



# YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

NEWSLETTER



## “You saved my life.”

Jessica Morrow began to feel really unwell last September. She was weak and nauseous.

At first, she thought she was simply overdoing it – with two kids, two jobs, and back in school full-time.

But she became worse. Her doctor sent her for tests, but waiting in her car for her results, she became so ill that she drove herself to the hospital.

The hospital did Jessica’s bloodwork and instantly rushed her into care.

Jessica’s kidneys were in failure. If she hadn’t come in, she wouldn’t have survived for another 24 hours.

Jessica was put onto dialysis that night. That’s when Windsor Regional Hospital’s Dr. Callaghan took one look at her and realized she had atypical uremic syndrome – an extremely rare blood disorder that he had studied extensively.

Jessica immediately began an intense and rigorous treatment plan.

Plasma three times a week. Infusions. She had to stop school, and stay in the hospital for a month.

Today, Jessica is on the list for a possible kidney transplant.

In the meantime, Jessica is sharing her story so that other people know how important Windsor Regional Hospital is – and how vital it is that we all support it.

“The care that I received from day one was incredible.

There were times when the doctor would just come in and talk to me to tell me everything was going to be okay. Dr. Baga came in on his day off, and brought his kids with him, to check on me. Knowing how busy they are, they’ve been amazing.

I had nurses putting cold cloths on my head, on the back of my neck, rushing to get me water, running over to help before I passed out. Everything you can think of.

I’ve seen the dialysis nurses save countless lives – on a regular basis.

You have to be a special kind of person to do this work. It’s like they never have a bad day.

Here’s what I want donors to know: many hospitals don’t have a plasma machine. Without that machine, I would be dead right now. And the hospital’s supporters funded that machine.”



Jessica with her son, Tanner, daughter, Alera, and husband, Nathaniel.

“So if you ever wonder if your gifts make a difference – please know that you saved my life. And you’re still saving my life, to this day.”

# You can add a little bit of magic to the holidays

Everything in our world was perfect... until it wasn't.

It was November 2018 when my little girl, Megan, became sick. She was just two years old.

By December, she was gravely ill. Finally, blood tests confirmed a diagnosis that no parent wants to hear.

*"Megan has leukemia."*

The next day, Megan was rushed into the children's hospital in London, where a very kind Oncologist confirmed that she had cancer.

It was Christmas Eve.

Our world shattered.

That Christmas Eve, instead of opening the Christmas Pajamas waiting for her under the tree, Megan received her first dose of chemotherapy.

Her treatment continued for two and a half long years. A lot of that was at Windsor Regional Hospital. She loves the nurses, doctors and Child Life staff on the paediatric unit so much!

When it ended in 2021, we thought back to that first Christmas Eve – and we knew that we wanted to do something to spare other families from feeling so alone.



So we launched the idea of the “Mighty Megan and Friends Holiday PJs in the Hospital” campaign.

Our goal was to bring a little magic to the kids spending the holidays in hospital. And to their families.

With the support of so many friends and families, we were able to deliver holiday PJs to Windsor Regional Hospital and five other hospitals serving children. It is heartwarming to know that kids sleeping in hospital beds on Christmas Eve are able to receive a gift of warm and cozy new pajamas.

But by the following April, Megan had relapsed – and she began another two years of intensive treatment.

The next year, in 2023, Megan's friend Lauren did something beautiful. For her own birthday, instead of gifts, she asked friends and family to donate to Mighty Megan and Friends Holiday PJs Campaign.

Together, Megan and Lauren teamed up, fundraised and proudly delivered holiday PJs for all the kids in those hospitals once again!

Megan knows firsthand how a little holiday magic can make you forget about your treatments for a little while. And we are thrilled to add just a little bit of magic to families going through a really difficult time.

We are so grateful for all the support of our friends, families and this community. If you'd like to join in the Mighty Megan and Friends Holiday PJs in the Hospital campaign this year, we'd love to have you! You can contact us at [jm.patrick@hotmail.ca](mailto:jm.patrick@hotmail.ca) to arrange a pick-up or you can etransfer an amount and we'll buy the PJs.

-Mellissa Patrick, Megan's mom

# Our new hospital gets a \$15 million boost

The Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation is thrilled to announce the largest gift made to date in support of our new hospital!

With a history of philanthropy and dedicated community service, the Solcz Family Foundation has made a remarkable gift to fund the new hospital – \$15 million!

Like all our supporters, the Solcz family understands how vital the new hospital will be to our growing community.



*“We are strong believers in the need to support our community. The new hospital will transform healthcare for children, youth, families and all members of the Windsor-Essex community.”*

Kyrsten Solcz is Executive Director of the Solcz Family Foundation. She hopes that this lead gift will inspire others to support the new hospital – in whatever way and with whatever amount they can give.

*“We hope [our donation] will serve as a testament to what we can achieve when we come together with a shared purpose. We hope our gift will inspire others to support this critical project to provide a state-of-the-art medical facility for patients, families and our dedicated medical professionals.”*

In recognition and appreciation, we are thrilled to announce that the new hospital’s Family Birthing and Paediatric Care Centre, as well as the Paediatric Emergency Zone, will be named after the Solcz Family Foundation.

As our supporters know, the new hospital will be the most significant healthcare transformation in Windsor-Essex history, kickstarting a comprehensive, fully integrated health system in our region.

Located at County Rd. 42 and the 9th Concession, this state-of-the-art facility will serve our community for generations to come.

For more information or to discuss how you can help support our new hospital, please don’t hesitate to contact Ashley Weeres at the Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation – 519-254-5577 x 52151 or wrhfoundation@wrh.on.ca.

## Your Gifts Support Essential Equipment

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

### Neonatal video laryngoscope

A handheld device that helps our team get a clearer view of an infant’s airway — enhancing safety, efficiency and success in airway intubation for newborns.



**NICU**  
Cost: \$30,000

### Blanket warmer

Renal patients benefit from pre-warmed blankets that can help raise their body temperature, increase blood flow and relieve stress.



**Renal program**  
Cost: \$16,000

### Mini Staircase

To help assess children’s developmental milestones in the Neurodevelopment Clinic.

**Neurodevelopment Clinic**  
Cost: \$2,658.01





# Call for volunteers!

Do you have a few hours a week to spare?

Would you like to join our team of volunteers, here at the Windsor Regional Hospital gift shop?

The gift shop is run by the hospital auxiliary, a group of volunteers who help raise funds to purchase vital equipment for the hospital by running the gift shop.

That includes the equipment our nurses and doctors use to care for our loved ones.

I'm proud to say that since we were formed in 1987, we've raised over \$4.1 million! As you walk around the hospital, you're sure to pass a machine or piece of equipment that we helped to buy.

Now we'd love you to join us, to help us keep up the brilliant care provided by the medical teams at Windsor Regional Hospital.

They couldn't do it without us!

Since Covid, we've only had half the volunteers we used to have. So we've had to reduce our gift shop hours.

The gift shop now closes at 3:00 pm. That's a real

shame – since so many people come to visit in the evening.

With your help, we'll be able to keep our gift shop open longer... and raise more money to care for the friends and neighbours we all love.



I've been volunteering in the gift shop for seven years now. I love it! It gives me a reason to get up and go. And it's a good feeling to help someone out when they're really worried about a friend or family member.

A friendly face can brighten their day. That's the part of my job I love the most.

If you'd be able to spare some time each week at the Metropolitan Campus, please call Volunteer Services at 519-254-5577 x 33673, or email [volunteer@wrh.on.ca](mailto:volunteer@wrh.on.ca).

I look forward to meeting you soon!

Heather Preston  
President of Windsor Regional Auxiliary



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