

IMPACT NEWSLETTER

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



Your gifts have helped Ivy Adam... in more ways than one!

Ivy is a Registered Nurse in our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). But her first time in the NICU wasn't as a nurse – it was as a parent.

Ivy's son Billy was born in 2006. Billy was early, or "premature". At 32 weeks, he would need specialized critical neonatal care. Ivy was quickly airlifted to Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto to deliver. The first few months were tough, as Ivy stayed in Toronto with her son. Billy was almost three months old before he was cleared to come back to the NICU at Sault Area Hospital.

This was just the beginning of learning and adapting to Billy's needs. Billy was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, chronic lung disease and a seizure disorder. "As we learned about his needs and what kind of care he had to have, I figured there was no better person than me to be the one to do it," Ivy shared. With that drive, Ivy went back to school to become a Registered Nurse (RN).

As an RN, Ivy was able to care for Billy at home with the support of Billy's SickKids care team and his local pediatrician. "I was very lucky. We had great pediatricians, so if Billy was at home, and something was off, I would be able to provide them with my assessment, and they would give me

I find more and more, my experience with Billy is what makes me a better nurse.

Caring for him, being in and out of hospitals, I just know what that's like first-hand. It makes me better able to sympathize with families when they're experiencing something similar.

- Ivy Adam, Registered Nurse, NICU

direction. But there were times we had to come in for care, and our hospital was there for us."

As Billy grew, so did his needs. He needed a wheelchair, walker and additional adaptive equipment to help him day-to-day. In spite of his disability, he was "the happiest kid," and "loved speed." Ivy shared, "He always wanted to go fast – whether it was snowmobiling, four-wheeling or just in his wheelchair!"

With Billy being dependent on a wheelchair to get around, Ivy noticed the importance of having the "right" equipment at the "right" time: "As he grew, his equipment needed to be replaced. I see the same thing at work. As the years go by, and our equipment ages, it needs to be replaced," Ivy noted.

Things took a turn for Billy in April of 2023. His chronic lung disease had made him vulnerable, and an infection became septic. When Ivy realized something was wrong, she rushed him to the Emergency Department at Sault Area Hospital, there was little that could be done. Billy passed away suddenly.



Billy Adam

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Billy's legacy lives on in the work his mom does.

"Billy always made me a better nurse when he was here," Ivy said. "When my Billy was flown out I remember how scary that was. Now, I can hold someone's hand and give them that comfort because I've been in their shoes before. I know what they're going through. I hope now, after losing him, I can help families through their grief too."

Your gifts are helping caregivers, and parents, like Ivy.

Your support of Sault Area Hospital Foundation isn't just helping purchase critical equipment.

Your donations ensure caregivers have the tools they need to provide outstanding care. Your generosity helps give families the comfort of knowing our hospital is equipped to care for them when they need it most.

"Donor support is so valued by us, as nurses and as patients," Ivy added. "I've been on both sides, I'm a nurse and a NICU mom, and this support goes a long way for the babies and the families. I see the difference it makes."

Giving In Memory

When Billy died, his godmother, Ivy's Aunt Linda, gave in his memory to SAHF. Her donation, along with many others, went toward a new isolette unit for our NICU.



The new isolettes offer humidity and temperature control, allowing care teams to adjust the environment according to the baby's needs. They also have oxygen control, which helps babies breathe a little easier with some extra oxygen being pumped in.

Although Linda sadly passed away in August of 2023, her gift continues to have impact. Today, Ivy uses the equipment her Aunt's gift supported, to provide lifesaving care.

When you give in memory, you're not only honouring the memory of the person who passed away, but creating a legacy. Your impact lives on, purchasing the critical equipment used in our hospital to save lives.



Ivy Adam poses with a new isolette. Donations, including some in memory of Billy, funded this equipment used every day to care for babies in the NICU.

**THANKS
TO YOU!**

Your donations keep patients and staff safe at Sault Area Hospital!



The Thyroid Uptake System plays an important role in measuring radioactive contamination. This new, reliable equipment provides reassurance for accuracy.

Thanks to our donors, we can continue to provide care in a healthy and safe environment for patients and staff.

Franci Rogers,
Manager - Medical Imaging

L-R: Franci Rogers, Kelin Longo, Devdoot Chitnis and Jill Kennedy pose with the new Thyroid Uptake System in Nuclear Medicine.

The new “Thyroid Uptake System” is getting “glowing” reviews from staff and patients!

Medical Imaging at Sault Area Hospital never stops. They run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The team at Sault Area Hospital performs over 100,000 imaging exams each year!

When most people think of imaging, they think of ultrasound, x-ray, or even MRI – but Sault Area Hospital has specialty imaging areas too! One of our specialized imaging areas is Nuclear Medicine, or “NucMed”.

NucMed uses tiny amounts of radioactive material to “light up” areas of the body and see how they are working. The NucMed team provides a variety of exams to Sault Area Hospital patients. Some common tests include cardiac stress tests, which check for blocked arteries in the heart, and bone scans, to help find or track bone disease.

The Thyroid Uptake System is an important piece of equipment in NucMed that needed to be replaced this year. The thyroid (in your neck) makes hormones that help control many of the body’s functions. This equipment helps us to see how fast or slow a thyroid is working. A thyroid scan can be used to provide a diagnosis for hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid) and hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid).

Testing a thyroid takes two steps. First, patients take a pill with a small amount of radioactive iodine. Over the next 24 hours, the iodine goes through the body, and helps to show how well the thyroid is working. Over 24 hours, the iodine will set, then the patient has to return to have the scan.

During this scan, the equipment sits over a patients’ thigh and neck. The scan shows how much of the iodine pill was absorbed by the thyroid. This helps determine how fast or slow the thyroid is working. Sault Area Hospital has the only system of its kind in the Algoma District. **That means without the support of donors like you, patients would have to travel for this care!**

Safety First

Working with radioactive material comes with many safety precautions. The team in NucMed runs weekly tests where they wipe surfaces in the department to test for contamination. The Thyroid Uptake System has an integrated well counter that will test these samples to ensure staff and patients stay safe.

We also use the Thyroid Uptake System to test the staff who work with these radioactive materials! They need to have a thyroid scan too, but theirs happens 48 hours after administering this radioactive material. **Your support keeps our medical technologists safe!**

Without these critical safety features, it wouldn’t be possible to offer NucMed at Sault Area Hospital. Your gifts help us preserve specialty services – like this – for everyone in Algoma who needs them.

The Thyroid Uptake System was funded by The Lukenda Foundation, and is one of many items that keeps our hospital safe!

UPCOMING NEED: A closer look in the Laboratory

How do you look at something too small to see with the naked eye?

In the lab at Sault Area Hospital, teams use a microscope.

Not every tool used in medicine is high-tech: microscopes have been used for hundreds of years to look at the fine details of tiny objects. While instruments in the lab can flag a sample for a closer look, a microscope is often needed to get a final result.

The microscopes at Sault Area Hospital are used to study blood, test urine, and get a closer look at viruses and bacteria. This tool helps the team check for infections, cancer cells, and blood parasites like malaria. The information learned using a microscope helps to make diagnoses and guide treatment.

There are several microscopes in the laboratory that will soon need



Microscopes are a critical part of our Lab.

to be replaced. While the goal is to repair equipment when possible, replacement parts are hard to find – and some microscopes are now 13 years old.

New microscopes have a bright light for clear images, and are easier to use for long hours. A clear view helps the team in the lab find abnormal cells faster, which could mean faster test results for patients.

Each microscope will cost around \$15,000. With your continued support, we can bring these tools – and so many more – to the lab at Sault Area Hospital.

THANK YOU!

Since April 1st,
you have helped bring
\$4.8 MILLION +
in equipment to
Sault Area Hospital!

Thanks to you, we have been able to give Sault Area Hospital \$4,870,834 for critical medical equipment this year.

Your support is making sure care teams have quick access to medications in the Emergency Department.

Every second counts in an emergency. New medication stations have been added to areas of the Emergency Department. This will ensure that when life saving medications are needed quickly, they are nearby.

Our hospital would not have these new medication stations if it wasn't for your generosity.
THANK YOU!

Stop by and visit!

We are happy to be on site at Sault Area Hospital to assist patients, visitors and staff.

Office Hours:

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

In the main lobby, turn right and you'll see our "Foundation" sign!

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!