

Ajax Pickering Hospital Foundation



Many of us know the pain of seeing someone we love slip slowly into dementia's grasp. A hospital stay can make the situation even more difficult, as a person can become confused, disoriented or frightened in an unfamiliar environment.

And evenings can be especially difficult for people with dementia, as they can often grow restless or withdrawn.

The Ajax Pickering Hospital Foundation has found a way to help by putting into the hands of people with dementia soft, touchable robotic cats and dogs

that move, meow, purr and bark. **And thanks to the amazing fundraising efforts of the Knights of Columbus #10236 who challenged the parishioners of St. Bernadette's Catholic Church (Ajax) to match their \$1,000 donation, we now have \$5,075 available to fund more of them!**

Hospital staff like Sheneen (Acute Care BSO Nurse – Lakeridge Health's Geriatric Consult Team; pictured) have found that the pets help to calm some people, giving them a sense of security and comfort, even joy. And the patients brighten at the remarkably lifelike movement of these 'pets', and soon become so attached that they seem to believe that the little creatures are truly alive.

Sheneen shared a story about a patient who used to call out throughout the day and night but after being given one of the cats was then often be seen smiling and talking to it. She named the cat and began to care for him and even spent the majority of her days brushing him and trying to feed him. Due to the cat, her responsive behaviours were well managed, which allowed her to be accepted into a long term care home.

Pictured with Sheneen are Father Raymond So and Ron, Mike, Joe & Tom from the Knights of Columbus.

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Yours in Philanthropy,

Tracy Paterson
CEO, Ajax Pickering Hospital Foundation

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