October 2, 2020

Dear Friends,

With small social bubbles, several chairs around my Thanksgiving table are going to be empty this year, but my heart will still be overflowing with thanks... especially for the front line staff at Ajax Pickering Hospital.

This time last year, no one could have predicted a world-wide virus that has affected so many people and so differently, from some being asymptomatic to others needing to be on a ventilator for weeks.

Yet our doctors & nurses still go to work, every day, working long shifts fully gowned, gloved and masked to keep their patients, our community and themselves safe.

And still the Ajax Pickering Hospital has been hit hard by the pandemic.

At the peak of its first wave, Covid cases were cared for on four different in-patient units as well as the ICU. Not only were the frontline staff in those areas working flat-out, but so were the lab techs, our allied health colleagues and environmental services team.

This also means that for the last seven months staff have been relying on the Foundation even more.

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You see, without close family or friends being able to visit, all our patients are here in the hospital alone. It can be hard to make sure they have the small comforts of home or simple personal care items.

During this unprecedented era, imagine how much more vulnerable and helpless, anxious and scared patients must feel.

While we are always fundraising for the "high tech" we also work closely with staff so they can provide the "high touch" to patients.

You know that just being able to brush your hair - for example - can make you feel so much better about yourself. Or how you can pass many contented hours doing a puzzle without even realizing it.

Our office gets calls all the time from nurses, social workers, therapists, unit clerks & patient service reps asking for 'something' that is going to make a difference. Could be a comb, shampoo, razor. Maybe adult colouring or a crossword book.

all of these items help our staff restore some of their patients' dignity during a stressful time as well as providing comfort. Plus they act as a reassurance to the patient that they are not alone.

With our community moving into a "second wave" I need your help to restock our cupboard so that we have plenty of items on hand.

Your generous donation today will help our staff look after those in their care as both patients and as individuals. This extra sign of respect makes me even more thankful for our frontline staff.

It's this human touch that makes our hospital so special and makes a hospital stay, especially a long one, so much easier on patients and their family members who can't visit.

Yours in philanthropy,

Tracy

PS - Please make a generous gift today so that we can continue to support our frontline staff provide dignified care to their patients, which is especially important during these stressful times.