When COVID-19 hit the Ottawa region in March of 2020, the way we lived and worked changed in an instant. Everything felt uncertain.

But early on, something amazing emerged among our supporters: unity. Our community came together in our greatest time of need with an outpouring of support for our healthcare workers.

Your support helped us be ready and pivot to better care for our patients.

Donations of all sizes began streaming in. Each gift was immediately put to work with the creation of the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. To date, this collective generosity has raised $2 million for the fund, supporting critical innovation and research projects focused on combatting COVID-19.

As healthcare workers geared up in protective equipment and adjusted to the ever-changing situation, they had to find innovative ways to comfort patients who struggled to breathe. They became a vital link to families who couldn’t be
“It’s very important that we have the capacity to be able to produce these kinds of products, particularly vaccines, in the midst of the pandemic in Canada.”

DR. DUNCAN STEWART
Executive Vice-President, Research
The Ottawa Hospital

As COVID-19 variants emerge and spread, we must continue to develop new vaccines.

Thanks to your ongoing partnership, we are one of only a handful of hospitals in the country with the capacity to manufacture vaccines. Right now, we’re proud to be manufacturing three COVID-19 vaccines for clinical trials at our Biotherapeutics Manufacturing Centre (BMC).

Under the same roof, Dr. Duncan Stewart is leading another innovative clinical trial that could serve as a potential weapon against COVID-19. Using an experimental stem cell therapy, his team is studying whether stem cells from the umbilical cord can help the immune system fight COVID-19, all while reducing damage to vital organs.

“While care teams stood alongside patients, your support backed our researchers as they became deeply involved in the global race to combat COVID-19.

As one of Canada’s largest learning and research hospitals, we launched more than 60 research projects that continue to explore better ways to treat and prevent the virus. Many were made possible by donations to the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund.

Despite these challenging times, there are brighter days ahead. Thanks to your support, The Ottawa Hospital is addressing the impact of the virus on your family, your neighbours, the community, and the world. Thank you.

Scan the QR code to hear more about our BMC in a video featuring Dr. Duncan Stewart
Today, The Ottawa Hospital is home to some of the brightest research minds on the planet. We have the most advanced biotherapeutics lab in the country, are second to none in using living cells and viruses to treat diseases, and the diagnostic tools we’ve developed are used in hospitals worldwide.

And we’ve done much of this in a facility that opened its doors almost a century ago.

Now just imagine what we’ll do when our infrastructure is as capable as our people.

In 2028, our new Civic development will be the most patient-centered and technologically advanced research hospital in the country.

This means new, single-patient rooms will reduce the spread of infection and provide a private bathroom and space for loved ones to stay overnight. “Smart” interactive, in-room digital screens will connect patients to their care providers, health information, and appointments, while allowing them to order a meal and stay in touch with loved ones.

Our new campus will set a new standard in accessibility for patients with all types of physical, visual, hearing, mental health, intellectual, and learning abilities.

This project has been planned with environmental sustainability top of mind, from water conservation and energy-efficiency to resilience to climate change to preparedness for natural disasters.

In fact, the site’s location adjacent to a major transit line gives us a unique opportunity to reduce our carbon footprint and build what is, perhaps, the first transit-oriented hospital campus.

“I truly believe we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a legacy of world-class care — not just for us, but for our children and for every generation that follows.”

Cameron Love
President & CEO
The Ottawa Hospital

A cutting-edge command centre will manage all complex logistics, such as healthcare records, bed management, incoming ambulances, and more.

The command centre will also support patients after they’re discharged, connecting with local health networks across the region to coordinate in-home and virtual care, even in remote communities.

By building today, we’re creating tomorrow.
Together, we’re facing cancer head-on. More than 200,000 Canadians are diagnosed with cancer each year. And over the next 15 years, that number will rise by 40%. For decades, chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation have been our most powerful weapons in the fight against cancer.

Researchers have long understood the immune system plays a critical role in fighting disease — but harnessing its power to actually treat cancer remained in the realm of science fiction.

That’s where The Ottawa Hospital comes in. We have emerged as a world leader in developing these cutting-edge immunotherapy treatments called cancer biotherapies.

Imagine using a patient’s own immune cells to treat cancer. That’s what we’re doing through our CAR-T cell therapy research, powered through generous support from donors like you.

The Ottawa Hospital is a leader in bringing this innovative research program to Canada, as one of the country’s top research and treatment centres. That distinction means we are not only participating in international CAR-T trials, but also leading the first clinical trial of made-in-Canada CAR-T cells.

CAR-T (short for chimeric antigen receptor T cell) therapy is a targeted, personalized treatment that can be a game-changer in fighting hard-to-treat blood cancers that resist chemotherapy.

Immune cells, known as T-cells, are collected from a cancer patient and re-programmed in a lab to recognize cancer cells. They are then injected back into the patient, supercharged and ready to attack the cancer.

Healthy cells, however, are left alone, reducing many of the harsh side effects of traditional cancer drugs.

These breakthroughs are happening because of your support. You’re bringing us closer to better treatments for cancer. But most importantly, for those Canadians who had few treatment options only a few years ago, you’re bringing hope.
YOUR IMPACT — BY THE NUMBERS

In a year of crisis, your support helped us respond quickly to the changing needs of our community. From delivering compassionate care to leading the way in research and innovation projects for COVID-19 and other diseases, here is how your giving made a real difference.

WE SERVE THE LARGEST CATCHMENT AREA IN CANADA 🇨🇦 1.2M PEOPLE

Overall high performers represent AHP’s traditional criteria of the top 25% in net production returns across all respondents in the 2020 Report on Giving.

60 COVID-19 research and innovation projects supported by donors

Our community rallied & raised $2M for our COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund

Since 2020 every dollar raised for our COVID-19 relief efforts helped unlock an additional $15M in government funding.

$21M TRANSFERRED TO HOSPITAL

$13M RESEARCH

$5.4M PATIENT CARE

$2.5M FACILITIES

678 ACTIVE CLINICAL TRIALS

10,330 PATIENTS ENROLLED IN CLINICAL TRIALS

MONTHLY GIVING GENERATED A TOTAL OF $725K

Scan the QR code to read the full financial report provided by KPMG.
The only reason I could have a lifesaving stem cell transplant is because other people made their own contributions to the hospital throughout the years. That’s why my wife and I made the decision to leave a gift in our will to The Ottawa Hospital.”

DAN LYNCH, Grateful patient and legacy donor

Dan is confident his gift will help save the lives of others for generations to come.

By informing us of his intentions, he was able to discuss his desire to support the purchase of equipment and fund important cancer-related priorities. He knows of our proven record of using every gift, no matter the size, as efficiently as possible, to make the biggest impact.

Dan is proud of the legacy he and his wife will leave and offers some friendly advice to others about planning for the future. “Take some time to think about what you can do to help others. It feels good to make a positive contribution to help the hospital both now and in the future.”

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE

Every year, forward-thinking donors decide to leave a legacy to our hospital through a gift in their will. This incredibly thoughtful and generous decision has funded important research projects and allowed us to purchase vital equipment used to save lives every day.

Dan Lynch is one of those patients whose life was impacted by the generosity of others while he battled cancer. He now plans on paying it forward by including The Ottawa Hospital in his will.

What inspired you to give? My doctors were my inspiration. Just a month after I arrived in Canada, my eye condition, Thygeson’s Disease, got so bad I had to be admitted to The Ottawa Hospital. At the time, I didn’t speak any English, but they took very good care of me. They gave me a new lens, and I started getting better right away.

Why do you choose to give monthly? I like the hospital to know they can count on me throughout the whole year. It’s how I say “thank you” — I’ve been giving monthly for 17 years now! Giving monthly makes me feel proud, especially when I see the impact my donations are having.

Any advice for someone considering a donation? It feels good to be able to share in the happiness of giving life back to others and to read stories about the amazing things happening at the hospital. You know you’re making a real difference.

What’s why she gives all year long: Dan is proud of the legacy he and his wife will leave, to leave a gift in our will to The Ottawa Hospital.