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Charitable Registration #: 13297 4270 RR0001

Dear Supporter,

You are indeed a very special person; and I thank you for all that you have done!

Your loyal support has helped the Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital in so many ways. Your gifts have been used to recruit more doctors and nurses, implement new services, and reduce wait times for CT scans in the region.

Change is the one constant in all of our lives. You can be sure that the local health-care environment will change again to best serve our population's needs; fewer babies may be born, more of us will increasingly need medical tests as we grow older, and perhaps a joint or two replaced along the way. Less people will need to stay in the hospital overnight and will much prefer the comfort of a familiar bed at home to rest and recover.

When I think of the hospital as it was 20 years ago, there was no space for the CT scanner, no technology that allowed the hospital to transmit X-Ray or CT images or patient information to where it was needed. It was your support that has helped us to turn a vision of the future into reality.

The hospital's once over-crowded Emergency Department has been relocated to a new state-of-the-art facility where doctors and nurses are able to care for patients using the most advanced technology.

An important and most enjoyable part of my job is to talk daily with Foundation supporters. Donors often remark that they feel proud to support the building of a new emergency facility and continue to help us recruit new doctors and nurses to the hospital.

You may wonder why it's important to have a modern hospital with the most current medical equipment, and even more so when you hear that services within the hospital may be changing.

***Please turn over...***

The answer is that the hospital could not be successful recruiting the next generation of doctors and nurses without also being able to provide them with the equipment and technology they use during their medical training.

I am certain that you would agree that if the hospital remained as it was say 20 years ago, with no new advances, it would be in a situation similar to some hospitals that did not make improvements. These hospital's are now being threatened with closure, whether it's an Emergency Department or even worse - an entire hospital.

The hospital Board of Directors has enacted a plan that will ensure it continues to provide health care within existing funding provided by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, while focusing on services that are most needed in our region. In fact, they have been able to balance the budget and can now move forward.

You may have read recently of the commitment that the Strathroy Hospital Auxiliary made to the Hospital. It is a pledge for \$1 million - the largest pledge that has ever been made to the Foundation. This is a strong vote of confidence in the hospital by a group of more than 250 volunteers.

Their decision was not made easily, and the commitment will mean years of work by the Auxiliary members; bake sales, tag days, thousand's of hours in the Auxiliary's gift shop and the soon to be opened "Java Hut" coffee shop in the hospital lobby.

It is your commitment to the hospital, and that of thousands of your neighbors within the region, along with that of the members of the hospital Auxiliary, that has made the advancements mentioned above possible. In the past, you have generously contributed to the Foundation and I am grateful for your gifts.

**In order to help our doctors and nurses** to continue providing high quality care, they need the following tools and equipment:

- Bedside furniture for nursing care patient rooms - \$65,000
- Renovations to nursing stations - \$120,000
- Wall unit system to store medical supplies more efficiently - \$8,000
- 2 isolation carts - \$1,700

***Please turn over...***

**To help support our patients** and their physicians with information about their illness or medical conditions, we need your financial support to help upgrade or purchase new equipment for Diagnostic Services, including:

- Endoscopy gastroscope - \$30,609
- Conversion of an analog mammography unit to digital radiography - \$35,500
- Digital fluoro gastric unit for special procedures - \$575,000

**To continue to provide top-rated surgical procedures**, our surgeons and O.R. staff need the following:

- Washer disinfectant used to sterilize large volumes of surgical instruments - \$103,000
- Neoprobe used for biopsy of cancer patients - \$44,700
- A surgical instrument inventory tracking and management system - \$10,000
- Renovations to existing hospital space to house orthopaedic surgical tools - \$30,000

To view the full list of equipment that the Foundation is currently raising funds to purchase, visit [www.smghfoundation.on.ca](http://www.smghfoundation.on.ca) and click on the link under the Fundraising Priorities heading. If you need more information, you can always call us, 519-245-5295 x.5020.

I am humbled by the generous support of donors who have supported the purchase of new equipment to give the best tools to our doctors and nurses for their most important work.

I know these are troubling times - perhaps for you and your family, your neighbors and friends. The same is true for the hospital. We recognize that the current economic downturn is having a broad impact, and everyone is affected.

I hope that you may consider making a donation of \$45. If you are able to do so, you can choose a number of payment options over a period of time.

Your partnership is needed to help the Foundation and the Hospital position its programs to meet the healthcare requirements of the region in the coming years. We must also provide our doctors and nurses with the tools they need to do their jobs.

We are seeking your help to invest in the present and long range needs of the hospital's key programs and patient care services. These services will focus on emergency and inpatient care, surgical and diagnostic services, along with a growing number of out-patient clinics.

***Please turn over...***

Depending on what works best for you, your gift can be made during the year or over several months. In addition, if you let us know that we should only contact you once during the year - that's what we promise to do!

With your help the hospital has a bright and vibrant future. I hope that you remain as proud of Strathroy Hospital as I am myself, for I am a donor just like you.

Strathroy Hospital will remain open to serve your needs and will continue to provide care to the region for many years to come.

With greatest appreciation and regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. Clean".

CEO SMGH Foundation

519-245-5295 x.5020

[smclean@smghfoundation.on.ca](mailto:smclean@smghfoundation.on.ca)

P.S. I am writing to you during the summer months because we need your help today. A gift from you right now will make a huge difference in the lives of our patients. Please support your community hospital. Give today.