



Dear

***“You never know when your health will fail”***

Prior to 2019, Roger Wilson never had many reasons to visit St. Francis Memorial Hospital. As an active retiree and avid outdoorsman, he was the picture of good health.

But things took a turn in October 2019 when Roger started chemotherapy for his recently diagnosed multiple myeloma. A month later, he began having complications with gout and became extremely weak. Roger was rushed to St. Francis Memorial Hospital, where he was assessed, and quickly transferred to Ottawa. There, he underwent open heart surgery for a triple bypass.

Returning to his home hospital to heal, Roger required the use of a VAC Therapy System, a specialized piece of equipment that helped keep his wound from surgery clean and sterile.

“I was really impressed with it,” Roger said, confident that the system greatly sped up his healing. “It wasn’t uncomfortable to wear. ***It’s one of the reasons I’m still alive.***”

Unfortunately, during Roger’s stay at St. Francis, he faced a setback.

His health deteriorated to a point where he stayed at the Madawaska Valley Hospice for six weeks. Thanks to the care of staff and specialized medical equipment, he was able to recover, returned home and learned how to walk again. Today, a little more than a year after his health took a turn; Roger has a lot to be thankful for. He is taking part in everything he used to enjoy before his health complications, including a recent turkey hunting trip. Roger is especially grateful for having had the ***chance to heal locally.***

***“You never know when your health will fail,”*** Roger reflected. ***“You can be in perfect health like I was for years then all of a sudden... your life changes and you rely on local healthcare to heal.”***



***Roger was thankful that he could see his wife Dorothy every day while he healed at St. Francis.***



***Give the Gift of Healing this Christmas***



*"It is invaluable to us as a Hospital to have new equipment like a VAC Therapy system, overbed tables, bedside chairs as well as a critical upgrade to our pharmacy dispensing unit. Without these vital pieces of equipment located in the medical unit of St. Francis Memorial Hospital, we simply could not function to our high standards or have the ability to allow patients to heal close to home." – Dr. Jason Malinowski*



*Roger with his family physician, Dr. Jason Malinowski.*

Throughout Roger's journey at St. Francis Memorial Hospital, he required many pieces of equipment to support his recovery. The **VAC Therapy System for wound healing, the dispensing unit for medication, the overbed tables for meals, and patient chairs** where his loved ones would watch over him, were vital to his journey.

All of these pieces of equipment, which are critical to patient care in the medical unit, need to be updated and/or replaced.

We count ourselves extremely fortunate to have loyal donors **like you** who continue to demonstrate your dedication and commitment to the Hospital in a meaningful way throughout the year. We know that without support like yours for equipment like a new VAC Therapy System, an upgrade to the medication dispensing unit, new overbed tables and patient chairs, the medical care we have come to know and expect at St. Francis just could not be delivered.

That is why we hope that when you are making your Christmas list this year, you will also consider giving the Gift of Healing this Christmas with your support of **\$25, \$50, or \$100** to local healthcare.

The Wilsons were thankful for the staff who became like family during Roger's healing journey at St. Francis. This includes the doctors, nurses, physiotherapy, cleaning staff, dietary staff and everyone else who simply shared a smile.

"Everyone here had a smile on their face," Roger said. "They lifted you up, and we cannot thank them enough for their exceptional care."



*Roger is thankful for the smiles from staff, like nurses Lee Kelly, left, and Bobbi-Jo Coulas, right.*

**Remember – you can give your gift from now until December 31st!**





## Did you know?

- The **VAC Therapy System** helps close wounds and increases healing. It can be used for burns, traumatic injuries, post-operative wounds and more.
- A critical upgrade to the **medication dispensing unit** will ensure patient safety while improving efficiencies for St. Francis Memorial Hospital.
- The hospital's current **overbed tables** are in disrepair. The hospital requires 20 new tables for patient safety and comfort.
- New **bedside chairs** for patient rooms will address infection control and provide visitor comfort during their visits.

*Covid-19 has challenged us all, and we thank everyone for your ongoing commitment to local healthcare.*

This holiday season, we will all depend on the Hospital to be there for us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, ready and equipped with critical equipment like the items currently needed in the medical unit, to ensure we get the care we need. If it is within your means this year, your kind gift of **\$25, \$50, or \$100**, will ensure that the Hospital can do just that!

Roger's wife Dorothy was thankful to have St. Francis Memorial Hospital, a place that saved her husband's life, so close to home.

"The big hospitals in the city are wonderful. But, you have to get there from somewhere, and our hospital was the best place to start," Dorothy said. As for her husband's recovery at St. Francis Memorial Hospital, Dorothy explained that the hospital "was close to home, so there wasn't a lot of travel involved. I could be here every day. **We are so lucky to have St. Francis Memorial Hospital here.** It is just a gift to the whole community. We need to continue supporting our local hospital."

## Our Christmas Wish List

*"The medication dispensing cabinets are critical to ensuring nurses have safe and timely access to medications needed to treat patients. The upgrade will also represent significant cost savings for the Hospital. We are so appreciative to the donors who will make this purchase possible.*  
- Andrew Wagner,  
Director of Pharmacy.



Medication Dispensing Unit Upgrade



Pharmacy Technicians Julie Dunn, left, and Joan Sullivan.

Bedside Chairs



\$5,000

Overbed Tables



\$5,000

VAC Therapy System



\$35,000

Your gift matters to people like Roger and the other patients who know the value of a well-equipped hospital. **Medical equipment is expensive and simply not funded by the government.** The cost of these upgrades/replacements to equipment in the medical unit will come at a price tag of \$70,000 which is why we need your help!

**Thank you** for showing how much you care about your Hospital this Christmas with your gift of **\$25, \$50, or \$100.**

From the bottom of our hearts, and from the hearts of all the patients who were cared for by the dedicated staff at the Hospital this past year, we sincerely thank you for the **gift of healing, close to home.**

Christmas blessings and our wish for continued good health,



Erin Gienow  
Executive Director  
St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation



Roger Wilson  
Donor and grateful patient



Today, Roger and Dorothy Wilson are grateful to have local healthcare, close to home.

PS Each and every gift of support is important and very much appreciated, **no matter the size!**

PSS Did you know that you can show you care and support local healthcare throughout the year by joining our **Monthly Giving Club?** Ask us how to become a member of this Club of loyal donors or sign up on the enclosed donation form.

  In Honour of  
or  
 In Memory of

Our very special Mother  
& grandmother

Message You are  
still the heart  
of our home!  
Missing you at  
Christmas &  
always



# You're Invited

Due to public healthcare directives, we will not be proceeding with our traditional tree lighting event. In keeping the spirit of the season alive...

Please join us for a special  
**Virtual Tree Lighting**  
on Friday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m., on the  
St. Francis Valley Healthcare Facebook page.

Although we cannot gather for the Palmer Lions Club Tree of Love and Killaloe-Hagarty-Richards Tree of Peace lighting events this year, we hope to see all of your smiling faces in your home communities in 2021!  
**Thank you for your past support of these events!**

Help us light our Christmas tree!

Fill out and return the included bulb card and dedicate your gift in memory or in honour of a loved one.





# WHO WE ARE!

## St Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation

At the St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation, we are working hard on your behalf to raise funds to advance local healthcare in our community, supporting the equipment and facility needs of the St. Francis Memorial Hospital, Valley Manor and Madawaska Valley Hospice Palliative Care. **We are so grateful** for generous gifts from the heart like those received at Christmas that have helped our excellent caregivers from these organizations with the tools they need to care for us ALL YEAR ROUND!

## Q & A Make a Difference with Monthly Giving!

### Why is Monthly Giving so Popular?

**Monthly Giving** is simply the most convenient and budget-friendly way to give. You can change your donation - or even cancel it - at any time just by contacting us. An annual tax receipt will be sent to you for your total donation, making tax time easier too!

### Why is Monthly Giving so Important?

Your **Monthly Gift** will also save administration costs, allowing more of your generous donation to go directly to work helping our patients.



- In Honour of  
or  
 In Memory of

*Our very special Mother  
& grandmother*

*Message You are  
still the heart  
of our home!  
Missing you at  
Christmas &  
always*

Don't forget to include your bulb card honouring or remembering someone with your special message in this mailing so that we can display it!

# MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY!

☎ **PHONE:** 613-756-3045 EXT. 217 - Friendly and helpful staff are available

Monday to Friday, 8-4 to help you with your gift

💻 **ONLINE:** [www.sfvhfoundation.com](http://www.sfvhfoundation.com) - Go online 24/7 to make a fast, convenient and secure gift.

✉ **MAIL:** Return this form using the enclosed envelope.

Charitable Registration No: 89453 4817 RR 0001