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## Eli's Happy Ending



Doris Marie Smith RN, Omar, Elijah, Julie and Aydin Khan

When our son, Elijah, was 17-months old he suffered from a sudden and massive brain bleed. The swelling of his brain caused a severe stroke leading to prolonged seizure after seizure. All of this had happened at his daycare where he completely lost all vital signs and 911 was called in order to get him to the closest hospital as soon as possible. He was taken into Emergency at Four Counties Health Services. We are so blessed to have a community hospital within 15 minutes of our town.

As soon as Eli arrived, the staff sprang into action and began assessing his situation. They asked many questions and probed to get more details to try and determine what had happened. It was immediately decided that he needed to get to London Children's Hospital so that proper scans of his brain could be conducted. They tried to arrange a helicopter transfer for Eli, but the weather was too snowy and blustery that day so they began trying to organize the next best mode of ground transport for him. Once they had the team arranged to get him to London, they were exceptionally diligent in stabilizing him the best they could for the transfer. Because he kept slipping into seizures it was extremely difficult to get him stabilized and the staff took the time necessary to make sure every aspect was taken into consideration. The entire time, all involved kept coming up with possible scenarios and solutions and he was given many medications as a precaution to ensure that all the bases were covered. Every single person involved in the entire process with Eli absolutely did the best they could given the circumstances with the means and the knowledge they had. Their quick action and vast knowledge surely saved our son's life that day!

Aside from being impressive medically-speaking, everyone involved in this process at Four Counties General Hospital showed absolute compassion towards our family. They were all there offering as much information as they could, coupled with a lot of support. Probably the most vivid memory that stands out in Omar's mind is the encouragement that they gave for him to talk to Eli and hold his hand. Even though Eli was unconscious and hooked up to many wires, tubes and machines and we had no diagnosis on how severe any potential brain damage may be, they just kept reminding Omar how important it was to let him hear his Daddy's voice and feel his touch. This advice was accepted graciously because in a situation like this, a parent feels so helpless and this was a way that we could feel like we were doing something to help our child! After the transport to London Children's Hospital, Eli underwent major brain surgery and was in a sedated coma for the first five days. And through that entire process, we took the advice that we had received from the Four Counties staff in those first few hours and talked the whole time to our son to let him know how much he was loved and that we were right there at his side with him!

The staff at Four Counties Health Services followed Eli's progress long after he left their Emergency room, especially one nurse, Doris-Marie Smith. She would read Eli's daily blog for updates and even attended his "Welcome Home" Open House celebration six months later when Eli's hospital and rehabilitation journey finally brought all of us back home to live as a family again. Doris-Marie brought a little toy helicopter for Eli as a reminder of the ride that they had all worked so very hard to try and arrange for him that day! Our family still pops in for visits to the Emergency room at Four Counties every now and again. We are well aware that all tragic situations may not turn out as positive as ours did and we want to do our part in showing medical staff that there are truly happy endings to situations like this; the remarkable three-year-old boy that Eli has become today is proof of that! The magnitude of the genuine kindness that was shown to us in the Four Counties Emergency room as well as during our journey afterwards is still overwhelming to our family even to this day.

TOGETHER, WE  
**change**

FOUR COUNTIES HEALTH SERVICES FOUNDATION  
**TURN YOUR SPARE LOONIES AND TOONIES INTO SUPPORT FOR FCHS.**

## Volunteer Board Members

- Margaret Ann Wright - Chair
- Paula Downs - Vice Chair
- Mary Lou Ford
- Terry Eckersley
- Betty Ann MacKinnon
- Bob Hamilton
- Don Weekes
- Monte McNaughton
- Marigay Wilkins
- Mike Mazza - CEO
- Yvonne Lambert - MHA Board Rep
- Tom Appleton - SMGHF Rep
- Jackie Herdman - Aux rep
- Debbie Munn - Staff
- Martha Wortner - Staff

We truly appreciate all the support our Donors have given us over the years and would like to say, **Thank You!**

## New TV Rentals in Patient Rooms

Patients will be able to order a TV from their bedside. They are expected to be installed by April 2011.

Additional income for the foundation will be generated from the rental program.

# Leave Your Legacy

*Make a Difference Tomorrow...  
By Giving Today  
Please Help us Grow*



### MAY 2011 IS PLANNED GIVING MONTH!

FCHSF will kick-off PLANNED GIVING month with a free, educational seminar on estate planning with guest speakers, GARY R. MERRITT, a local lawyer, and BRUCE FAIRLES, a financial planner with RBC Wealth Management. The PLANNED GIVING seminar is scheduled for TUESDAY MAY 3, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M. The seminar will be held in the Auditorium at FCHS.

We all know that there is nothing more certain in life than TAXES and DEATH. The taxes we will leave to the accountants – but death is something we can all plan for. Although not an incredibly exciting or attractive subject to discuss, it is something that will befall all of us and it is important to ensure we don't leave our loved ones in the dark about our wishes and intentions after we're gone.

If you have thought about the legacy you wish to leave behind, whether to your family, friend or the local community, there isn't a better way to leave your legacy than with a bequest to your local hospital or non-charitable organization. Bequests are the gifts that keep giving and can make a significant impact on your community well after you are gone. Your bequests can be specific or general in nature – the decision is yours. And it doesn't matter the size! Nor does it have to be a cash bequest – did you know that you can bequest a security to your charity? What is important is that you are doing it!

If you are unsure how to plan your estate or how much is appropriate to leave as a bequest

or what the tax implications are for leaving a bequest, this Planning Giving seminar will give you a better idea as to WHAT steps you should take to ensure your personal matters are in order when the time comes and HOW you can go about doing it!

Not only will you receive free advice from a lawyer and a financial planner with respect to estate planning you will also have the opportunity to win a free will! Details to be disclosed at the seminar! You must be present at the seminar for this opportunity!

## The Many Ways of Giving

You can support FCHS Foundation by making a monthly donation. Monthly giving is an easy way to provide ongoing support for your community hospital.

**To make a donation or for more information please contact the foundation office.**

### OTHER WAYS YOU MAY WISH TO SUPPORT FCHSF

- Gift in kind
- Gift of cash
- Pledges
- Gifts in your will (bequests)
- Gifts of Life Insurance
- Gifts of security

**FCHS** Middlesex Hospital Alliance **FOUNDATION**

Serving Elgin · Kent · Lambton & Middlesex Counties

519-693-4441 ext: 2501 or 2438

[www.fchsfoundation.ca](http://www.fchsfoundation.ca)

## FCHS Welcomes New Site Director and NP



Catherine Kirk, born in Sudbury, is the new Site Director for Four Counties Health Services.

Catherine graduated from Sudbury Regional School of Nursing with her diploma in nursing then returned to Sudbury to complete her BScN at Laurentian University and her MScN at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut.

Catherine started her career as a nurse in the Emergency Department but also worked in Critical Care. Catherine went on to do the role of Nurse Educator for the ED and the CCU/ICU and then moved into the role of Nurse Manager of the ED, the ICU. Catherine has held positions of Supervisor for the hospital in Mississauga and the US0. Catherine has worked as the Director of Patient Services (in Kingston), Director of Medicine and Critical Care (at Quinte Healthcare) and Director of Oncology (at LRCP) and Vice President of Patient Services (in the US) and worked at Telehealth Ontario.

Catherine has worked in leadership positions in rural, community and tertiary hospitals over the years.

Catherine is a member of the Canadian Medical Delegation, a group of medical and professional volunteers who have been working in Yemen for the past four years to act as a resource to the government of Yemen in developing a program for cancer. Currently they have established one cancer centre for the 2,000,000 population and are also involved in educational endeavours for the medical, nursing and pharmacy students.

Catherine currently teaches internationally educated nurses at Fanshawe College. Her hobbies are swimming, skiing and travel.



Philip Daniels MN, NP-PHC, is a fulltime Nurse Practitioner (NP) at Four Counties Health Services. Phil recently completed his Masters of Nursing and Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner Certificate. "During my education I had the pleasure of a placement at Four Counties Health Services with Lisa Plank; it was an exceptional practice model and clinical experience. I am so pleased to now be working here at FCHS."

Prior to his NP training, Phil had seven years of nursing experience in an acute care teaching hospital, focused on primarily on cardiology. "My nurse practitioner program clinical experience has ranged from general family practice to practices that focused on prenatal care, paediatrics, diabetes counselling, smoking cessation, dietary counselling and rural medicine."

His Bachelor of Science in Nursing and his Masters of Nursing, Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner Program were both obtained at the University of Western Ontario.

## Royal Canadian Legion Charitable Foundation Grant For a Hill Rom Bed



Attending the presentation were Gerry Cross 2nd Vice-President Newbury Legion Br. 583, Nancy Maltby-Webster COO MHA, Margaret Ann Wright FCFS Foundation Board Chair, Debbie Rankin President Ladies Aux. Newbury Legion, Martha Wortner Administrative Assistant FCFS Foundation and Debbie Munn, Fundraising Developer FCFS Foundation.

The Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Provincial Command Branches and Ladies Auxiliaries Charitable Foundation presented FCFS Foundation with a cheque for \$7,389 towards the purchase of a Hill Rom Bed and have been in operation since 1981. Each year they review applications for medical equipment and research funding, award grants to community medical facilities and organizations across the province. This is the fifth such grant to be awarded to Four Counties. To date and including this grant, gifts from various local branches of the Legion, the Zone and the Foundation have totaled in excess of \$127,000 and we are most grateful for their support.

### Equipment Wish List

<b>FIVE VERSA CARE BEDS</b> required to finish the fleet replacement to allow new patient call system implementation	\$37,000
<b>NAVICARE NURSE CALL SYSTEM</b> associated with the new patient beds. The current call system is original to the hospital	\$43,000
<b>BLOOD BANK REFRIGERATOR</b> replacement used to store units for blood transfusions	\$3,500
<b>ULTRASOUND IMAGING ERGONOMIC TABLE</b> replacement that has many features to better meet patient needs	\$8,000
<b>ELECTROCARDIOGRAM MACHINE</b> replacement for outpatients and emergency patients experiencing chest pain	\$16,500

## FCHS Auxiliary Update

Interested in VOLUNTEERING at the Book Store OR Gift Shop?  
CALL Judy Peters at (519) 693-7111 Ext 2467



Despite the times we are in, the FCHS Auxiliary Gift Shop is happy to report another record breaking year again in 2010. New merchandise such as jewellery, scarves, ladies fashions and outdoor garden items has really spurred a new interest in the Gift Shop and this is evident in the sales. **The Gift Shop is currently open from 9:30-3:00, Monday to Friday VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

Even more of a surprise is the success of the Auxiliary's new "Gently Used" Book Store, which opened in March 2010 and is located at FCHS.

Gently read books are donated and then resold at excellent prices. The Book Store is staffed by more of the wonderful volunteers that FCHS is proud to have. It is **open Monday to Friday 9:30-2:30**. If you haven't seen the new book store, drop by and see our amazing variety of slightly used books, you'll be surprised. The Book Store also accepts your slightly read books. **VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

The Auxiliary Gift Shop continues to be an authorized dealer and installer of the **Personal Emergency Response Service "Lifecall"**. Lifecall is "Help at the press of a button". It is a wireless personal help response system that is worn at all times around the house, it provides individuals with 24/7 assistance. This is a real comfort and peace of mind for families of elderly

family members who are still independent and living on their own, they can now have the reassurance knowing that at the press of a simple button they and emergency response units can be notified in an emergency / security situation (break in or intruder). Lifecall has a two-way voice communication base unit that acts as a speaker phone in case the person cannot get to the phone due to an injury etc. Lifecall also has a built in handy medication reminder. Installation is free to our community members.

**For more information please call (519) 693-7111 Ext 2414 for more information or drop by the Gift Shop to see a demonstrator model. Now Servicing the Strathroy Area!**

To date, the FCHS Auxiliary has donated \$ 242,000 to the FCHS Foundation. The Auxiliary and the FCHS volunteers raise money through the Gift Shop & Book Store Sales, Raffles, NEVADA Ticket Sales, Bazaars, Bake Sales and Book Sales and it has never been stronger!

COMING EVENT: **Saturday April 30th** from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm at Four Counties Health Services it's the FCHS Auxiliary Spring Bazaar/Deli Lunch and Health Information Day.



Come out and see the wide selection of vendors including: Bake and Book Sales, Ladies Fashions, Accessories & Jewellery, Outdoor Garden Items, Plant Sale, Free Blood Glucose Screening, Fitness Demonstrations, Mental Health "Healthy Body Healthy Mind" booth, Kids Face Painting and BBQ Entertainment ideas & BBQ

Raffle tickets for your chance to win a new stainless steel BBQ, just in time for the grilling season!

## Events

### FCHS Auxiliary Spring Bazaar/Deli Lunch and Health Information Day

Four Counties Health Services

Saturday April 30  
9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Vendors, bake and book sale • Ladies fashions & jewellery, outdoor garden items and plant sale • Free Blood Glucose Screening • Fitness Demonstrations • Mental Health "Healthy Body Healthy Mind" booth • Kids Face Painting and BBQ • Entertainment ideas and BBQ raffle tickets

### Free Planned Giving Session (Estate Planning)

FCHS Auditorium

Tuesday May 3  
7:00 pm

GUEST SPEAKERS

**Gary R Merritt**

LAWYER

**Bruce Fairles**

FINANCIAL PLANNER RBC

Opportunity to win a free will. Must be present at the seminar for this opportunity.

**RSVP** to 519-693-4441

Ext 2501 if you are attending

### 17th Annual Golf Tournament

Wardsville Golf Club

Friday June 24  
Registration: 11:00 am  
Shotgun start: noon

\$90 per golfer includes 18 holes of golf, cart and dinner, format will be four person scramble

Hole-In-One Opportunities

Sponsorship Opportunities

Silent Auction

**For information contact the Foundation office**

## WIN CA\$H

Lottery Ticket Draws.  
Watch for upcoming details on our web site

[www.fchsfoundation.ca](http://www.fchsfoundation.ca)

Give us your Feedback about the Newsletter:  
[info.fchsfoundation@mha.tvh.ca](mailto:info.fchsfoundation@mha.tvh.ca)

## Four Counties Health Services Foundation

[www.fchsfoundation.ca](http://www.fchsfoundation.ca)

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