

REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

YOUR GENEROSITY CHANGES LIVES

FALL 2026

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR AND CEO

Every gift to Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation begins with someone who cares—about a loved one, a neighbour, or the future of healthcare in our local communities.

This report celebrates what that caring made possible during our 2025–2026 fiscal year. Behind every achievement are donors, volunteers, community partners and hospital teams working toward a shared goal: exceptional care, close to home.

The opening of our MRI Suite in April 2025 marked an extraordinary milestone. Your generosity helped bring advanced diagnostic imaging to SMGH, giving patients access to an important service within their own community. Following year-end, we were delighted to announce the completion of the **$8 million MRI campaign** in June 2026.

This achievement belongs to everyone who contributed, championed the project and believed in what we could accomplish together.

In addition to funding the MRI, your impact reached throughout the hospital. More than **$460,000 in equipment and program funding** supported the tools and services our care teams rely on every day. From diagnostic testing and patient monitoring to the essential equipment working behind the scenes, these investments help our hospital respond to the needs of patients and families.

We also saw the strength of community generosity through **Season to Shine,** which raised **$378,480, surpassing its $250,000 goal.** Every contribution reflected a shared commitment to caring for one another.

As a Board and staff team, we recognize the responsibility that comes with your trust. We are committed to thoughtful stewardship, clear reporting and working closely with hospital leadership to direct your support where it can make a meaningful difference.

Looking ahead, new equipment and evolving patient needs will continue to call on our community's generosity. We move forward with gratitude for what you have already made possible and confidence in the strength of this community.

Thank you for supporting our mission: ***to inspire generosity across our communities in support of exceptional care at SMGH***.

Above all, thank you for caring about the people who depend on our hospital.

With sincere appreciation,



Matt Bellia
Chair, Board of Directors



Michelle Hancock
Chief Executive Officer

$8 MILLION RAISED.

A remarkable community achievement. Exceptional care, close to home.

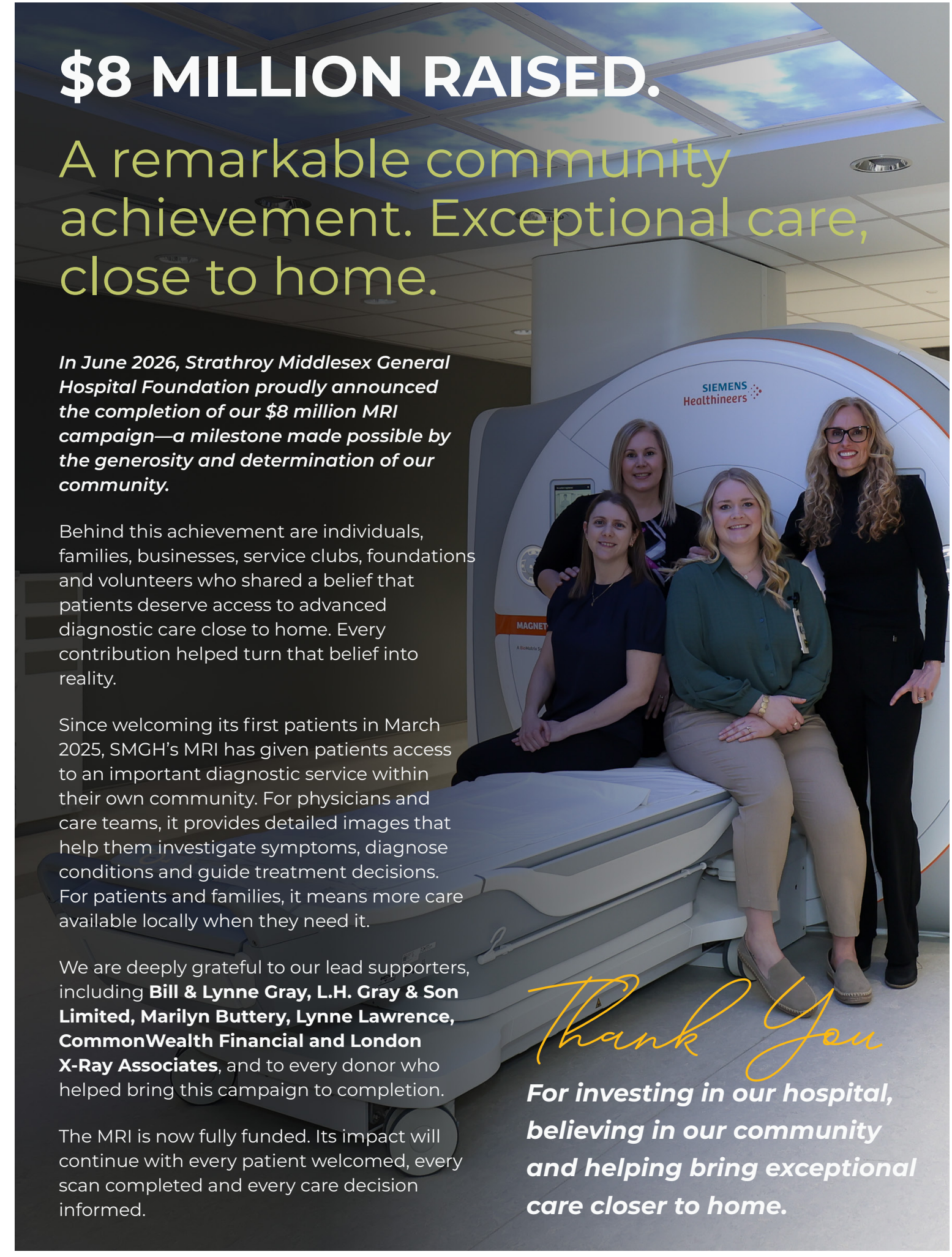
In June 2026, Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation proudly announced the completion of our $8 million MRI campaign—a milestone made possible by the generosity and determination of our community.

Behind this achievement are individuals, families, businesses, service clubs, foundations and volunteers who shared a belief that patients deserve access to advanced diagnostic care close to home. Every contribution helped turn that belief into reality.

Since welcoming its first patients in March 2025, SMGH's MRI has given patients access to an important diagnostic service within their own community. For physicians and care teams, it provides detailed images that help them investigate symptoms, diagnose conditions and guide treatment decisions. For patients and families, it means more care available locally when they need it.

We are deeply grateful to our lead supporters, including **Bill & Lynne Gray, L.H. Gray & Son Limited, Marilyn Buttery, Lynne Lawrence, CommonWealth Financial and London X-Ray Associates**, and to every donor who helped bring this campaign to completion.

The MRI is now fully funded. Its impact will continue with every patient welcomed, every scan completed and every care decision informed.



Thank You

For investing in our hospital, believing in our community and helping bring exceptional care closer to home.



Tara with her husband, Chad, and son, Bauer.

The people. The equipment. **The moments that matter.**

For more than a decade, Tara Coote has helped our community support exceptional care at SMGH. Her own health journey brought the importance of that care into sharp focus.



Tara and Bauer.

One August morning, Tara knew she could not wait for her upcoming doctor's appointment. She headed to SMGH's Emergency Department, leaving her spouse at home with their 14-month-old son, expecting to return soon.

At triage, she struggled to explain how she felt. Nurse Lisa's experience, together with the vital-signs monitor, helped her recognize that Tara needed immediate care. She took Tara's hand and led her to the team.

Tara's heart rate was dangerously high. As the team worked to stabilize her, Dr. Verraich stood beside her, a hand on her shoulder, asking about her son while watching the monitors.

After several days in hospital under continuous heart monitoring, Tara returned home with a diagnosis of thyrotoxic crisis. She was later diagnosed with severe Graves' disease.

Almost two years later, once her thyroid levels were more stable, she underwent surgery at SMGH to remove her thyroid. Cancer was also found. Thankfully, it had been removed with clear margins and had not spread outside her thyroid.

Today, Tara is healthy and returning to the people, activities and life she loves.

> **"Before that day, I understood why patient-care equipment mattered. Now, I know what it feels like to depend on it."**
>
> *~ Tara Coote, CFRE, Director of Philanthropy, SMGH Foundation*

From triage and cardiac monitoring to surgery and ongoing follow-up, Tara's journey shows why equipped care teams matter. Your generosity helps support care for the next patient who walks through our doors.

Read Tara's full story at:
smghfoundation-taras-story.com

One scan. An unexpected discovery. **More moments together.**

Kim and Catherine Mealing were looking forward to retirement when an unexpected diagnosis changed their plans.

After treating Kim for a hernia, SMGH surgeon Dr. Vipan Jain ordered a CT scan to investigate new symptoms. The scan revealed something they were not looking for: cancer on Kim's left kidney.

That discovery allowed the cancer to be addressed before it might otherwise have come to light—a powerful reminder of the importance of diagnostic imaging close to home.

Throughout the uncertainty, Kim and Catherine found reassurance in the people caring for them. Kim remembers feeling that he was treated as a person, with warmth and attention at every step.

Today, they treasure the simple pleasures of retirement: morning conversations over tea and cappuccino, days at the beach and time together.

Their story shows what access to diagnostic equipment and compassionate care can mean for a family—and why your support matters.

Meet Kim and Catherine and watch their full story at www.smghfoundation.com.

"Most people in their lives at some point are going to need some form of diagnostic imaging."

— Dr. Vipan Jain, General Surgeon, SMGH





A LITTLE STUFFY. A BIG SOURCE OF COMFORT.

How local Optimist clubs are helping make surgery a little less scary for SMGH's youngest patients.



When four-year-old Eric needed his tonsils removed, his family chose SMGH because the wait was significantly shorter than other locations.

On surgery day in October 2025, Eric was nervous—until he spotted a stuffed animal, a book and a card waiting on his bed.

He named his new stuffed raccoon Rocky, carefully kept its mask in place and introduced it to the favourite teddy he had brought from home. Today, Rocky still sleeps beside him. Eric also shares his book with his little sister, helping explain the surgery he experienced.

"I want to thank the Optimist Club, and Foundation, for making a scary day so uplifting and positive for our family!" *his mother shared.*

Through the Optimists Teddy Bear Program, local Optimist clubs help bring comfort to children facing surgery at SMGH. A book helps families prepare together, while a soft stuffed animal becomes a companion throughout their hospital experience.

Inspired by a suggestion at SMGH's Patient Family Advisory Council, hospital staff introduced books and stuffed animals fitted with pediatric masks and hospital bracelets. Following a successful trial in January 2024, local Optimist clubs came together to fund the program's continuation.

For the care team, the difference is clear. Children name their new friends, bring them into surgery and hold them during recovery.

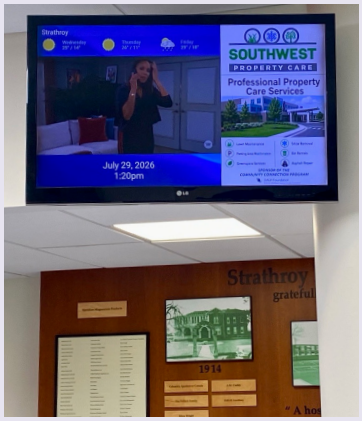
"It has been an obvious improvement in personalizing this potentially frightening day for our cutest patients." *— Marsha Vanderwal, RN*

These thoughtful gifts remind families that their community cares. They help turn an unfamiliar place into somewhere a little more welcoming, offering comfort during a day that can feel overwhelming.

Thank you to our local Optimist clubs and the SMGH team for helping children face a big day with a little more confidence—and a friend to hold along the way.

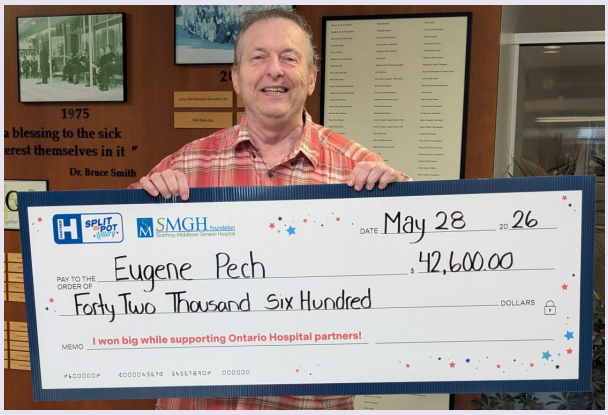












Community kindness. Everyday impact.

From golf outings and NASCAR gatherings to kitchen fundraisers and collections of pop tabs, our community finds creative ways to support care at SMGH.

More than **80 SMGH Auxiliary volunteers** generously give their time in the Gift Shop and Java Hut, turning everyday purchases into support for our Hospital.

The **Bos Family NASCAR Party** has contributed more than **$71,000 since 2003**, while the **Caradoc Sands Thirsty Thursday Men's League** has raised more than **$5,400 since 2021** showing how time spent together can create a lasting impact.

Tracy Cardinal, an SMGH Ultrasound Technologist and Pampered Chef Consultant, donates 30% of sales from her Pampered Chef fundraisers.

Gord's pop-tab collections inspire neighbours throughout the area to contribute, handful by handful.

Through the **Split the Pot Lottery**, supporters have a chance to win while supporting healthcare. Selecting SMGH Foundation when purchasing tickets helps direct a portion of proceeds toward our hospital.

We also thank the sponsors of our **Patient Connection Program** for their commitment to patients and families, and the many other community groups, businesses and individuals who turn their ideas into meaningful support.

These efforts formed part of the broader generosity that **raised more than $460,000** beyond the MRI campaign for additional equipment and programs at SMGH.

Thank you for bringing people together and turning community kindness into exceptional care, close to home.



A season of generosity. **A community shining together.**

Our inaugural Season to Shine campaign brought more than beautiful lights to the grounds of Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital. It brought our community together in a celebration of generosity, hope and care.

Raising $378,480 against a $250,000 goal, the campaign exceeded expectations and illuminated all 18 trees. Each glowing tree reflected the kindness of donors helping support equipment and patient care at SMGH.

For many, the lights became a reason to drive past the hospital and enjoy the display. For patients and families spending time at SMGH over the holidays, they offered something especially meaningful: a moment of joy during what could be a stressful and uncertain time. Families shared how wonderful it was to see the lights—a reminder of the caring community surrounding them.

That same holiday spirit filled the SMGH Auxiliary's Christmas Open House, where shoppers found gifts while supporting their hospital. Strong sales made the event a wonderful success and reflected the dedication of the volunteers who welcomed visitors and helped bring it to life.



Together with their ongoing work in the Java Hut and Gift Shop, the Auxiliary's fundraising enabled them to fulfill their pledge to the MRI campaign—a remarkable achievement built on countless volunteer hours and the support of customers throughout the year.

HELP US SHINE BRIGHT AGAIN!

This year, Season to Shine aims to raise **$500,000** for patient-care equipment at our Hospital.

20 TREES. ONE CARING COMMUNITY.

For every **$25,000 raised**, **another tree will light up.**

Gifts of $2,500 or more receive recognition on a tree, with exclusive tree recognition available at $25,000.

Join us for our Giving Tuesday tree-lighting celebration on:

Tuesday, December 1 at 6:30 p.m. at SMGH, with refreshments as we celebrate our community's generosity.

SHOP WITH PURPOSE

Find something special at the **SMGH Auxiliary's Christmas Open House**, supporting our hospital through your holiday shopping.

November 30–December 4, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. daily

Additional evening hours: **Tuesday, December 1, 6–9 p.m.**

Scan to learn more or visit: **www.smghfoundation.com**

INTRODUCING...

SMGH Foundation

DONORS OF IMPACT SOCIETY

The Donors of Impact Society celebrates individuals, families, businesses and organizations whose generosity has made a meaningful and lasting contribution to care at our Hospital.

Recognizing **cumulative giving of $10,000 or more,** the Society honours the full history of a donor's support—whether through one significant gift or contributions made over many years. Its name reflects what unites our members: ***the difference their generosity makes for patients, families and care teams.***

From essential equipment used every day to transformative investments that bring new services closer to home, Society members help strengthen our hospital and shape its future.

Each year, members are invited to the Donors of Impact Society Dinner, an evening dedicated to honouring and thanking them for their extraordinary generosity. The gathering offers an opportunity to celebrate shared achievements, hear from hospital leaders and care teams, and learn how donor support is improving care throughout SMGH.

Together, our Donors of Impact help turn community generosity into exceptional care, close to home.

Each Society name honours the rural roots of our community, reflecting the vision, hard work and enduring partnerships that help it thrive.

VISIONARY
$1,000,000 and above

Transformational generosity that helps bring ambitious possibilities to life. Visionary Society members shape the future of care through investments whose impact will reach patients and families for generations.

FOUNDERS
$500,000–$999,999

Exceptional commitment that creates a strong foundation for progress. Founders Society members help make major advances possible, strengthening our hospital's ability to meet the needs of our community.

HERITAGE
$100,000–$499,999

Generosity that becomes part of our hospital's continuing story. Heritage Society members build a lasting tradition of care, connecting their commitment today with the wellbeing of those who will depend on SMGH tomorrow.

BUILDERS
$50,000-$99,999

Dedicated support that turns shared goals into meaningful improvements. Builders Society members help provide the equipment, tools and resources our teams need to care for patients every day.

PARTNERS
$25,000–$49,999

A shared commitment to the health of our community. Partners Society members stand alongside patients, families and care teams, helping our hospital respond to evolving needs.

CORNERSTONE
$10,000–$24,999

Generosity that provides an essential foundation for exceptional care. Cornerstone Society members demonstrate how meaningful gifts, accumulated over time or made at once, can create enduring impact.

Your Generosity. **Lasting Impact.**

Financial Highlights
April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026

$3.97 M DONATION REVENUE GENERATED

Generosity advancing exceptional care close to home.

$5.05 M PROVIDED TO SMGH

Funding capital equipment and related redevelopment, innovative programs that would otherwise not be possible, and education for physicians and staff.

Your generosity supports investments beyond the hospital's government-funded operations—from essential medical equipment to innovative programs—helping advance care and improve the patient experience.

Why we provided more than we raised.

Gifts raised in previous years and designated for the MRI project were carried forward until needed. These funds supported our MRI commitment during fiscal 2026, allowing contributions to SMGH to exceed this year's fundraising.

Summarized from our audited financial statements. Visit smghfoundation.com to download the audited statements

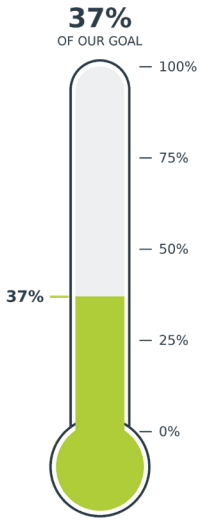
Essential Equipment. **Exceptional Care.**

Looking Ahead
Fundraising progress as of October 22, 2026

OUR GOAL
$2,500,000

WE'VE RAISED
$937,200

STILL NEEDED
$1,562,800



The goal spans the previous and current fiscal years. Funds raised include revenue from both periods. Total raised includes flexible funding that may be directed where the need is greatest.

Together, we are supporting:

Ambulatory Care: A pulmonary function machine to support assessment of lung health.

Diagnostic Imaging: A fluoroscopy suite and vital-sign monitors supporting diagnosis & care.

Emergency Department: Cardiac monitors, stretchers and equipment that helps teams care for patients when they need it most.

Surgery and Endoscopy: An anesthesia gas machine and operating room lights.

Every gift helps equip the next moment of care for patients across our communities.

Many communities. **One extraordinary impact.**

Our communities' impact since 1989

$56 MILLION+ RAISED | **30,000+** DONORS | **120,000+** GIFTS

Your giving is part of our hospital's story. Your impact is part of someone's care. Together, our communities have created an extraordinary legacy of support for patient care at SMGH

Thank You

SMGH Foundation
Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation

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Accredited
IMAGINE CANADA

Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation is a charity accredited by Imagine Canada

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