a lot of changes in the last year. We have to remind everyone that what we have been doing is working, the spread hasn’t been that great in this region and we need to keep that up by continuing to wear our PPE and continuing to physically distance and perform hand hygiene. I think we are doing a really good job in our hospital. I have to give kudos to Janet and Lynn, working as a team is the only way that we are making it through this.

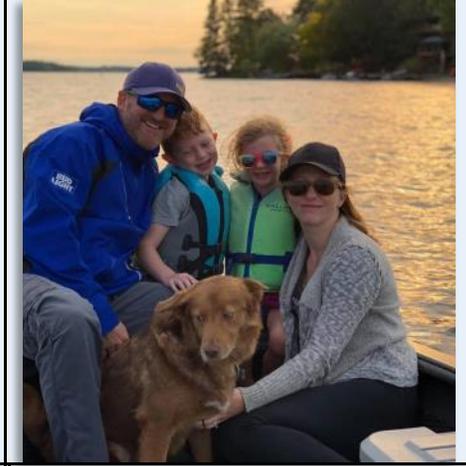
Q: Do you have a favourite story that you’d like to tell about your time at the hospital?

A: I think the most fun part was a couple years ago I was able to bring in CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear) Training into our facility here, and had 3 days of training with the EMAT Team from Southern Ontario for Code Orange or External Disaster. We had people from all areas of the hospital take part, it really brought us all together to see how we could all work together.

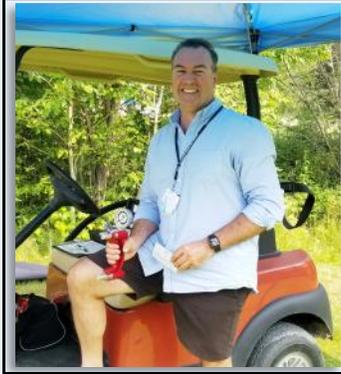
Q: Tell us a little about yourself outside of LWDH, what would you like to share?

A: I have a piece of property where I keep busy with my house and garden projects. I enjoy spending time with my friends and my family and going RVing when time allows. I have my two puppy dogs as well. That’s basically all it is, that quiet life right now. Work is so hectic, you just want to decompress and relax when you get home. I’m out in the country so it’s just so nice and quiet: I see the trees and relax.

LWDHF Board of Directors 2021-2022

		
Chair	Vice Chair	Treasurer
Anthony Sharp-Base Manager (Kenora) Ornge Air Ambulance Since November 2015	Kim Mejia- Associate, Hook, Seller & Lundin LLP Since February 2017	Jackie Hailstone- General Manager, CIBC Kenora Since November 2016

Directors

			
Brock Chisholm- Mgr, Rehabilitation Department, LWDH Since January 2015	Marc Bissonnette- Owner, Bell's Septic & Environmental Services Since August 2014	Barry Marmus- Commercial Branch Mgr, The Standard Insurance Since June 2018	Laci Dingwall- Public Relations Mgr, The Dingwall Group Since June 2018
			
Melanie Buffett- Human Resources Manager, LWDH Since November 2019	Angela Kuchma- Broker of Record RE/MAX NorthWest Realty Ltd Since March 2021	Stephen Mitchell- Director, Ministry of the Solicitor General Since May 2021	Shauna Aubin- Self Employed Since May 2021

LWDHF Staff-Working for you



Executive Director
Jess Rheault (with Chopper)
since November 2009

Development Coordinator
Andi Scheibler (with Jack)
since January 2017

Operations Assistant
Andrea Bieman (with Biebs)
since December 2019

Dear Friends of LWDHF,

I hope that each and every one of you are safe and healthy. We are all navigating uncharted waters with so many things out of our control. Thank you for your unwavering support during this pandemic year. You helped us through it. Your generosity and community spirit allowed us to continue to support your hospital during a very stressful time. YOU kept us on track and thanks to you, rather than falling behind we were able to stay on top of your hospital's needs; ensuring that when you need your hospital, your hospital has what it needs to take care of you.

Thank you for choosing to make a difference through your generous donations and by playing our new online 50/50!

Stay safe, stay well and see you soon.



Printing of this publication is provided by the team at Lowerys. Thank you!

Community businesses like Lowerys allow LWDHF to give more back to your hospital. Support your community by shopping where we live, work & play!

About LWDHF...

Who is LWDHF?

The Lake of the Woods District Hospital Foundation was established in 1992 and continues to be the lifeline between your community and your hospital.

LWDHF is governed by an 11 member board which meets monthly; has 3 full-time employees and benefits from over 2,000 volunteer hours per year. We are dedicated to raising funds for the purchase of medical equipment and capital infrastructure. Since our inception, LWDHF has transferred over \$20.73 million to Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH).

Our needs are ongoing.

The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care covers, on average, 80% of your hospital's operating costs. This limited funding for healthcare increases the financial pressure for your hospital in addition to the fact that none of this funding is designated to cover capital expenses. There is not a matching program from the Ministry to help purchase equipment, which leaves LWDHF to raise the funds needed, dollar for dollar.

Your hospital has identified over \$3 million in capital equipment and infrastructure needs over the next 2 years.

Ways to Give to LWDHF...

For the Goodness of Your Heart—Grateful Patient Program

Many of LWDH's staff members make a difference in the lives of their patients. When we hear your words of gratitude and kindness, we feel it is important to share those with them.

If you have been touched by the LWDH health care team, consider making an honorary gift to your hospital through the Grateful Patient Program. Your gift will help support your hospital and will benefit others in need.

LWDHF's Grateful Patient Program is flexible and personal. You can designate a gift of any size to a specific area, or allow LWDHF to direct the funds where they're needed most. The gifts that you provide through this Grateful Patient Program will help support your hospital; ensuring quality patient care remains available in your community.

Memorial Giving

A memorial gift to LWDHF provides a meaningful way to remember your loved ones. Family and friends have an opportunity to donate towards a lasting tribute set up as a memorial fund. Memorial gifts are recognized on our Donor Board when accumulated donations for the fund reach \$1,000.

Monthly Giving

Did you know that for as little as \$5.00 per month, you can make a difference in the quality of medical care available at your hospital? 1,000 donors contributing \$25/month = \$300,000 for your hospital. Imagine the possibilities for your hospital, our patients and your community!

Planned Giving

Including LWDHF in your will ensures your support for a cause you care about will continue—even after you're gone. By choosing to designate to LWDHF's endowment fund, your gift continues to give, benefitting your family and your community—forever. You can also take comfort in knowing that your gift will lessen the tax burden on your loved ones when transferring your estate.

Please contact LWDHF to discuss your planned giving options such as bequests, gifts of life insurance, RIFs or RRSPs. Final arrangements should be made through your financial advisor.

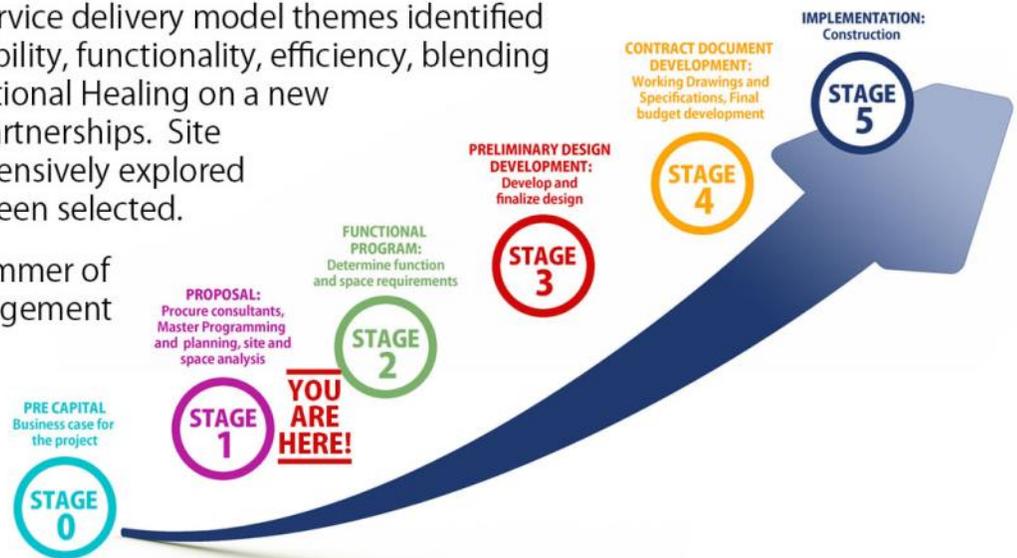


HIGHLIGHTS from LAKE OF THE WOODS DISTRICT HOSPITAL in a PANDEMIC YEAR

All Nations Hospital Project: The project to redevelop the hospital did not halt due to the pandemic, in fact, this challenging year only solidified the dire need for new hospital space. The Project Planning Team, Steering Committee, consultants and Community Project Planners forged ahead and completed stage one of the project on time and on budget by the end of April 2021.

The pandemic pressed the team to be extremely creative with efforts to continue gathering public input. When the initial engagement stage wound down 1704 hospital users had participated in 56 engagement sessions in 16 different communities, 449 online surveys were completed and 2390 were engaged through events. AND over 360 clinical services participants shared their indepth knowledge and ideas in focus group style work. This extensive feedback combined with input from experts in architecture, cost consulting, engineering and statistical analysis informed an in-depth plan (the Stage 1A Proposal) which was presented to the Ontario Ministry of Health, Health Capital Infrastructure Branch. Proposed is a new hospital with increased square footage, increased # of beds for Mental Health & Addictions and a staffing model to meet patient needs far ahead into the future. Some of the service delivery model themes identified in the proposal include accessibility, functionality, efficiency, blending of Western Medicine and Traditional Healing on a new campus and building strong partnerships. Site development options were extensively explored and a recommended site has been selected.

Details will be shared in the summer of 2021 as the next round of engagement launches. The public can look forward to more opportunities to be involved in the planning of your new hospital.



The LWDH Ojibwa Healing Room ceremony and blessing on Dec 16, 2020. Pictured are (back row: Jim Sitting Bull White, Ray Racette, Donna Makowsky, Charlene Kissick, Reno Cameron and (front row) Elder Allan White, Kathy Kishiqueb, Cheryl O'Flaherty, Veronica Forbister.

Ojibwa Healing Room: In many All Nations Hospital Project engagement sessions patients and families shared the desire to have easy access to smudge in the hospital. December 2020's good news was the opening of a permanent room on the 3rd floor of the hospital dedicated for this purpose. LWDH & Kenora Chiefs Advisory have partnered to have Client Navigation & Utilization Coordinators work in the hospital. These navigators are available to assist patients who would like to smudge as part of their healing journey. The navigators also assist with translation, transportation arrangements, access to cultural healers and general system navigation.

HIGHLIGHTS from LAKE OF THE WOODS DISTRICT HOSPITAL in a PANDEMIC YEAR

Time marches on ... and so will your hospital's progress!

There is no question of the challenges faced since COVID-19 entered Northwestern Ontario in March of 2020. It has been a long and often extremely challenging year, but despite it all, your hospital can boast SO MANY success stories - credited to the amazing team, incredible communities, exceptional partners and generous donors. The next few pages offer a highlight of just a few of these successes. To keep updated on all things hospital related follow LWDH on social media - we're on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn!

Dialysis Unit Relocation: LWDH proudly held a grand opening of the new dialysis unit in early January 2021. Relocating this unit from the main floor near the Emergency Department to the 4th floor was no easy feat (it was an 18-month journey!) but so very beneficial as the expansion made immediate improvements in terms of patient and staff safety, privacy & comfort AND provides the opportunity for future service expansion.

The project was truly a collaborative team, partner and community effort! Sincere thanks to donor Nora Marr whose single donation catapulted the project. Nora generously donated \$100,000 in her late husband William's memory, which went directly towards the purchase of the Reverse Osmosis machine which was absolutely vital to the expansion. This kind donation couldn't have come at a better time as the Foundation needed to focus their efforts on working with the community on the COVID-19 Emergency Fund.

Pictured below are just some of the players involved in this success story! (See pages 5 & 6 for more on the Reverse Osmosis machine)



Hospital Brand: Have you noticed a refreshed look appearing on hospital social media and in printed materials? At the beginning of May 2021 LWDH officially launched elements of a refreshed brand including logo, colors and slogan. The visual pieces derived from staff and board's recent work to update the LWDH Mission, Vision and Values and success in this area is also due to the formalizing of an internal Communication Team.

HIGHLIGHTS from LAKE OF THE WOODS DISTRICT HOSPITAL in a PANDEMIC YEAR

An incredible OR team!
(Note the NEW Vocera
Smartbadge they
are sporting!)



Surgical Services Expansion: March of 2021 saw spinal fusion surgeries performed at LWDH for the very first time courtesy of Dr. David Puskas, a visiting orthopedic surgeon from Thunder Bay. Spinal fusion can be a life-changing surgery (the permanent joining of two or more vertebrae of the spine) and this was the first time in Canada that a non-teaching centre and hospital of this size has hosted the procedure - TRULY something for Northwestern Ontario to celebrate! This win for LWDH was due to hospital partners across the region collaborating to deliver a regional approach to surgical services as a way of managing the surgical backlog. This takes shape in Kenora as LWDH offering up operating room space and the human resources to support the procedures. The movement of surgeries also supports expanded capacity at Thunder Bay Regional Health Science Centre to deliver acute care to admitted patients who are COVID-19 positive.

Care closer to home was a clear priority throughout the All Nations Hospital Project engagement process and this expansion is just one of the ways this vision is beginning to take shape. Three patients from NW Ontario underwent this momentous surgery in NW Ontario, facilitated by a surgeon from NW Ontario. The regional approach also offers the opportunity to nurses and physiotherapists to employ their full scope of practice through care of these surgical patients.

The surgical services expansion can be credited to the regional network, to Richard and Millie Stovel's \$1 million donation towards the \$10 million LWDH Operating Room redevelopment project (August 2018), to the incredible LWDH surgical services team and to the LWDH Foundation 50/50 proceeds & individual donations which equated to a recent \$160,000 in OR equipment purchases.

Vocera Launch: April 2021 brought with it exciting changes at LWDH! The wearable, voice-controlled Vocera Smartbadge and the Vocera Vina smartphone app were deployed. These mobile solutions allow hospital staff providing patient care to connect and communicate with simple voice commands (without having to remove / replace PPE!) and send & receive secure messages. The SmartBadge also functions as a staff duress system as it includes a panic button on the device to easily and discreetly access help.

This project was in direct response to staff input and aligned well with feedback gathered through the All Nations Hospital Project engagement work. Not all improvements need to wait for the new hospital! Implementing this technology NOW in our current facility is intended to significantly improve workflow, patient care and staff safety.



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T: (807) 468-9861 x2469 | lwdhf@lwdh.on.ca | www.lwdhf.com
www.lwdhf5050.ca
Charitable Registration (BN) 137105243 RR0001

Cover photo courtesy of Kim Pirie-Milko-Naturescape Photography.

Kim grew up in Canada with a lifelong passion for nature and the outdoors. An avid photographer of the Canadian Shield with its countless lakes and vast forests, her passion for travel compliments a love to capture natural beauty in both backyard and beyond.

See galleries at naturescapephoto.ca

Kim Pirie-Milko
NATURESCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY