

Hello! My name is Emmanuel.

Since September 16th I've been a co-op student at the Ajax Pickering Hospital Foundation. I am a grade 12 student from Whitby, and I am very excited to share with you my experience at the Foundation.

I was so kindly welcomed to the Foundation in September and I've been working on different tasks assigned to me by my supervisors Emily and Jennifer. I've analysed the bid lists of auctions from the Mayors' Charity Golf Classic and the Pickering Mayor's Gala to determine what the best-selling items are and discover bidding trends.

I've also created care kits, containing toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, body lotion and hair products for patients and delivered them to different departments of the hospital as part of the Compassion Fund. When people are rushed to the hospital in an emergency, they may find themselves staying overnight without any supplies or hygiene tools. Being able to keep up one's own personal hygiene really dignifies them and makes them more comfortable in the hospital. I'm very proud to know that the work I've put in has been useful.

I got to attend the Pickering Mayor's Gala this year and helped with coat check and other behind-the-scenes tasks. At the end of the gala, I bid the guests farewell and distributed orchards to them as a "Thank you for coming." It was really fun to be a part of such an amazing and important event in the Durham Community.

Recently, I've been helping with set up for different Christmas activities done by the Foundation. Last week, Jennifer and I put up Christmas trees in the



cafeteria. We raced to see who could put up the last two trees and I beat her by 4 seconds! I also organized the lists of items needed by people in the community that the Foundation received from the Assertive Community Treatment Team (ACTT) into an Excel sheet to categorize how many of each specific item is needed. I'm very happy to see that people have already started bringing in items! I've also packaged knitted blankets into boxes that will be given to the departments of the hospital on Christmas Day. And I've been addressing and mailing Christmas cards to the hospital's Auxiliary members.

After high school, I plan to study either life sciences or biomedical engineering as I wish to one day work in a hospital. The Foundation team has helped me learn more about different jobs at the hospital. Besides their behind-the-scenes support and funding of the hospital's equipment and developments, they also introduced me to Dr. Steve Gazzola, a radiologist at the hospital. I shadowed him for a few hours and learned all about different medical imaging technologies from X-rays to CT scans to MRIs. Through the Foundation I also got to attend and volunteer at a Doctors' Education Day hosted by the hospital and learn about upper extremity injections and hand injuries. Dr. Joel Lobo brought 3-D shoulder models for the doctors to practice injections on and it was really fun to see them practice with the models! Last Friday, I toured the hospital's lab and learnt how blood is set up to view under a microscope. I also got to see them prepare a piece of skin to be probed. It was really exciting to be in the professional laboratory environment as opposed to working in my school's science labs.

I am really enjoying my co-op placement here in the Foundation and I've loved meeting and getting to work with different staff at the hospital to enhance patient and donor experiences! I am certainly looking to make the most of my last few weeks here as my co-op placement ends on January 17th, but I plan to volunteer with the hospital in the future as I am really enjoying my time here!

- Emmanuel

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