

SPRING



NEWSLETTER

Kingston General Hospital Auxiliary

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Message from the President - Heather Breck

As I write this, the snow is melting, the rain is falling, and the promise of spring is in the air. Covid-19 restrictions are slowly being revised and we are, cautiously, looking forward to meeting friends and resuming some familiar activities. Unfortunately, that does not include resuming our volunteer presence at KGH as it is important to remain vigilant for the foreseeable future to protect patients and staff from exposure to the virus.

Fortunately, we have been able to continue to operate the Cafe, Tuck Shop and Gift Shop throughout the pandemic. It has taken commitment and creativity from our managers and convenors, but we continue to be able to serve the staff and patients. The Auxiliary staff have been reliable and flexible, contributing to the success of our Auxiliary businesses.

We were able to present the Teddy Bear Campaign in the fall, but other fundraising activities are still suspended. Hopefully, in future, we will see the return of the Christmas Bazaar, bridge events and bus trips, which help raise funds and provide opportunities for Auxiliary members to work toward goals together. Until then, stay well and safe. Thank you for your continuing support as we work to keep the Auxiliary relevant and prosperous as part of the KGH community.

CAFÉ - Convenor - Shirley Hicks

Through a very challenging two years of the pandemic our Café staff have maintained an atmosphere of kindness and good humour within our kitchen. Right from the beginning when the Café was declared an essential service to the hospital, our employees rose to the challenge. Covid protocols that changed frequently to enter the building, how to get supplies to the kitchen when most entrances were now closed, absences when people were ill, how to cover shifts, how to reduce the food needed for breakfast, lunch and dinner when unsure of the number of people that were being served were only a very few of the challenges that arose and needed to be dealt with quickly and efficiently.

Our thanks go to all our wonderful staff who have throughout this stressful time been there for each other and for the hospital staff that needed a helpful hand and a kind word. Thanks go to our Café Committee, Treasurer, Payroll, Café Manager and the myriad of support staff and Auxiliary members who have been available for questions and clever answers to many, many challenges. A special thanks goes to our Director of Volunteer Services who has been a liaison between the building's Incident Command and our Café to provide plastic barriers, up to date infection control requirements and problem solve many day-to-day bumps in the road.

Frontline workers are the people who have kept our community running during this difficult time and our Cafe employees are proud members.

GIFT SHOP – Convenor - Merna Manders

The Gift Shop is doing well despite the reduced traffic and hours of operation. Since March 15, 2020, it has been closed 201 days and has been operating on reduced hours with four volunteers since the last reopening. During the closure, The Manager, Michelle, did a "Gift Bag Promotion" with patients being able to phone in orders to her. She opened the Gift Shop for private shopping for Staff. Some patients requested Gift Bags of food/snacks for the staff in appreciation of the care they were receiving. The Flapjack hats continue to sell well in Baby, but other gift items are slow. The preemie sleepers with magnetic snaps are the bestselling sleepers. Lingerie reported that the capes sold well again this year. There is plenty of summer stock on hand and a few dresses will be ordered. Jewellery continues to sell well with repeat orders on purses, scarves, mittens, gloves, hats, and necklaces. Oxford station earrings are a best seller. Toys has introduced a new product, Klutz art and activity, which is selling well, as are adult colouring books, Ty Boos and a new line of squishy pillow friends. Sesame Street plushies have sold well but Curious George and Clifford plush are no longer available. In Gifts, purchases were about 40% lower than normal, but Christmas stock sold well. Paper and cards are slow due to low hospital traffic. All ordering of new stock is done online. The Online Store has been well supported by patients and their families. Michelle created a flower order book with Kevin Blaney and put it in the Online Store. This is greatly appreciated, and Kevin Blaney can usually deliver an arrangement within 2 hours. Living gardens are one of the most

popular. Patients have found the Online Store invaluable for personal items (socks, PJs, personal care items etc.) for those arriving by ambulance.

The Tuck Shop was closed from March 2020 to June 2020 but was never closed again. It is open from 7:30 to 3:00 each week day with staff only. It is invaluable to the staff and any visitors that may be in KGH and is busy and doing very well. The Gift Shop will be closed for inventory on Friday, April 1, 2022.

I want to send a huge thanks to Michelle and her staff as they support the Gift/Tuck /Online Shops and the Auxiliary with good cheer and professionalism.

HUGS – Convenor - Gloria Pivnick

How fortunate we are to have the generosity of not only Kingston residents but also knitters, quilters, and snuggly blanket sewers from all over Ontario who contribute items for our HUGS program. This year a new group from Queen's calling itself Yarning for Love contacted us. We had an abundance of premie knitting that, for various reasons, could not be used. However, there is a knitting group in my building, and they are slowly wading their way through a large bag and recreating this tiny knitting into toys for our gift bags. I am grateful beyond words to Co-Convenor J. Strahan and C. Reynolds, who have been sewing blankets and cute burpee cloths for mom's shoulder while feeding the baby. Anyone who would like to help knit etc. please contact me and I can let you know what is required. Also, we have a way to distribute gently used clean baby clothing to those moms needing extra help.

2021 Teddy Bear Campaign

The 2021 Teddy Bear Campaign closed on December 24th 2021, having raised just over \$27,000 – including the donations from Legion 560, which cover the operating costs of approximately \$4,000. Proceeds of the 2021 campaign will purchase a MediTherm Hyper/Hypothermia System for Kidd 10 and a transcutaneous Bilirubin Meter to check jaundice levels. A meeting was held on February 25, with D. Loricchio, Program Operations Director of Women's and Children's Services, to discuss the process of choosing and invoicing equipment to be funded in future campaigns. The aim is to streamline the process to make it more efficient. To facilitate this, a meeting will be held with the Paeds department in early October to discuss their equipment needs and suggest item(s) for consideration. In addition, to expedite the printing of the brochure for future campaigns, this will state "funds raised will be used to purchase equipment for KGH Pediatrics as agreed to by the department and the Auxiliary Board of Directors". In the brochure the following year, it will be stated what item(s) were purchased with the funds from the previous year's campaign.

In addition, monies of \$20,000 from the 2019 campaign were originally intended for the purchase of CO2 monitors. However, it has been determined by the department that these are no longer needed. In lieu of these, the department is considering other needed equipment.

**IN MEMORIAM
Don Currie**

THE KGH AUXILIARY MARCH GENERAL MEETING

will be held on

Monday, March 28, 2022, at 10:00 am

via Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87343295148?pwd=Rnh3S3VyVnp4b0VwYkNzenJiT1A2Zz09>

If attending, please call 613-549-6666 Ext.6352 and leave a message

OR

E-mail sandra.fletcher@kingstonhsc.ca

before noon on Friday March 25, 2022

**Treasurer's Report - Mary Johnston
Surplus as of January 31, 2022 - **\$222,961.00****

NOTICE OF MOTION

It will be moved that the 2022-2023 budget as circulated be approved.