

Former Patient Invests in Quality Care



Amalia and Santo Belsito in 1949

Peter (Pierino) Belsito knows first-hand the importance of quality medical care and the impact it has on every individual and community. It was crucial in his treatment at Sault Area Hospital.

Peter is forever grateful.

He shows his appreciation by enhancing the hospital's ability to help others through contributions to the Sault Area Hospital Foundation.

Peter and many of his family members - including his mother, Amalia, and father, Santo - have required extensive medical interventions. This was all provided at their hometown hospital where they knew they could count on exceptional attention.

These treatments have often involved extended stays. SAH became Peter's home-away-from-home when he and his father were hospitalized for six months each, and his mother for a year.

Each time, Peter got to know the staff including nurses, doctors and various other personnel and observed the high level of caring and support he and others close to him received.

"It became apparent to me that by giving back to the hospital, I can show my great appreciation for the exceptional care provided to me and members of my family," he says.

In recognition of the incredible care Peter received, he made a generous donation in 2008 to the Sault Area Hospital Foundation, which has now been used to buy much needed medical equipment for the Sault Area Hospital.

To make his donation even more personal and unique, Peter dedicated it in memory of his mother and father - to honour them and show his thanks for the outstanding care they received while at SAH.

Since he chose to make an In Memory donation, a plaque with his parents' names will be displayed on the *Celebration of Life in memoriam wall* to be forever remembered.

"The care and compassion that my family members and I received from the hospital was unbelievable, and my supporting the hospital will ensure many others will continue to receive the same level of care," Peter says.

When Peter was hospitalized in 2007, he witnessed the incredible knowledge, compassion and kindness of SAH's staff first-hand, especially those of the 200Y unit at the General Site and the Second Floor Rehab at the Plummer Site where Peter spent most of his time. All hospital personnel he encountered took the time to get to know him by name, and he reciprocated.

"The staff went above and beyond to make me

feel welcome, comfortable, and at-home. I had full confidence that my care was always their top priority," he says.

They took the time to know him, his history, his personality and his story. Staff kept him company, giving him someone to talk to and joke with, and he soon became the comedian of the floors.

"This experience made me fully recognize the importance of nurses - both professionally and as individuals. It was their never-give-up attitude that helped me move forward in my treatment," says Peter.

About five months into Peter's stay, his energy began to return. He slowly started to get out of bed and walk around, with the help of the physiotherapist and nurses.

The staff constantly boosted Peter to push himself. On September 17 - his birthday - he was finally able to make it out of bed and walk down the hallway.

"When I got into the hallway, I saw the nurses and staff standing there watching me, cheering me on to keep walking," Peter remembers. "They clapped, smiled, and praised me - encouraging me to keep going and keep fighting."

Peter's passion for supporting SAH continues as he is now considering donating a gift to the Sault Area Hospital Foundation as part of his estate planning.

"Making a gift to the Sault Area Hospital Foundation doesn't have to be in the form of cash, there are many options to making a legacy gift. This type of giving means you are looking after your loved ones, and you also remember the causes you cared about in your lifetime," explains Giselle Chiarello, Major Gifts / Gift Planning Officer. "Perhaps one day someone you know or love will need the care that Sault Area Hospital can provide. Your thoughtful generosity and legacy will help to ensure that our hospital will always have the state-of-the-art equipment needed."

For Peter, this type of gift means he can continue to make a difference in his community when he has passed on. Countless others will also benefit from the same compassionate care he and his family received from SAH.

Peter's dedication to SAH is truly exceptional, and his donations to the Foundation - both past and future - will forever be remembered, helping so many others along the way.

"This is our hospital and our community and we must come together and lend our support, no matter how big or small," he says. "The staff of this hospital was crucial to my regaining my health. I feel very honoured that I could make a donation in recognition of this - one that will continue to help generations to come," says Peter.

Peter's future continues to look bright because of the incredible care he received during his stay at SAH. He is enrolled in a two-year Fitness and Nutrition course, which he takes by correspondence. He has completed two courses and continues to excel in the program.

"My life has changed because of the staff at SAH," says Peter. "My goal is to one day volunteer in the healthcare field, so I can give back, and hopefully, change other peoples' lives for the better." ☺

Upcoming Events in support of the Foundation

Duplicate Bridge Finals
May 11, 2009

Our Lotto
Registration begins now
Draws begin May 2009

Five Car Draw
June 27, 2009
Toyota Tundra 4x4 - Value \$41,333.47
Chevrolet Equinox LS - Value \$31,956.85
Honda Civic Hybrid - Value \$30,368.00
Ford Escape XLT - Value \$30,825.27
Nissan Altima Coupe - Value \$28,334.75
Five Car Draw License #1692

RBC Financial Group Chilifest
September 20, 2009
Roberta Bondar Pavilion

Dr. David Walde Retirement Dinner/Roast
October 3, 2009
Marconi Club

Carnival / Sears Travel Fundraiser
Cruise Ship Valor sets sail from Miami
on January 31, 2010

January 31 - Sail from Miami
February 1 - Day at sea
February 2 - Grand Cayman
February 3 - Isle of Roatan - Honduras
February 4 - Belize
February 5 - Cozumel
February 6 - Day at sea
February 7 - Back to Miami

For further information visit our website at: www.sahfoundation.com or contact the Foundation office at 759-3848.

Estate Planning Resources Just A Click Away

It can be overwhelming to begin the estate-planning process. The Gift Planning section of the Sault Area Hospital Foundation website is an important resource to help you understand estate-planning tools in the comfort of your home.

Check out www.sahfoundation.com and click on Gift Planning.

Our site has information to help you understand the many opportunities available with charitable estate planning, as well as options useful for your particular situation.

Valuable areas available on the site include:

- Planning for the Future - Factors to Consider
- Top 10 Things You Can Do Today
- Ways to Leave Your Legacy
- A summary and description of the planning options
- Sample Bequest Language
- Frequently Asked Questions for Donors and Professional Advisors
- Building a Bridge to the Future Legacy Society
- Directory of Gift Planning Links and Resources

In addition to browsing our website, we are here to assist you by providing materials and assistance. Our staff would be pleased to give you more information on making a planned gift to the Sault Area Hospital Foundation.

If you have already included the Sault Area Hospital Foundation in your estate planning or will, please notify us of your intention so we can recognize you/your family appropriately.

Contact Giselle Chiarello,
Major Gifts/Gift Planning Officer at:
(705) 759-3827 or e-mail: chiarellog@sah.on.ca

Thank you for supporting our community's future healthcare needs by giving a legacy gift today.

SAVE PAPER & POSTAGE: If you would like to help us save on our paper & postage costs by receiving this newsletter by e-mail instead of direct mail, please let us know by contacting our office at: (705) 759-3848 and provide us with your e-mail address. *Every little bit helps!*

The Gift of Hope



The Sault Area Hospital Foundation is pleased to offer you the opportunity to honour a very special individual, **Dr. David Walde**.

His tireless commitment to provide quality cancer care, and the countless patients and families that he has touched during his 35 years at the SAH, is testament of his dedication to his profession and our community.

Saturday, October 3, 2009, at the Marconi Club will be a night of celebration with a dinner and roast that will honour Dr. Walde.

Tickets for this evening of fun will be \$135 per person. As there are a limited number of seats for the event we have another opportunity for you to express your appreciation to him.

There is a special "**In Honour of Dr. Walde Program**" currently set up through the Foundation from now until September 21, 2009. By making this donation, you will receive an income tax receipt for your gift as well as have your personal message to Dr. Walde put on a card that will be enclosed in a book presented to him on the evening of October 3rd.

Proceeds from your donations will go to the *Fund for Better Care* and will be used towards the purchase of equipment that has been personally selected by Dr. Walde. These items include:

5 CADD Prism Ambulatory Infusion Pumps for the Algoma District Cancer Program

2 Rigid Cystoscopes for the Urology Department

Don't miss this unique opportunity to personally thank this very special individual. [over](#) »