

IMPACT NEWSLETTER

Stories of outstanding care you make possible with your support of Sault Area Hospital Foundation.



Your gifts support our smallest patients.

For Meghan Beattie, the birth of her twin girls, Mila and Ivy, was filled with emotion.

The twins were delivered premature, at 32 weeks old and just 3lbs each. Throughout this stressful time, the outstanding care of the Sault Area Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) team helped put Meghan's mind at ease.

"I felt comfortable and reassured during what was a really scary time," Meghan says.

Mila needed special equipment to help her breathe, and Ivy needed extra oxygen. Both stayed in their incubators for three weeks. The NICU team was there to help every step of the way, providing support and care for both the babies and their mom.

"I had so many issues and complications – I think I met every OB and paediatric nurse," Meghan shares. "And they were wonderful. I was so scared, but they helped me to feel comfortable throughout our stay in the NICU."

The team went above and beyond, making cards to celebrate milestones – such as when the girls came off oxygen or reached four pounds in weight. For Meghan, these gestures were incredibly important because they made her feel like a mom during a time when her babies were being cared for by so many professionals.

"When you're in the NICU, everyone is doing everything for your babies. There aren't many opportunities to take care of them as a mom. **Celebrating little milestones was important to me.**"

- Meghan Beattie, NICU Mom



Twins Ivy and Mila were in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at SAH for the first 3 weeks of their lives.

Meghan is so grateful to the nurses who looked after her twins. She shared her admiration for each of them, like Carol, who played music for the NICU babies, Sienna, who showed the girls so much love, and Melissa, who knew everything there was to know. Martina, Kayla, Megan, and Ivy were also amazing, showing great professionalism and answering all of Meghan's questions with care.

Your gifts help equip our NICU!

The amazing NICU team at Sault Area Hospital can only provide outstanding care when they have the right tools to do their job. Your donations help to fund critical medical equipment such as the infant incubators that helped Meghan's twins, Ivy and Mila, to thrive in their first few weeks.

Meghan wanted us to pass a message along to you: ***"Thank you for supporting our hospital."***

It was life-changing to receive NICU care close to home. It meant that I could look after my four-year-old son, that my husband could continue working, and that I was close to the rest of my family and friends. "



Twins Ivy and Mila get ready to head home after their 3 week stay in the NICU - pictured with mom, Meghan, and dad, John.



THANKS TO YOU: SAH will soon have a new C-Arm!

This spring, with the support of Clark McDaniel of Williams and McDaniel Property Management, we were able to offer a \$100,000 matching campaign - raising funds for a new Fluoroscopy C-Arm.

The C-Arm is used during surgery to produce moving x-ray images. It allows surgeons to see inside the body in real time. It is critical for urology and orthopedic surgeries.

With gifts from over 700 donors matched by Mr. McDaniel, we're proud to share that the C-Arm has been fully funded!

If you've sent in a gift toward our new C-Arm: THANK YOU!

This project would not be possible without the generous support of hundreds of donors. We can't wait to get the C-Arm into the surgical suites at Sault Area Hospital, later this year.



I use the C-Arm for 40% of my work. Without it, I would need to refer around 100 cases a month to out-of-town facilities.
- Dr. Anis Aziz, Urologist

Your support helps provide local Cancer Care

It was fall of 2021 when Nancy Hutchinson was diagnosed with Metastatic Breast Cancer.

While Nancy had been born in Sault Ste. Marie, she lived most of her adult life away from the North. Her experiences at Sault Area Hospital before this had been “popsicles and ice cream” after having tonsils removed when she was young. This time, it was a much different experience.

“I am blown away by how quickly things happened,” Nancy shared. “My phone rang constantly, with ‘Sault Area Hospital’ on the call display.”

Nancy’s Cancer Care team was on it, making sure she was on board with their recommendations and treatment plan. By December 2021, the team had found the “primary” source of the cancer: a mass close to Nancy’s spinal cord.



Nancy wore a mask to keep her head still during radiation therapy. She named her mask “Hugo”!

To preserve Nancy’s ability to walk, treatments started with 5 rounds of radiation therapy. Nancy was fitted for a special mask, which would hold her head in the exact right position during treatment. Nancy named her mask “Hugo”.

“It can be very scary to be strapped down and confined during radiation,” Nancy shared, “but I felt I had my own personal cheering squad for each treatment. The staff were so friendly.”

After radiation came more treatment, including Chemotherapy.



Nancy “rings the bell” to signal the end of her chemotherapy treatments at Sault Area Hospital.

“I remember how scared I felt for my first treatment,” said Nancy. “Because of COVID, I had to come alone. A wonderful nurse talked me through the process and was so gentle with me, even offering a sandwich and tea while receiving treatment. All the nurses in the Chemo Suite are amazing.”

When Nancy went to write out a list of everyone who provided outstanding care for her at Sault Area Hospital, the letter was 4 pages long! It included everyone from physicians and nurses, to technicians, receptionists, and pharmacists.

Your support makes outstanding cancer care possible!

The teams that cared for Nancy depend on critical tools. Imaging equipment that was used to locate the mass. Infusion pumps to deliver chemotherapy medication. Lab equipment to run tests, tracking the progress of treatment. All of this equipment is purchased with your donations to Sault Area Hospital Foundation.

“If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a team to kick Cancer’s butt!” Nancy joked. “Though this diagnosis is something I will live with for the rest of my life, I am so glad to have this team on my side and grateful that we have such excellent services at Sault Area Hospital.”



When you have a positive care experience, you can give back.

The Grateful Patient Program allows you to make a gift in honour of a caregiver or department that deserve recognition. The caregiver will get a card and a pin, and your gift will support the purchase of critical equipment for Sault Area Hospital.

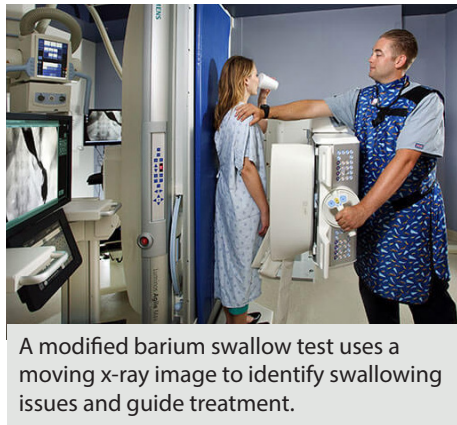
To learn how you can recognize an outstanding caregiver, visit sahfoundation.com/grateful

UPCOMING NEED: Moving x-ray images give a full picture!

While you may have already read about the Fluoroscopy C-Arm used in the surgical suite, did you know Sault Area Hospital also has a whole Fluoroscopy Room?

Part of the Medical Imaging Department, the Fluoroscopy Room helps care teams diagnose issues and plan treatments. There, a moving x-ray image is often paired with a contrast dye to run specific tests. Care teams can see a live x-ray image, and watch dye move through systems of the body to identify issues.

One of these tests is called a “modified barium swallow”. Often used by Speech Language Pathologists, this test checks a patient’s ability to swallow different fluids and solid materials (mixed with barium, as a dye). It often helps support stroke patients, ICU patients, and those with a neurological diagnosis (like MS, ALS, or Parkinson’s).



These tests are critical for quality of life. They help care teams find safe diets. They support decisions about intubation (breathing tubes). They inform personalized exercise programs that strengthen muscles in the throat. These can all make a huge difference for a patient’s ability to breathe, swallow and speak!

The Fluoroscopy Room at Sault Area Hospital is the only one in the Algoma District, and has been in use since the hospital opened in 2011. That means the tools are now 12+ years old, and need to be replaced.

Your continued support can ensure that these patients have access to these critical tests, close to home, at Sault Area Hospital.

THANK YOU!

You’ve helped bring
\$3.2+ MILLION
in critical equipment
to SAH in 2022/23.

The 2022/23 SAHF Annual Report is now available!

Thanks to your generosity, an incredible \$3.2 million of vital medical equipment has arrived at Sault Area Hospital.

Surgical Care benefited most this year, receiving almost 1/3 of all dollars disbursed. Nearly \$1 million in new equipment has brought our operating rooms up to the latest standards - with high quality live image displays, and tools that support precision and accuracy in delicate procedures.

This, and so much more, is possible thanks to your commitment to SAHF.

[Read the full report at
sahfoundation.com/report](https://sahfoundation.com/report)

We’re back in office!

While some visitor restrictions are still in place, we are happy to be back on site at Sault Area Hospital to assist patients, visitors and staff.

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday,
8:00am - 4:30pm

When you give, you make outstanding care possible.



Visit our website:
sahfoundation.com

Make a secure gift, or find more information about our programs.



Call our main line:
705-759-3848

We’d be happy to chat, or you can leave a message for a call back.



Send us mail:

**750 Great Northern Road
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 0A8**
We’ve included a postage-paid envelope with this newsletter for whenever you need it next.

**We look forward to the next
time we see each other!**