

The Ottawa Hospital Foundation invites you to take a moment to share in the inspirational stories of people in our community as we thank them for the time and energy they put into raising funds to support The Ottawa Hospital.



## *Inspiring giving: Cristina's legacy*

Sudbury native, Cristina Roque, was a passionate gymnast. She grew up on floor mats, competing, traveling to Europe for performances, and becoming a magnificent gymnastics coach. Through her coaching, Cristina was a powerful source of inspiration to the many young, aspiring gymnasts she helped to nurture, grow, and excel.

Cristina fought her first of three bouts with cancer—Hodgkin's Lymphoma—in April 2008, after graduating from teacher's college. Despite this, and even

after going for her morning chemo treatments, she continued to coach the kids at the summer gymnastics camp. When she was given a clean bill of health, she accepted a teaching position in Chetwynd, B.C. Cristina brought gymnastics and yoga to Chetwynd, but her time there was unfortunately cut short when her cancer recurred, and she returned home.

She became a patient at The Ottawa Hospital, where she received a donor bone marrow transplant. Cristina spent a lot of time on 5 West, the in-patient haematological-oncology unit at the General Campus, and she noticed there was a shortage of televisions in the 20 private rooms. Most of the patients were, like her, from out of town. Not having many visitors, these patients had a world of time to pass.

On March 3, 2013, a year after her passing, Cristina's family and friends honoured her memory by hosting a coffee house at the Caruso Club in Sudbury to raise funds for cancer patients. They decided that half of the money raised from this successful event would go to help patients who have to travel for treatment, and the other half would go to The Ottawa Hospital to purchase TVs for 5 West. Thanks to Cristina's wishes, these patients can now enjoy primetime television.

