



Hospitals campaign celebrates head start

Fundraiser begins with \$52M in bank

Posted 10 hours ago

The university hospitals foundation started its fundraising campaign yesterday with a bang: It already has 75 per cent of the target amount in hand.

The foundation's total fundraising goal for the three-year Together We Can campaign is \$70 million, but they'll only need \$18 million more to meet that target.

Ian Wilson, campaign chair for Together We Can, said the campaign is a collaborative effort.

"Together We Can is about the power of many people working toward great things," he said. "We've used our hospitals and we've benefited from them so it's time to give back."

Larry Gibson is one of the people who has benefitted from the services provided by Kingston's hospitals. In 2006, he was diagnosed with cancer in his head and neck. He was treated at Kingston General Hospital's cancer centre.

Although his cancer has come back, Gibson said he has never forgotten the care he received at KGH.

He made that clear yesterday when he announced a donation to the campaign for a total \$2 million.

"I'm very, very pleased to make this gift," he said told the crowd of more than 100 people. "Thank you."

After the cheers had subsided, Roger Wright, chair of the foundation, thanked Gibson for his generosity.

"I'm touched profoundly by your gift," he said.

"This will touch a lot of cancer patients and their families."

The cancer centre is only one of the many areas that will receive money for redevelopment as a result of the campaign.

Money will also go toward providing KGH with a new home for the pediatric inpatient unit, an expanded dialysis

program, a new mental health inpatient unit, more intensive-care and surgical beds, and expanded surgical support services.

Hotel Dieu Hospital will receive money to build a 36,000-square-foot addition for specialty outpatients and two new elevators.

Money will also go to Providence Care to build a new hospital to replace St. Mary's of the Lake and Mental Health Services.

Joe de Mora, CEO of KGH, Hugh Graham, executive director of Hotel Dieu Hospital, and Dale Kenney, CEO of Providence Care, all spoke at the reception.

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