

Last week, Lakeridge Health joined with leaders and community members from Durham Region to celebrate the official opening of the new 22-bed Mental Health Unit at Ajax Pickering Hospital!



the beds with the personal care kits

And yesterday, Durham Region's new Mental Health Unit admitted its first patient. Thanks to our Compassion Fund, each patient that comes to the unit will be welcomed with their own personal care kit. Staff have sometimes used their own money to purchase these types of items because they know that just being able to brush your hair - for example - can make someone feel so much better and help restore some of their dignity.

The unit's modern space is specially designed for people who need 24/7 acute mental health care to support their recovery. Patients and their families will be supported by a team of approximately 50 highly skilled professionals from different disciplines as well as six psychiatrists. The unit will have the capacity to admit 600 people each year, offering them the latest standard of patient-centred mental health care.

The unit includes:

- Individual rooms with ensuite washrooms to enhance patient privacy;
- Chalk board walls in patient rooms that support communication between the patient and their care team;
- A comfortable and quiet visitor's room for patients and their loved ones;
- Special design features that provide a safe environment for everyone; and
- A light-filled common dining area to allow people to enjoy a meal with others.



(L-R) Tracy Paterson (CEO, Ajax Pickering Hospital Foundation); Kathy (Volunteer Chair, Mayor's Gala); Mayor Dave Ryan, Pickering; Audra Leslie (Committee member, Mayor's Gala)

Proceeds from the 2019 Pickering Mayor's Gala helped fund furniture and equipment for areas throughout the Mental Health Unit including in the PICU, interview room, the patient lounge, the visitor waiting room and dining room as well as the murals that are featured in the unit.

Thanks to the Pickering Mayor's Gala for their ongoing support. We know this gift means so much to the staff, community and patients that will be accessing these services.

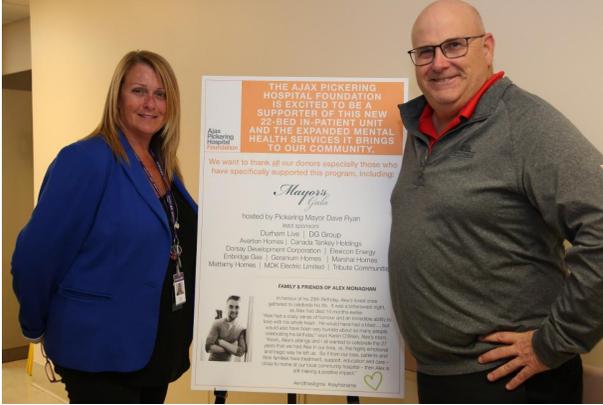
As part of the opening of the new 22-bed Mental Health Unit we also celebrated a special gift that is close to our hearts. Last summer, friends, family and community leaders

**DONATE
NOW**



**Ajax
Pickering
Hospital**





Alex's mom Karen and her partner Kevin.

came together and raised nearly \$25,000 in celebration of Alex on what would have been his 29th birthday.

#endthestigma

#sayhisname The funds raised purchased a Snoezelen - a

controlled multi-sensory therapy tool - that patients will have access to every day.

"We cannot treat mental and physical health separately," said Dr. Neeraj Bajaj, Chief of Psychiatry and Medical Director of Mental Health at Lakeridge Health. "The ability for families to see their loved ones being treated close to their homes will make a big difference in the lives of so many. The new Mental Health Unit at Ajax Pickering Hospital is a wonderful addition to the range of services that Lakeridge Health already offers."

"In the days, weeks, months, years, and decades to come, many people in the Durham Region - our grandparents, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children, grandchildren, friends, neighbours, colleagues - will come here to heal from the devastation mental suffering brings to their lives," said Percy D'Souza, Patient Advisor, Mental Health and Pinewood Centre Patient and Family Advisory Committee. "The care they will get here will give people a decent, precious chance at putting their lives back together, and maybe even building a better life."

Watch Percy's story [here](#).

If you'd like to make a donation to support Mental Health you can do so [here](#).

Yours in philanthropy,

Tracy Paterson
CEO, Ajax Pickering Hospital Foundation

We respect your privacy.

We do not rent, sell, or trade our mailing lists. The information you provide will be used to deliver services and to keep you informed and up to date on the activities of the Ajax Pickering Hospital Foundation. If at any time you wish to be removed from our mailing lists, simply contact us by phone (905) 683-2320 extension 1501.