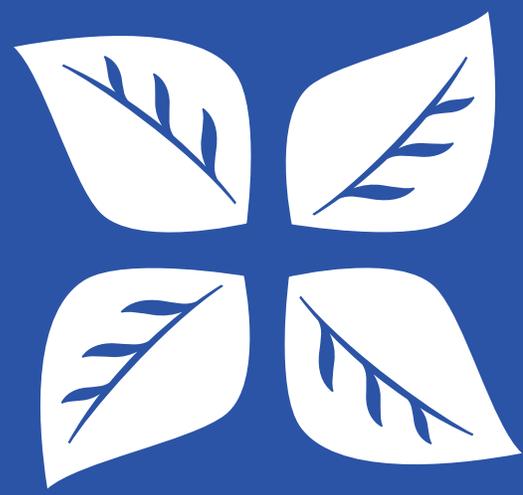


YOUR IMPACT

COVID-19 Response

Summer 2020



Dr. Andy Smith distributes meals donated to Sunnybrook front-line staff.

A MESSAGE FROM SUNNYBROOK'S PRESIDENT & CEO: YOU PLAY AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN THIS FIGHT

Unprecedented. This word has been used countless times to describe COVID-19. But Sunnybrook's response to the pandemic has been equally unprecedented. And it's because of you.

By giving generously to Sunnybrook's COVID-19 response, your support has been put to work immediately, helping to enable vital research that could fast-track improved diagnostics, vaccines and antivirals to impact how we treat COVID-19. You helped us save lives and change lives.

Thanks to your generosity, Sunnybrook has become a Canadian leader in COVID-19 research and care. From testing convalescent blood plasma to creating N95 masks made out of full-face snorkel masks, we are inventing the future of health care, all because of you. We are also finding ways to support our patients and staff through these challenging times with a number of initiatives that are only possible because of you. All this and more are detailed in this report. On behalf of all Sunnybrookers, I can't thank you enough for your generosity and friendship.

As the world begins to reopen, so too does our hospital. We are gradually getting back to business as usual, prioritizing patients in most urgent need of non-COVID care. But we remain ever vigilant, and thanks to you, we remain prepared. We are committed to doing everything in our power to find a treatment for COVID-19, so that we can all get back to what's important.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts,

Andy Smith, MD, MSc, FRCSC, FACS
President and CEO, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

“Your generous support is helping us fight back against COVID-19. On behalf of team Sunnybrook and all our patients, thank you.”

- Dr. Andy Smith, Sunnybrook's President & CEO



What's inside

03 By the numbers

At a glance: the impact of your tremendous generosity.

04 COVID-19 research

Your donations have supported a broad range of potentially life-saving research, including a number of promising treatments for COVID-19.

11 Equipping our staff

Read about how your support for Sunnybrook's COVID-19 response has funded innovative solutions to address the need for personal protective equipment (PPE).

12 Community response

You found countless creative ways to support Sunnybrook's COVID-19 response, from donating your hard-earned money to raising funds online. We highlight just a few here.

17 Messages of support

Read some of the messages you have sent to our staff online. Every day, your words of encouragement help us stay positive as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold.

18 Thank you

The two most important words in the English language. We are deeply grateful for all you have done to help Sunnybrook fight back against COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed life as we know it. We stayed home. Zoom, FaceTime and other video chat services became our lifelines. Maybe we rediscovered an old hobby, picked up a new one, or spent more time with our families. At the same time, some of us became caregivers. Others said goodbye to loved ones. These have been the most challenging of times, but we're coming together to help each other through it. Sunnybrook is treating some of the sickest patients while preparing for whatever the future may hold. And it's because of you.

From the earliest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, you have been there for us. You donated your hard-earned money to our research and care initiatives, and you found creative ways to raise funds for our hospital. Here are just a few of the amazing results of your generosity:



\$7 million+
raised for Sunnybrook's
COVID-19 Response
Fund



650,000+
pieces of personal
protective equipment
(PPE) donated



9,500+
donors came
together



6,000+
meals donated to 140
teams on all three
campuses



83
iPads purchased to
connect patients
to loved ones



30+
virtual fundraisers
held to support
Sunnybrook

While our front-line care providers treat our patients, our scientists are working on groundbreaking studies with the potential to stop this virus in its tracks. It's all possible because of your support.

Testing convalescent plasma to treat COVID-19

With your support, we are conducting a once-in-a-lifetime clinical trial to address a once-in-a-century pandemic

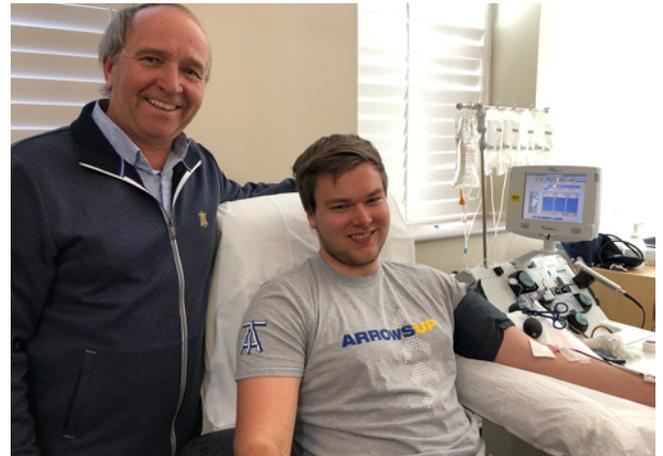
The Convalescent Plasma for COVID-19 Research (CONCOR-1) trial is a collaborative Canada-wide clinical trial, which Sunnybrook is coordinating across more than 50 Canadian medical centres. This trial tests a potentially life-saving treatment that involves taking plasma – the component of blood that contains antibodies – from people who have recovered from COVID-19. That plasma is then given to the most critically ill patients who are hospitalized with the virus.

Our hope is that antibodies found in the plasma of recovered patients will provide some relief during the COVID-19 pandemic until a vaccine is developed. This is a treatment that has been around for a century but never scientifically proven. Not only can we potentially save lives and improve recovery in the present day, but this could be a game changer in confronting the next pandemic, whenever it may come.

“This is a once-in-a-100-year opportunity to answer the question of whether convalescent plasma works in a pandemic. This is something that will be useful for our great-grandchildren when a pandemic eventually occurs again, and another scientific contribution Canada can take pride in during this global fight against COVID-19.”

– Dr. Jeannie Callum, Sunnybrook transfusion physician and co-leader of the CONCOR-1 trial

More than 500 Canadians who have recovered from COVID-19 have already donated their plasma, with more to come. Thanks to your early support for this potentially life-saving study, CONCOR-1 was recently awarded a \$3-million grant from the Canadian government. This would not have been possible without you. **Want to learn more? [Click here.](#)**



Richard with his son, Patrick, donating plasma.

Meet Richard

A married father of three grown sons, Richard never imagined an annual family ski trip to Colorado in late February – weeks before COVID-19 would be declared a global pandemic – would be the start of a journey that would see four of his five family members contract the virus.

Having made a full recovery a few weeks later, he became the first person in Toronto to donate his blood plasma as part of the CONCOR-1 trial.

Says Richard: “This could prove once and for all, without a shadow of doubt, that convalescent plasma is a treatment for viruses like COVID-19.”

But Richard wanted to do more than just participate in the trial. In a matter of weeks, Richard helped Sunnybrook Foundation to raise more than \$1 million toward CONCOR-1 in leadership gifts from BMO Financial Group, The Slight Family Foundation, Liu Fu Yu Charity Foundation, Don and Nita Reed, Kinross Gold Corporation, Middlefield Group and Amica Helping Hands Charity. He also chose to make a gift through his own family foundation to CONCOR-1.

Next, Richard plans to donate more of his own plasma and more of his own time to raising funds. **To read Richard’s full story, [click here.](#)**

Donor support builds on early Sunnybrook breakthroughs

Sunnybrook has been at the global forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic since the first Canadian case was identified, both clinically and on the research front.

Infectious diseases physician and microbiologist Dr. Samira Mubareka, along with clinical microbiologist Dr. Robert Kozak and a team of close collaborators, helped lead Sunnybrook's research response efforts since the earliest days of the pandemic.

Their work has been globally significant, leading to early implementation of a hospital-based COVID-19 test. Most crucially, on March 10, 2020, their team **isolated the agent responsible** for the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19.

The isolated virus is helping researchers in Canada to develop better diagnostic testing, treatments and vaccines, and gain a better understanding of the virus's biology, evolution and clinical shedding.

With these crucial tools in hand, some of Sunnybrook's most long-standing donors made leadership investments in this research and issued a challenge to our community to make gifts of their own. Your response was overwhelming, quickly helping to raise a total of over \$1.2 million.

Want to learn more? [Click here.](#)



“Early support showed you believed in us and the work we are doing. You made all the difference.”

– Dr. Samira Mubareka, infectious diseases physician and microbiologist

Your donations established a dedicated COVID-19 research team

Led by Dr. Samira Mubareka, an infectious diseases physician and microbiologist, the Sunnybrook Translational Research Group for Emerging and Respiratory Viruses (SERV) was established in March 2020 as a dedicated COVID-19 research response group with a \$1-million investment from QuestCap Inc. and an overwhelming number of gifts from across our community. Thanks to the ongoing generosity of our donors, Dr. Mubareka's team has been hard at work, and early results are promising across all three areas of SERV's research:

Virus transmission

SERV has launched a simulation study to better understand how SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, spreads in the environment. Study results are expected to be published soon and will help hospitals care for COVID-19 patients while protecting their health-care workers. The simulation allows for the research to take place in a safe and controlled way. **Learn more [here.](#)**

Treatments

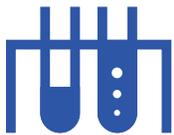
In recent months, the team has ramped up research in a Level 3 containment lab, which is a high-security area located at the University of Toronto designed to study viruses. Thanks to donor support, the team is actively screening anti-viral drugs in cells, and work is underway to write up protocols for preclinical studies so the team can start testing drugs and vaccines.

Genomics

SERV's donor-funded work to sequence the virus's genetic code has brought Sunnybrook's genomics research into the spotlight internationally. The ability to genetically sequence large amounts of SARS-CoV-2 samples rapidly will paint a picture of how the virus is transmitted. With this information in hand, we can create predictive modeling that will allow policy makers to make life-saving public health decisions.



\$500,000
granted to the most
promising COVID-19
research initiatives



60+
COVID-19 research
projects underway at
Sunnybrook

Donor funds launch internal COVID-19 research competition

Thanks to your support, grants have been made to five high-impact studies

Five Sunnybrook research projects have been awarded grants by the COVID-19 Research Initiative, an internal funding opportunity created by Sunnybrook Research Institute and funded by the generosity of donors who supported the COVID-19 Response Fund.

The competition, which provides grants of up to \$100,000 for COVID-19 related research, was established to support the significant research response to COVID-19 at Sunnybrook and the extraordinary generosity of our community.

In total, more than 60 COVID-related research projects have been initiated at Sunnybrook since March. The projects supported through this fund aim to make a quick and substantive impact in better understanding the virus or proposing solutions to the challenges posed by the pandemic.

A virtual care program for COVID-19 patients recovering at home

A new research program is helping Sunnybrook patients with COVID-19 who have mild to moderate symptoms manage their recoveries at home, providing support by phone or video.

“We created COVIDEO because we didn’t want to notify our patients at home that they’ve tested positive for COVID-19, and then abandon them. It’s important that they still have access to a support system and close clinical monitoring,” says Dr. Nick Daneman, the study’s principal investigator.

The COVIDEO team has already cared for nearly 400 patients and is planning a province-wide study to measure the effectiveness of this program in improving outcomes for patients with COVID-19. Donor support for this initiative will help solve urgent questions during the pandemic and address the pressing need to understand the physical and mental well-being of COVID-19 survivors.

Learn more about COVIDEO [here](#).



This is what the future of care for recovered COVID-19 patients could look like, thanks to your support. Pictured: In person: Dr. Philip Lam. Virtually: Dr. Nisha Andany (top right), Dr. Nick Daneman (bottom right), Aimee Santoro (nurse practitioner, bottom left).

How does COVID-19 affect the brain?

A team of Sunnybrook researchers has launched a promising new study to investigate how COVID-19 impacts the brain.

“We know from early case reports in China that about 30 to 40 per cent of hospitalized patients had neurological symptoms,” says Dr. Simon Graham, neuroimaging scientist and the study’s principal investigator.

Dr. Graham, alongside his research team at Sunnybrook and collaborators at Baycrest, will study the neurological impact of COVID-19 through the use of clinical assessments and MRI images of the brain in recovered COVID-19 patients. “In addition to raising awareness of this issue among doctors and in the public,” says Dr. Graham, “the study will also allow us to direct patients in need towards neurointerventions and treatments as early as possible.”

Learn more about the study [here](#).



It takes a team this big to care for the sickest COVID-19 patients. With your support, we’re learning more about how the virus affects all areas of the body including the brain.

How does COVID-19 damage the heart?

A new Sunnybrook study will aim to better understand the prevalence and predictors of heart damage in recovered COVID-19 patients.

Using cardiac MRI images, researchers will investigate the mechanism of injury causing heart damage – such as heart attack, inflammation of the heart or disease of the heart muscle. The study will also look at who is at risk for developing each form of heart damage by examining associated risk factors, such as diabetes or high blood pressure.

“With a better understanding of the mechanisms and predictors of myocardial injury, we can better treat affected patients and screen patients who are most at risk for developing heart damage,” says Dr. Idan Roifman, the study’s principal investigator and a scientist in the Schulich Heart Research Program.



A doctor on Sunnybrook's COVID-19 Unit takes a patient's vitals. We are learning more about how the virus affects the heart, thanks to your support.

Can blood thinners reduce the burden of disease in COVID-19?

Sunnybrook has launched a new study to determine whether patients who are already taking blood thinners while diagnosed with COVID-19 fare better than those who are not.

“There is emerging evidence that, in addition to inflammation in the body, the SARS-CoV-2 virus also causes clotting, says Dr. Clare Atzema. “The goal of the study is to determine whether being on a therapeutic dose of a blood thinner when diagnosed with COVID-19 leads to a milder course of the disease.”

Dr. Atzema’s team will measure outcomes such as blood clots, pneumonia, intensive care unit admissions and mortality in patients who were on a blood thinner at the time of diagnosis and those who weren’t. “If it turns out that people on a blood thinner at the time of a COVID-19 diagnosis fare better, it provides evidence that we may want to start patients with a COVID-positive result on a blood thinner, at least for a short time.”



Caring for critically ill patients is tough work. With donor funds, we'll investigate how patients on blood thinners are impacted by the virus.



With a grant from donor funds to Sunnybrook’s COVID-19 research, our scientists are determining how best to care for cancer patients during the pandemic.

How can we help cancer patients with delayed surgical interventions due to COVID-19?

To prepare for the expected surge in COVID-19 cases, hospitals across the world postponed thousands of elective or non-emergency operations – including many cancer surgeries. Sunnybrook was no exception.

Although surgery is typically the first line of treatment for many of these patients, oncologists like Sunnybrook’s Dr. Kelvin Chan looked to cancer therapies, such as chemotherapy, as a possible bridge to surgery in cases where surgical interventions were put on hold.

With donor funds, Dr. Chan and his research team are launching a study to investigate whether drug treatments typically meant to follow the primary treatment (in this case surgery) are safe and effective when given before surgery. Says Dr. Chan: We hope the lessons from this study will help inform our teams with interim decision making and also help cancer patients in Ontario and beyond.”

Sunnybrook playing leading role in major studies to test treatments for COVID-19

Sunnybrook is at the forefront of Canadian charge in World Health Organization-led clinical trial

Sunnybrook is the lead hospital for Canadian Treatments for COVID-19 (CATCO), part of the unprecedented World Health Organization Solidarity trial, to test the effectiveness of different drugs and drug combinations in patients hospitalized with COVID-19.

“The combination of medications we’ll be using have shown promise in preclinical work, and we’ve already started enrolling patients,” says Dr. Rob Fowler, critical care physician and chief of the Tory Trauma Program at Sunnybrook.

Sunnybrook is sponsoring the CATCO trial and helping to coordinate it across all Canadian hospitals. Results from the trial will give doctors the scientifically backed information they need about which drugs can be used to treat the virus in a way that is safe for patients. Current treatment options for COVID-19 are limited to providing supportive care, such as ventilators.

Leading a trial aimed at protecting our front-line care providers

Together with University Health Network and several other hospitals, Sunnybrook is assessing an antimalarial drug’s ability to prevent coronavirus infections in front-line staff. Keeping our front-line workers safe and healthy is a critical piece of stopping the spread of COVID-19, and making sure we can stay healthy to treat the patients who count on us for care.

Called the HEalth Care Worker pROphylaxis (HEROs) Trial, it’s one of the world’s first randomized controlled studies of hydroxychloroquine, an antimalarial drug, to prevent coronavirus infections in essential front-line staff.

The HEROs study aims to evaluate whether this drug, taken before and during exposure to patients sick with COVID-19 can reduce COVID-19 infections among staff. The study will enroll staff from five hospitals in Toronto.

If results of this study are positive, this has the potential to greatly benefit the health-care system on all levels: individually, institutionally, nationally and around the world.

Sunnybrook Foundation hosts virtual panel discussions on COVID-19 research

Heard conflicting information about how long it might take to develop a vaccine for COVID-19? Feeling concerned about a second wave? Wondering whether household pets can spread the virus? You’re not alone.

These questions and more were answered candidly by some of Sunnybrook’s top experts during a series of virtual panel discussions hosted by Sunnybrook Foundation.

We answered some of your most urgent questions, including those about vaccine safety and controlling community spread in big cities. Anticipating a second wave of infection in Canada was top of mind, as was a potential new treatment for COVID-19 involving blood plasma from recovered COVID-19 patients.

If you couldn’t participate, you can watch the complete recorded discussions [here](#).

So much of Sunnybrook’s innovative research into COVID-19 has been made possible thanks to the extraordinary generosity of donors. Sunnybrook is deeply grateful for all you are doing to support us as we work around the clock in the fight against COVID-19.



A walker is prepared for a patient.



40%
of those hospitalized
with **COVID-19** will need
rehabilitation



4,000+
this means that of the **10,000+**
Canadians hospitalized with
the virus, **4,000** will need
rehabilitation

Your donations help launch study in rehabilitation for COVID-19 survivors

Your generosity is helping our COVID-19 patients get their lives back on track

COVID-19 can have a devastating effect on our respiratory and nervous systems, as well as muscles and other organs. Some patients are bedridden for weeks, and many survivors find it difficult to return to daily life.

Sunnybrook's St. John's Rehab Centre is one of the few rehabilitation centres in Canada that has taken an active role in rehabilitation after COVID-19. We have led the field by creating a dedicated COVID-19 unit for patients who have spent weeks in the hospital after severe infections. These patients have ranged in age from their 20s to their 90s and could not get home without rehabilitation. When they are prepared to leave, discharges have been celebrated. At the same time, rehabilitation for these patients is new and complex. While St. John's is helping to lead the way, there is still much to learn in order to help patients across the country and the world.

That's why we're so grateful for your support, which is helping launch a comprehensive study that will provide in-depth insight into the challenges, successes, facilitators and barriers to supporting COVID-19 patients as they move across the continuum of care. Our goals are to better understand how best to support COVID-19 patients as they recover, and based on that information, develop a set of guidelines to help health-care providers across Canada and the world care for patients who have recovered from COVID-19.

[Click here](#) to view a video about one of the patients whose life has been touched by your generosity. For the past four years, shortness of breath and fatigue muted Trevor Annon's singing. Then he was diagnosed with COVID-19. At St. John's Rehab, he rebuilt his strength, endurance and independence.

Donor funds enable in-house production of PPE

Sunnybrook scientists testing two N95 mask alternatives, thanks to donor support

With N95 masks in limited supply worldwide, Sunnybrook scientists are developing an alternative form of the personal protective equipment using a modified full-face snorkel mask, should the need arise. We are doing so thanks to donor funds for specialized equipment involved in production, with special thanks to the Azrieli Foundation and Murphy Family Foundation.

“This is an unprecedented time that is highlighting the need for innovative solutions to the challenges health-care workers are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic,” says Dr. Brian Courtney, a cardiologist, engineer and scientist at Sunnybrook.

Dr. Courtney is working with engineer and interventional cardiologist fellow at Sunnybrook Dr. Brian Li. Both are leading teams of engineers, entrepreneurs and physicians in developing and testing the N95 alternative, as well as tie-back surgical masks that can be made in-house.

Drs. Courtney and Li, along with their teams, are currently testing their designs using the same rigorous testing requirements for existing N95 and surgical masks.

As an N95 alternative, a full-face snorkel mask provides shielded protection of the eyes, nose and mouth from the surrounding environment. Using 3D printing techniques, the stem snorkel at the top of the mask is replaced by an adapter that fits widely available ventilator cartridges to filter particles in the same manner as N95 masks. The masks and adapter would be sterilized and reused, and the cartridges would be thrown out after each use.

Once testing is complete, if the worst should happen and the hospital runs out of N95 masks, thanks to donor-funded equipment we can produce these masks in-house immediately.

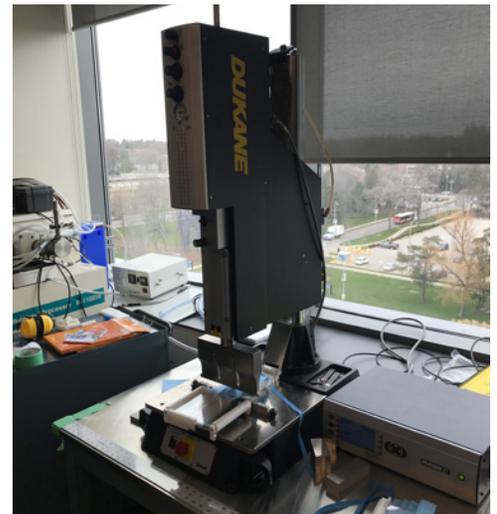
Your generosity is helping keep our staff and patients safe. [Click here](#) for a short video on Facebook.

Reprocessing used N95 masks safely

Thanks to a specialized UV sterilizer funded by your generous support for Sunnybrook’s COVID-19 response, we are inventing a new system to safely repurpose used N95 masks should the need arise. With a shortage of PPE across the health-care system, your support for these innovations is deeply appreciated. N95 masks will be sterilized in our Medical Devices Reprocessing Centre, where equipment such as surgical instruments are reprocessed every day. [Click here](#) to view a short video on how the process works and why we have taken this step.



Sunnybrook scientists have designed an N95 mask alternative out of a full-face snorkel mask.



This special welding machine was purchased with donor funds to make masks in-house.



Surgical masks produced in-house from donor-funded equipment.

Ever since the earliest days of Canada’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, you have stepped up to support our front-line staff and patients in every way possible. From giving your hard-earned money to our COVID-19 Response Fund, donating PPE or holding virtual fundraisers to benefit Sunnybrook, you have been there for us. Thank you.

Donors step up and match funds pledged for COVID-19 research and care

Sunnybrook’s COVID-19 response efforts have received tremendous support thanks to your generosity. From the earliest days, you have answered our plea to help us find a treatment for COVID-19.

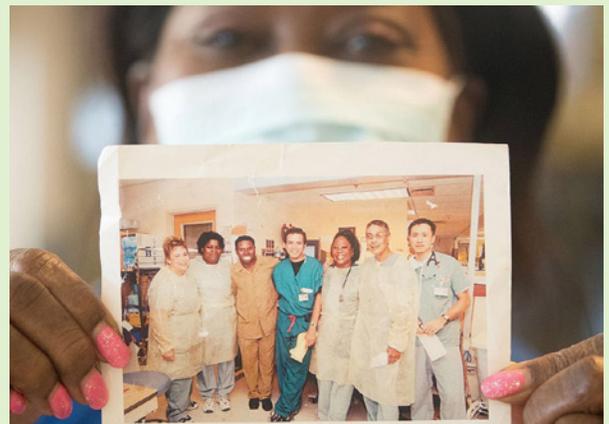
At the outset of the pandemic in Canada, The Nanji Family Foundation and The E. & G. Odette Foundation each pledged \$100,000 to match community donations to Sunnybrook’s COVID-19 research and care. You responded swiftly and generously, with 1,200 donors from across the GTA, Ontario and Canada contributing a remarkable \$209,000.

Three more donors have stepped up with matches of their own as well. The Liu Fu Yu Charity Foundation matched community gifts up to \$200,000 and Don and Nita Reed up to \$100,000, while eBay Canada matched gifts between \$10-\$100 made via its Gifts That Give Back program to Sunnybrook from the end of April through the month of May. Proceeds from all three matches have supported Sunnybrook’s COVID-19 research.

In the ongoing fight against COVID-19, donor funds are essential. Your gifts give the hospital the ability to direct resources to where they’re needed most. Thank you.



\$7 million+
raised for Sunnybrook’s
COVID-19 response



Meet Brenda

Registered Nurse Brenda Mayers holds a photo taken in our Critical Care Unit around the time of the 2003 Toronto SARS outbreak. Seventeen years later, she is working in the same unit during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Having worked through challenging times in past, she offers some personal words of advice to her colleagues: “Continue to do what you do best by providing quality care for our patients, and throughout your darkest days, light appears.”

She describes the SARS crisis as a frightening and difficult time, but she says that teamwork was key to getting through it together. She also recalls the leadership of critical care physician Dr. Cameron Guest, who she says was instrumental in keeping the calm.

In the photo, left to right: Barb Cox RN (retired), Cecile Frank-Davis PSP (now works in CVICU), Michael “Pinball” Clemons (Toronto Argonauts general manager), a CRCU resident, Brenda Mayers RN, Vince Phillips PSP, and a CRCU resident.

Community rallies to provide meals and snacks for Sunnybrook staff

Your generosity is helping fuel our staff on the front lines of the pandemic

Over the past few months, Sunnybrook has received an overwhelming number of offers from the community to help deliver meals to our people while at work. A committee quickly came together with representatives from across the hospital to ensure your generosity was put to use in the safest and most efficient way possible.

Thanks to you, we have now delivered a remarkable 6,000 meals to Sunnybrook staff across 140 teams on all three campuses and two sites. Here's what just a few of our staff members wanted to say to you:

“On behalf of the staff at the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre Neurovascular Unit, I want to thank you for the kindness and thoughtfulness to donate the delicious meals to our unit. We all enjoyed them so much and felt the love and support.”

- Florence, Patient Care Manager, Neurovascular Unit

“Everyone was extremely touched by your thoughtfulness and generosity. The meals were delicious and much enjoyed!”

- Lucy, Project Manager, Holland Bone & Joint Centre

“Thank you for providing us with a lovely meal to recognize our hard work. We truly appreciate the gesture. The food was great!”

- Seema, Nurse, Cardiac Intensive Care Unit

“The warm pasta lunch was excellent and was certainly appreciated by our team. This act really reflects the wonderful generosity and support of our communities for front-line health-care workers and everyone who is navigating this challenging time. We appreciate your support and all that you are doing to help brighten the day of the many teams working together to get through this difficult time.”

- Carolyn, Manager, Working Condition Program, Holland Bone & Joint Centre

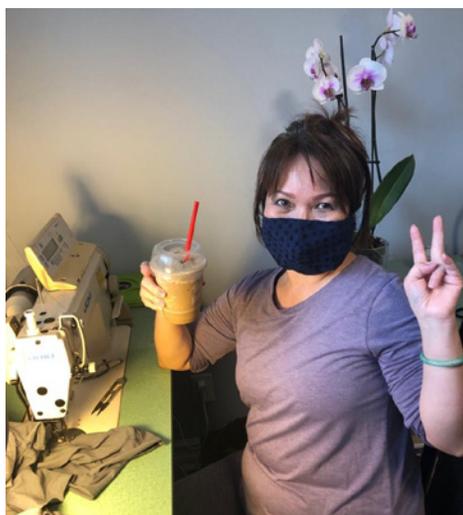


6,000+
meals delivered to
front-line staff



140
teams fed across all three
campuses and two sites

Staff around the hospital have enjoyed delicious, hot meals at work thanks to your generous support.



As many as 30 staff members from the alterations department at Holt Renfrew store locations in the GTA used their fine skills to create and donate reusable masks to Sunnybrook. So far, they have produced an incredible 12,500 masks for Sunnybrook.

650,000+
pieces of PPE donated
to Sunnybrook, including
12,500 hand-sewn masks

Community answers call to donate masks and other PPE to help keep Sunnybrook safe

To help nurses, doctors and other front-line health professionals combat COVID-19, Sunnybrook desperately needs equipment to keep us and our patients safe. That's why we issued a plea to the community to donate unused and unopened masks, gowns and eye protection to those who need it most. Your response was overwhelmingly positive, demonstrating the giving spirit of our community during these unprecedented times.

Already, over half a million pieces of protective gear have been donated to Sunnybrook, where it's most needed. With a limited supply of PPE across Ontario, Canada and the world, donations like these are both critically important and deeply appreciated.

To everyone who has contributed personalized protective equipment ranging from specialized N95 masks to surgical gowns, hand sanitizer, goggles and surgical masks, our front-line staff couldn't be more grateful.

iPads purchased to connect patients in hospital with loved ones

Early on in the pandemic, hospitals across the world – including Sunnybrook – took the necessary step of restricting visitors. This made finding new ways to connect our patients to their loved ones even more important.

You recognized this need and acted swiftly. Spearheaded by Toronto law firm Wildeboer Dellelce, our donors created a special initiative to bring iPads and tablets to patients receiving care at Sunnybrook. Now hospitalized patients can communicate “face-to-face” over video with loved ones. Each iPad and tablet will have a waterproof cover that will be cleaned and sterilized between uses.



A social worker in Sunnybrook's Schulich Heart Program was recently able to connect one of her patients with his spouse using an iPad so they could celebrate their 49th wedding anniversary. The couple was thrilled to be able to see each other on the screen. This kind act was made possible through the generosity of a group of donors who saw a need and came together to help.

83 iPads and tablets have been purchased to date to connect our patients to their loved ones.

Coming together while staying apart

How our community is going above and beyond to raise funds virtually for COVID-19 research at Sunnybrook

Valued members of our community – of all ages – continue to come together in new and creative ways to support Sunnybrook’s fight against COVID-19. Here are just a few recent inspiring examples of philanthropy in action.

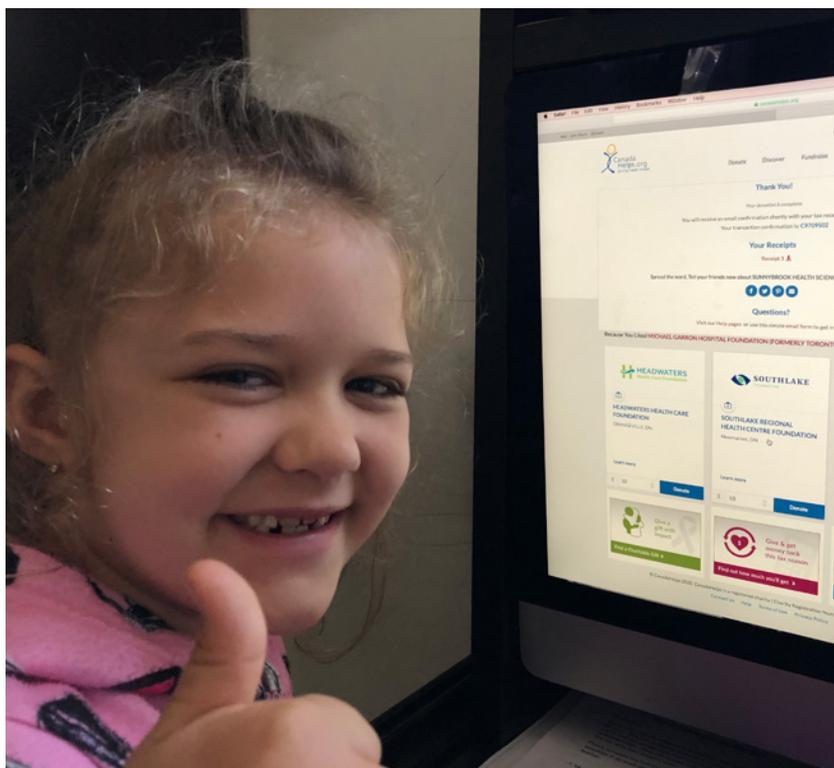
To find out how to turn your next virtual hangout with family and friends into a fundraiser, click [here](#). Thank you for coming together to support Sunnybrook when it matters most.



30+
Virtual fundraising events held to benefit Sunnybrook



\$30,000+
Raised to date through virtual fundraisers



When Jade’s grandmother offered her a dime a pine cone to help clean up the yard, the six-year-old jumped at the chance. Over the next two days, Jade collected 725 pine cones and decided to donate the proceeds to Sunnybrook’s COVID-19 research response. Jade is thrilled. “It felt really good to donate, because maybe I’ll get to see all my family and friends again. I want to hug someone besides my mom, dad and sisters!”



While eight-year-old Isaac eagerly awaits his allowance every week, he recently had a very specific plan for his earnings. “I don’t like hearing about people hurting,” he says. “I heard that Sunnybrook was looking for a vaccine for COVID-19, so I gave money to them for more research.”



In just a few short weeks, Micah has raised \$1,600 for Sunnybrook's COVID-19 response fund, selling paintings for \$10 each. Micah is supporting COVID-19 relief efforts because he wants to help save lives and, like a lot of kids, because he desperately misses his friends.



Childhood friends Abbey, 18, Brooke, 17, and Eva, 18, have quickly become video conferencing experts, and decided to transform a recent chance to connect virtually into a fun fundraising event. Hosting a virtual slumber party, they encouraged friends to buy tickets and spent the night together playing games, eating junk food and connecting with each other – all while raising more than \$550 for Sunnybrook's COVID-19 Response Fund to support those on the front lines of the pandemic.



The Bayview-York Mills Chinese Community (BYCC), a community group that supports each other online, raised an impressive \$71,866 in 48 hours to support the purchase of an advanced portable ventilator that will help treat critically ill patients with COVID-19 at Sunnybrook. This generous gift is a perfect example of what is possible when people unite around a common goal.



99-year old George is walking around the path in his retirement home's garden over 1,500 times, totalling 100 kilometers. Concerned about how future pandemics might affect his three great-grandchildren, George aims to raise \$100,000 for vital research by his 100th birthday next spring.

Messages of support

You have sent over 1,000 messages online to our staff. Here are just a few of the beautiful messages you sent us, and the faces of just a few of the people your words, and generosity, have touched over the course of this pandemic.

Thank you to all hospital workers for risking your health to keep us all safe! You are our brave warriors!



Thank you to our amazing front-line medical teams. You doctors, scientists, nurses and all the health-care and essential workers are our heroes and angels on earth. We love you and appreciate all you're doing for us!



Can't thank you all enough for risking your lives every single day to take care of the rest of the world. Praying you have the protective gear you need to keep yourselves and your families safe. Lots of love.



Thank you all for that you do. You are the reason that Canadians are staying home and hopeful!

Words cannot express my gratitude to everyone in Sunnybrook. I owe you my life, as do many, many others. Please stay strong and healthy during these difficult times.



We Appreciate You!



Times are hard but you make everything possible. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication during this pandemic. Thank you for fighting for all of us. Your efforts are always noticed. You matter. You are important. You are so, so appreciated. Thank you Team Sunnybrook!



Thank you for all the sacrifices you make to help the lives of others! Not all heroes wear capes...

Your words of encouragement truly help keep us going. Thank you!

Thank you

Your support for Sunnybrook's COVID-19 response is helping us save lives today while preparing for tomorrow. We are deeply grateful for and humbled by your overwhelming generosity and your fighting spirit. Your support, whether you donated or raised funds online, truly helps keep us going as we fight the daily battles that we hope will eventually win the war against COVID-19.

Thank you to everyone for your support. Together is how we're going to win.