

The Heart of the East

Newsletter



Lydia and her family today

Taking care of our tiniest patients

How donors like you provide compassionate care for families' unique needs

The Special Care Nursery was bright and home-like, and the staff were phenomenal at knowing when we needed encouragement, or extra support."

– Kristin, grateful parent

When Lydia arrived three months early, her parents Kristin and Matthew steadied themselves for the challenges of a high-needs premature baby. But that was just the beginning.

In May of 2018, Matthew was applying for college teaching positions around the province. Days after Lydia was born, he accepted a position in London, Ontario, two hours from their current home.

While trying to spend as much time as possible with their baby in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), the new parents began the process of selling their Niagara-area home and preparing for their move. They requested Lydia be transferred to a hospital in London as soon as possible.

In July, they received the sudden news that their newborn was being moved to a hospital – not to one in London as requested but to one in Toronto – Michael Garron Hospital. A bed was available that was better suited to Lydia's changing needs.

Kristin and Matthew had never heard of Michael Garron Hospital. With no family or support system in Toronto, they arrived feeling more overwhelmed than ever. They had no where to stay and felt like they had no one to turn to for help.

That's when the couple experienced the exceptional care our hospital provides.

The staff took care of the new parents right away, arranging for them to stay onsite in the Care by Parent room for Lydia's entire NICU stay. It was such a relief to not worry about where they would sleep. And, on that very first day, Kristin and Matthew were overjoyed to see that Lydia was no longer on oxygen and ready to progress from tube feeding to breastfeeding. The team at Michael Garron Hospital thought Lydia was ready to take these leaps and Kristin and Matthew were able to hold Lydia for the very first time without any tubes or wires in the way.

Lydia was discharged on August 16th, her due date. This was months earlier than her previous care teams had projected. Her parents believe the outstanding care she received is the reason they were able to take their baby home months sooner.

Today, Lydia is a happy, healthy, intelligent child who, according to her kindergarten teacher, radiates positivity and joy. When Lydia turned five this spring, Kristin and Matthew knew exactly how they wanted to celebrate the milestone. They gave a special gift to Michael Garron Hospital. It was in thanks to the hospital and to donors who make exceptional healthcare possible.

This family experienced the intimacy of care that donors make possible. By giving, they know other families will experience the same compassionate healthcare when they need it most.

A warm welcome to Melanie Kohn!

“Michael Garron Hospital stands out in the province as a special place that is truly integrated into the fabric of the community.”

- Michael Garron Hospital President and CEO, Melanie Kohn



**Melanie Kohn, President and CEO
of Michael Garron Hospital**

We are delighted to announce Melanie Kohn as President and CEO of Michael Garron Hospital.

Melanie is a lifelong learner with a passion for supporting the next generation of healthcare leaders. She joins Michael Garron Hospital with more than 20 years' experience as a health systems leader, most recently serving as Assistant Deputy Minister of Hospitals and Capital Division in the Ontario Ministry of Health.

Melanie has deep admiration for our hospital's close connection to our community. "It is the passion and genuine connection that people feel for this community that inspired me to join this organization," she says. "At Michael Garron Hospital, people are part of something bigger than themselves."

Melanie aims to create and foster welcoming, caring and respectful experiences for patients and families – and to remove barriers so that those providing care can do their best work every day.

A lasting legacy of care

My personal thank you to the heart
of our community

by Gary Grant, legacy donor and volunteer

It's impossible for me to think of my East Toronto upbringing without thinking of Michael Garron Hospital. It's a familiar place, as various sports injuries landed me in the hospital countless times over the years!

After high school, I wanted a career that allowed me to help people in my community. I joined the Toronto Police Service.

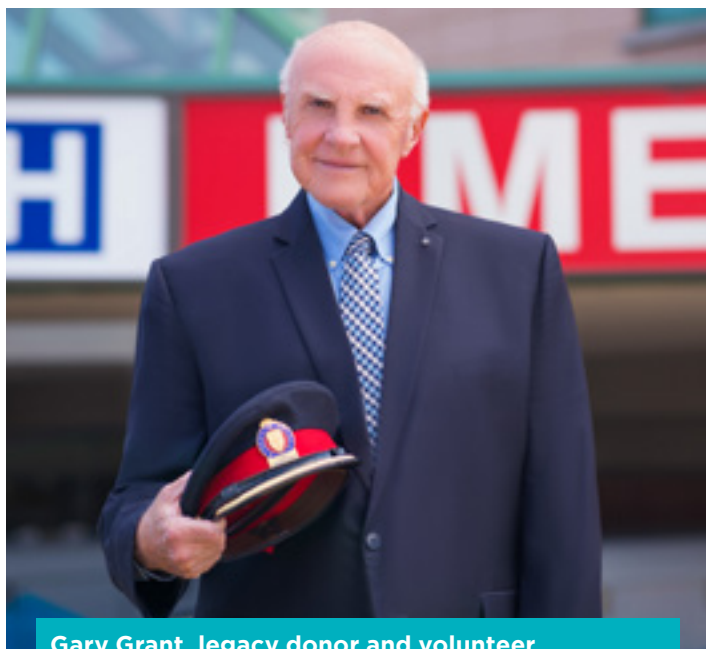
As you can imagine, police and hospital emergency departments are closely tied together in a crisis. I saw Michael Garron Hospital's teams provide compassionate care to every person who came through the doors.

But I relied on Michael Garron Hospital like never before when I needed surgery for a cancerous lump in my neck. And I got the same outstanding care that I'd witnessed throughout my career.

I jumped at the chance to give back to the place that meant so much to me and my community when I learned about the impact leaving a gift in my will could have here.

I'd always assumed estate gifts, like those folks include in their will, are only for the very wealthy. But I discovered I can provide for my kids and still leave a donation as my personal thank you.

Including Michael Garron Hospital in my will feels like life has come full-circle. Even after I'm gone, I'll be taking care of people in my community. And that's the job I originally set out to do.



Gary Grant, legacy donor and volunteer



Dr. Lawrence Weisbrod and Dr. Charlotte Wedge with a new donor-funded ophthalmic microscope

Setting our sights on providing the best eye care

How your gifts put the right tools in the best hands

The department of ophthalmology at Michael Garron Hospital is the leading community-based provider of medical and surgical eye care in the GTA. Our diverse team of surgeons help patients of all ages to see better, performing delicate, sight-saving procedures such as cataract and glaucoma surgeries, cornea transplants, and strabismus surgery to correct crossed eyes. Over 3,000 cataract surgeries alone are performed each year to restore patients' vision.

Many of these procedures are so intricate that they're called microsurgeries, requiring specialized high-resolution operating microscopes.

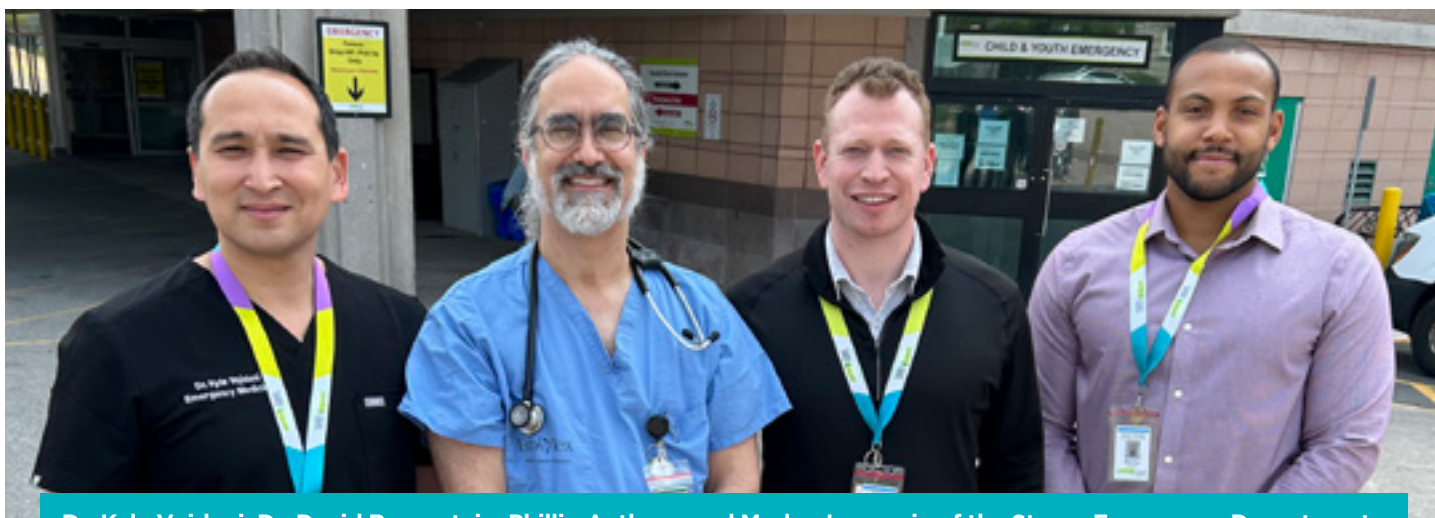
Did you know what a vital role you play in our commitment to providing excellent microsurgical care?

It's true – funding for specialized equipment such as this comes entirely from donors like you, who are changing lives.

Two new donor-funded ophthalmic microscopes and viewing systems were purchased this year. Our clinicians are now even better equipped to provide the best possible care to manage the eye care needs of our community.

"Thank you to all the donors of Michael Garron Hospital for allowing our department the ability to provide efficient, thoughtful and vision enhancing care for the community of East Toronto and beyond."

- Dr. Weisbrod MD, FRCSC – Chief of Ophthalmology



Dr. Kyle Vojdani, Dr. David Rosenstein, Phillip Anthony and Marlon Imasogie of the Stavro Emergency Department

Your giving in action: taking care in the Stavro Emergency Department

How donors help create innovation at Michael Garron Hospital

Our Stavro Emergency Department (ED) is experiencing the busiest year in our history. But thanks to donors like you, ED patients will receive more comfortable, convenient emergency care.

Michael Garron Hospital Foundation's Impact Council is a group of young professionals who raise funds for urgent hospital priorities. After hearing from hospital staff about projects needing funding, the Impact Council decided to focus on ED enhancements.

The group raised funds with their inaugural "East End Eats" event. Impact Council Co-chair Ariana Mussato is thrilled that the initiative will make an impact, but points out how vital ongoing community support is.

"We wanted to make a positive difference in our community by supporting the excellent care at

Michael Garron Hospital," she says. "It's exciting to see the results of our fundraising, and we look forward to supporting more projects in the future."

The funding is launching three innovative pilot projects in the ED:

- A **virtual waiting room** will allow patients to wait more comfortably at home or in other hospital areas and receive a phone notification when it's their turn to be seen.
- Our **improved triage system** will include physicians who can arrange pain medications and diagnostic imaging as soon as patients arrive.
- A new **wait time clock** will allow patients to see current wait times so they can better plan their visit.

"The Impact Council's support could not have come at a better time," says Dr. Kyle Vojdani, Stavro Emergency Department Chief and Medical Director. "It's helping us modernize the ED experience for our patients and staff."




These enhancements highlight our ongoing commitment to evolve alongside the diverse, changing needs of our vibrant community. We're grateful for donors like you who share our vision of community-inspired care.

For more information:

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