



November 2022

Dear

“Without the ultrasound machine, we wouldn’t have known he had an aneurysm and we wouldn’t have known what size it was growing to.”

Pictures of beloved family members adorn the walls of Dorothy and Dawn Hannah’s home in Barry’s Bay. Snapshots show off the wide smiles of the couple’s four children, nine grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. These are some of the most precious images that the couple treasure; ones that remind them how blessed they truly are.

But Dawn would not be here today had it not been for a series of ultrasound images taken over the span of 15 years. Although they were never displayed on a mantel, the photos would become some of the most important to the Hannahs and contribute to saving Dawn’s life.

Dawn, 83, and Dorothy, 74, met at a barn dance decades ago in Maynooth and the rest, as they say, is history. Dawn worked at the CP Railway before starting Hannah’s convenience store in Palmer Rapids, which he and Dorothy ran for 34 years. Dorothy worked at St. Francis Memorial Hospital for 55 years as an RPN. Today, as she approaches retirement, she is working as a part-time PSW. The couple has been married for 53 years.



Around 15 years ago, Dawn began experiencing pain in his abdomen. His physician at the time ordered an ultrasound image at St. Francis Memorial Hospital. It was after that very scan that Dawn discovered he had a very small aortic aneurysm. Doctors continued monitoring the problem area every six months with the use of the on-site ultrasound machine.

“The ultrasounds were very important to us because he didn’t have to travel to Pembroke every time his doctor ordered an ultrasound to see if it had grown,” Dorothy said. “And it had kept growing and growing.”

Thankfully, Dawn had access to the local ultrasound machine close to home. However, the current machine is reaching its end of life and, to keep up with advancing technology, needs to be replaced. We count ourselves extremely fortunate to have loyal donors who continue to demonstrate their dedication and



Give the Gift of Enhanced Images. Every Patient. Every Time.





Sonographer Cathy Amyotte conducts an ultrasound on a patient's leg at St. Francis Memorial Hospital.

commitment to the Hospital in a meaningful way throughout the year. We know that without their support for equipment like the **ultrasound machine**, 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 Enhanced Images. Every Patient. Every Time*** with your support of **\$25, \$50, or \$100** to local healthcare.

Dawn was advised by a specialist during a telehealth consultation done at St. Francis Memorial Hospital to remove the aneurysm. Dawn was 80-years-old at the time and strong willed. He never had an operation before and was hesitant to undergo a risky surgery. He was mainly concerned about his advanced age and the possibility of underlying health issues causing problems during the surgery.

So he declined.

Flash forward to March 2020 and Dorothy received a call from Dawn. He was in immense pain, so Dorothy rushed home to Dawn who was weak and could not stand up.

"You could see that he was in distress," she said.

She called 911 and the operator almost immediately asked if he had a history with aneurysms. Despite Dorothy's healthcare background, she admits it didn't "click" until the operator asked her that vital question. She knew right away that his aneurysm had ruptured and they only had a matter of time to get him to hospital.

Dawn was whisked away by ambulance to St. Francis Memorial Hospital, where he was stabilized and rushed to a hospital in Ottawa for surgery.

"I really have to give credit to the staff at St. Francis Memorial Hospital," Dorothy said. "Everything just fell into place."

With Dawn in surgery and the feeling of helplessness setting in, Dorothy did the only thing she could do that evening. She prayed.

The surgeon called the next morning and said Dawn had made it through. However, the doctor relayed to Dorothy that most people die in their home with these kinds of aneurysms. "I don't know how he made it," the physician commented to Dorothy.



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



Although our current ultrasound machine continues to be operational, a new one is required to keep up with advancements in new technology. It will give us the opportunity to offer the level of healthcare our patients deserve. The diagnostic imaging department, including the ultrasound, is the backbone to St. Francis Memorial Hospital and diagnoses everything from blood clots in a leg to the health of an unborn baby and its mother. We simply could not function as a hospital without it.

Amanda Dumas, Charge Diagnostic Imaging Technologist at St. Francis Memorial Hospital.



Meet the ultrasound team, from left to right: Cathy Amyotte, Amanda Dumas and Amanda Verch. Missing from photo is Pam Moore.

"It's like a miracle," Dorothy continued. "We call him the Miracle Man."

Had it not been for the diagnosis and continuous monitoring of Dawn beforehand, he wouldn't have even known he had an aneurysm. When time is of the essence, knowing the cause of the problem saves precious time, and in this case, Dawn's life.

"Without the ultrasound machine at St. Francis Memorial Hospital, we wouldn't have known he had an aneurysm and we wouldn't have known what size it was growing to," Dorothy said.

This holiday season, we will all depend on the Hospital to be there for us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, ready with critical equipment, like a new ultrasound machine, to ensure we get the care that 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!

Following his surgery, Dawn was transferred to St. Francis Memorial Hospital to recuperate and be closer to family. He says the doctors, nurses, paramedics and staff all did an "excellent job" from the time he was admitted to the local emergency department to the time he checked out of the inpatient unit.

The only evidence of Dawn's lifesaving procedure is a long scar that stretches from his chest bone down to his lower abdomen. Otherwise, he is keeping busy around the house, going for walks and enjoying time with his extended family.

By the numbers

1,500

Number of ultrasounds completed per year

8

Age (in years) of the current ultrasound machine

\$200,000

Estimated cost of a new ultrasound machine

3

The number of ultrasound techs at SFMH - two PT and one casual

What is ultrasound?

Ultrasound imaging (sonography) uses high-frequency sound waves to view inside the body. Because ultrasound images are captured in real-time, they can also show movement of the body's internal organs as well as blood flowing through the blood vessels.



An ultrasound can detect:

- Abnormal growths, such as tumors or cancer
- Blood clots in legs
- Enlarged spleen
- Ectopic pregnancy
- Gallstones
- Aortic aneurysm
- Kidney or bladder stones
- Cholecystitis (gallbladder inflammation)
- Appendicitis
- Thyroid nodules

The Hannahs will be eternally grateful for the access to an ultrasound machine so close to home. It not only drastically improved Dawns odds of surviving such a harrowing experience, but it has been there in equally important ways for patients across the community as well. From diagnosing blood clots to determining the health of an unborn baby, the ultrasound machine is the backbone to our local hospital.

Your gift matters to families like the Hannahs and the other patients who know the value of a well-equipped hospital. Medical equipment is expensive and is ***simply not funded by the government***. The cost of replacing this piece of equipment will come at a hefty price tag of \$200,000 - which is why we need your help!

Thank you for showing how much you care about local healthcare and 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 access the diagnostic imaging services at St. Francis Memorial Hospital, we sincerely thank you for the **Gift of Enhanced Images. Every Patient. Every Time.**

Christmas blessings and our wish for continued good health,



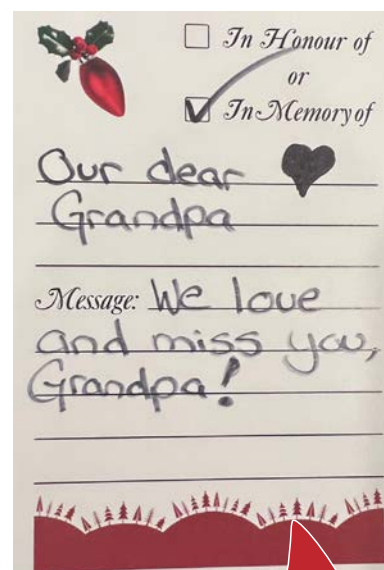
Erin Gienow
Executive Director
SFVH Foundation



Amanda Dumas
Charge Diagnostic Imaging Technologist
St. Francis Memorial Hospital

P.S. Each and every gift of support is important and very much appreciated,
—***no matter the size!***

P.S.S. 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 dear Grandpa

Message: We love and miss you, Grandpa!



Tree of Lights ceremony is back!

You Are Invited!

Please join us at the
Railway Station in Barry's Bay on **Friday, December 2**
at 6:30 p.m. for the Tree of Lights ceremony

Discover the other events in support of our local hospital:

- Sat. Dec. 3 at 6:00 p.m. - Tree of Love, Palmer Rapids Community Centre
- Angel Fundraiser in Madawaska - through to the end of December

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.



**YES! I want to help local healthcare and Give the Gift of Enhanced Images.
Every Patient. Every Time this Christmas with my gift of:**

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 Other/I prefer to give \$ _____

OR

**I'd rather become a Monthly Giving Club member by making a gift each month
of:** ☐ \$15 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 I prefer to give: \$ _____

GLK0J



Box 129
7 St Francis Memorial Drive
Barry's Bay, ON K0J 1B0
613-756-3044 ext. 217

☐ I've enclosed a cheque payable to St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation
(for one-time gifts)

OR

☐ Yes, I've enclosed a cheque marked "VOID" (for monthly gifts through a
Pre-Authorized Debit - PAD - from my bank account) _____
Signature

OR

☐ I prefer to give with my ☐  ☐ 

Credit Card Number

CSV Code



Expiry Date

Name on Card

Signature

Telephone

Email Address (for future receipts and messages via email)

- ☐ Please send me information about making a gift in my Will to St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation
- ☐ Please send me more information to consider becoming a Monthly Donor

Our Promise to Monthly Donors

You may revoke your authorization at any time, subject to providing notice of 30 days. To obtain a sample cancellation form, or for more information on your right to cancel a PAD Agreement, you may contact your financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca.

Also, please understand that you have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, you have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAD Agreement. To obtain more information on your recourse rights, you may contact your financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca.

THANK YOU for supporting local healthcare with your Gift of Enhanced Images. Every Patient. Every Time this Christmas!

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.



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 - 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