

MEDIA RELEASE

New Smilezone spaces unveiled at KGH

Patients and families to benefit from new kid-friendly rooms in Pediatrics and Oncology

June 7, 2016 - Kingston, ON – Seven rooms at Kingston General Hospital are now more ‘kid-friendly’ thanks to some recent renovations by the Smilezone Foundation. It’s hoped that the bright and fun new spaces, located in the hospital’s Pediatrics unit and in the Cancer Centre of Southeastern Ontario, will improve the experiences of children while they are in the hospital.

The Smilezone Foundation’s mission is to create, build and transform areas in hospitals in order to improve the lives of children facing illness, disabilities, and physical and emotional obstacles.

“Coming to the hospital as a patient or to support a loved-one who is receiving treatment can be a stressful time for anyone. Now imagine having to experience those moments as a child,” says Jim Flett, Interim CEO of Kingston General Hospital. “These spaces will offer kids a place to experience true reprieve and create a place that will put a smile on a child’s face.”

Not only will the new spaces benefit children who are receiving treatment in the hospital, but will benefit other members of the young families who come to KGH. For example, the newly renovated space in the Cancer Centre has been designed to offer children a place to play while their parents receive treatments.

“Battling cancer while raising a young family was beyond challenging and I hated how much time I had to spend away from my kids when they needed the reassurance of my presence the most,” says former patient Bridget Burke-Purdy. “Having a special room in the Cancer Centre will make it possible for other parents in my situation to include their children in their visits to the oncology department at KGH.”

Over the course of three days in late May, the Smilezone team refurbished the spaces by repainting them with vibrant new colours as well as big, bright wall murals. They also installed custom seating and cabinetry to store therapeutic equipment and toys as well as purchased video-game consoles to entertain and engage the children who will be using the rooms.

“The Smilezone Foundation is honoured to help improve the experience of young patients and family members at Kingston General Hospital,” says Scott Bachly, Chair of the Smilezone Foundation. “Hospital visits truly affect the entire family, and we’re overjoyed that children, siblings and families will have these new Zones to enjoy.”

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ABOUT KGH

Kingston General Hospital is a community of people dedicated to transforming the patient and family experience through innovative and collaborative approaches to care, knowledge and leadership. As southeastern Ontario's leading centre for complex-acute and specialty care, and home to the Cancer Centre of Southeastern Ontario, KGH serves almost 500,000 people through its Kingston facility and 24 regional affiliate and satellite sites. Fully affiliated with Queen's University, KGH is a research and teaching hospital which is home to more than 2,000 health-care learners and more than 180 health researchers. KGH is ranked as one of Canada's Top 40 Research Hospitals by Research Infosource. To learn more, visit www.kgh.on.ca or join the conversation at www.kghconnect.ca

ABOUT SMILEZONE FOUNDATION

Smilezone Foundation is a registered charity committed to "putting smiles on children's faces". The charity, founded by Adam Graves and Scott Bachly in 2012, established the overarching mission of assisting children, and their families, who are facing difficult times and health challenges. Smilezone's mission is to create, build and transform areas ("Zones") in hospitals, private treatment and development centres, and children's clinics, in order to improve the lives of children facing illness, disabilities, and physical and emotional obstacles—ultimately putting a smile on their faces. Visit smilezone.com for more information.