

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

NEWSLETTER



From doctor to patient

He came out of retirement to help fight for the lives of COVID-19 patients. But suddenly, the life he was fighting for was his own.

For 35 years, Dr. Dean Favot worked as an emergency room physician at Windsor Regional Hospital.

He retired in 2019. But when the Coronavirus hit, Dr. Favot had his medical privileges reinstated so that he could rejoin his colleagues on the frontline of the pandemic.

But before he could return to work, Dr. Favot himself was struck down by the virus.

In all his 35 years as a doctor, Dr. Favot had never missed a day's work. "I always bragged that I probably have the best immune system of anybody," he says.

But in March Dr. Favot suddenly found himself a patient in the Emergency department where he once worked, with doctors sliding a ventilator tube down his throat as his condition worsened.

"It was like stepping off a cliff. All of a sudden you realize this is not a common cough or cold. This thing just went down quick."

Dr. Favot's wife, Giuliana, was devastated. "Things were going downhill. I really thought I was going to lose him," she remembers.

"It was the scariest time of my life," says her husband. *"You can't breathe. It's the worst feeling in the world."*

For 10 days, a ventilator pushed life-saving oxygen into his lungs as Dr. Favot fought for his life.

Now recovered and back at home, Dr. Favot urges us all to do everything we can to keep

ourselves, our families and our communities safe.

"The world is on a reset button and nothing is going to be the same. We may have to all walk around with masks. So be it. It beats the alternative that I went through."

Wash your hands, stay in the house, stay six feet apart!

Do not take this virus lightly. It is deadly. Do not be cavalier about it."

He credits the healthcare team at Windsor Regional Hospital for saving him.

"The nurses in the ICU were totally amazing," he said. *"And [my doctor] is one of the most compassionate doctors by far. The staff were unbelievable. It was top-notch care. I'm so grateful."*

Dr. Favot offers a huge thank you to all the people who support Windsor Regional Hospital.

"They do a lot of incredible work and this doesn't come by cheaply. All the PPEs for the nurses, respiratory therapists, doctors, cleaning staff, everyone who is working on the frontlines and exposing themselves at the hospital. They need to be protected."

Dr. Favot and his wife



Little things make a big difference

We are deeply grateful to Shmuel Farhi and the staff of the Holiday Inn Express for creating a home away from home for over 80 of the Hospital's medical and support staff.

And to the entire community whose generosity helped keep both hunger and loneliness at bay.

Michelle Laforet was one of those staff members.

A social worker at the Ouellette campus, Michelle's main job is helping to get patients ready for discharge, and overseeing their transfer safely home.

Michelle's 75- and 79-year-old parents live with her, and when COVID-19 hit, Michelle realized she couldn't endanger them by

going back and forth between work and home.

Many of our staff were in the same dilemma — the hospital and our patients urgently needed them. But they couldn't run the risk of transmitting the virus to vulnerable family members.

That's when Shmuel Farhi stepped in and offered his hotel. WFCU Credit Union generously contributed to the running costs of the hotel, so our hospital staff could stay for free.

For eight weeks, Michelle called the Holiday Inn home.

"I missed my family horribly. And my dog, my fur baby! Our whole family had a Zoom call every Sunday. And I was on

the phone with my parents numerous times every day, just checking up on them.

But Emilia (the hotel's General Manager) and Mustapha (the Maintenance Supervisor) were absolutely wonderful — incredibly warm and welcoming. They got to know us all so well — even noticing if we were really tired and making sure we were alright.

So many donors and companies contributed to help us. We had meals donated to us, and special treats on Easter and on Mother's Day.

We could feel that the community was behind us. When we received meals, they sometimes came with children's artwork taped to the top of the lid — or personal notes from the company who had donated them.

Little things that made a big difference."

Michelle has a message for all the companies and individuals who supported our workers:

Thank you so incredibly much. I can't even thank you enough for giving my parents and me the peace of mind. I think of all the moms and dads who've been away from their kids even longer than I was away from my family. It was never just a meal — for the moral support that represented, I can't even thank you enough.





Your Gifts Support Essential Equipment

Your gift to the Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation helps your hospital to provide the best possible care for our patients.

A city of kindness, a city of strength

A short time ago, the hospital's Chief of Staff, Dr. Wassim Saad, made a promise to the people of Windsor.

“If anyone in our community gets COVID-19, we'll care for them. That's my promise to you.”

In the last few months, our entire community has rallied together to help Dr. Saad and the staff of Windsor Regional Hospital keep that promise.

Your generosity has helped equip us with ventilators, personal protective equipment, and food for frontline staff. And, of course, the vital hospital equipment and supplies that we need to care for all our patients, day in and day out.

University of Windsor and St. Clair College joined together with their alumni associations and student government groups to donate an outstanding \$100,000 to purchase hospital equipment like ventilators.

“It gives our alumni pride to know that they are giving back to the community at such a difficult time,” says U of W Alumni Association President Beth Ann Prince. Her words are echoed by St. Clair College Alumni Association Chair Andrew Rowberry. “We are all about community and giving back, and it was the right thing to do.”

More than 200 donors in our community gave personal protective equipment. Another 200 donated handmade masks. And over 100 donors paid for food for frontline workers.

Sterling Fuels, Windsor Port Authority, and Transition to Betterness came together and purchased 50 iPads to connect our patients with loved ones while visitor restrictions were in place.

And our supporters responded generously on Giving Tuesday Now, raising a fantastic \$51,061 on top of the generous matching gifts of \$25,000 each from **Standard Tool & Mold Inc.** and **Roth Mosey & Partners.** Plus a \$9,000 grant from a local Scotiabank branch. Bringing the total to over \$119,000!

These donations have helped us purchase four Infusion Pumps & IV Poles, four special patient monitors, and two Nocospray units, which help with sanitation of equipment and PPE.

Each gift is helping to protect and care for patients. And protect the wonderful nurses, doctors and hospital staff risking their lives to treat them.

Glidescope Blades

Used for difficult airway management.

It provides visualization of the larynx when a patient needs to be intubated.



Cost: \$5,020.15 each (25 needed)



Hi Lo Beds

Used in the care of high dependency patients who are at risk of falls.

Cost: \$6,377.30 (60 needed)

Neptune Rover & Docking Station

Used in the Operating Room for waste management to ensure patient and staff safety.

Cost: \$19,231.75 each (8 needed)



No bridge too far

Josh Horan, an electrician and IBEW local 773 member, wanted to do something big to raise funds for the hospital and to spread some positivity.

An amateur runner, Josh decided to run from Belle River Bridge to the Ambassador Bridge, launching his “**Bridge 2 Bridge**” fundraiser and raising a fabulous \$5,645!

That’s 32 km... over 4 hours of running... all with just two weeks of training!



As Josh started out on his run, friends tossed him a hockey puck with a message thanking Windsor Regional Hospital staff. Josh held onto that puck and its message of hope the entire way.

“I just did this to show a bit of support during these tough times,” Josh says. “Hopefully it will lift spirits of those affected during the pandemic. And hopefully the positivity is contagious within the Windsor-Essex Community.”

It already has been. Inspired by Josh’s run, three other runners ran the “**Bridge 2 Bridge**” after Josh, raising an additional \$3,332 for the hospital!

“ I’m ecstatic about all of the participation, enthusiasm and excitement from other runners and members of our community. I feel humbled knowing that there are people cheering me on and wanting to help Windsor Regional Hospital and all of those affected during this crisis. ”

Thank you, Josh! You’re an inspiration to us all!

Thank you for keeping our littlest ones safe

St. Joseph Knights of Columbus 5642 donated \$10,000 to purchase three bassinets for the NICU after reading about them in our newsletter last year. The bassinets keep our littlest ones safe and healthy while in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the hospital. **Thank you!**



Giraffe Bassinet purchased through donor support.