



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: May 26, 2022

Inaugural Charlee's Run Raises \$25,019 for Family Birthing Unit

The goal of the very first 'Charlee's Run' in Kemptville was to bring the community together to raise awareness for pregnancy and infant loss, to offer support for those in need, and to provide an outlet for families to remember the little ones that have been lost too soon. It certainly did, while also raising \$25,019 for the WDMH Family Birthing Unit.

Organizers Mallory and Dave Holmes lost their daughter Charlee and say there are no words and no language surrounding pregnancy and infant loss. It often leaves people silent, which adds to the loneliness of an immeasurable loss. In a Facebook post after the event, they noted: "The Charlee's Run village came together, as the force we are, to raise funds to help the tiniest of patients at two hospitals. Together we raised \$116,000 for Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital and over \$25,000 for Winchester District Memorial Hospital. This village has once again blown us away with support and to be honest we still don't have words. So to this village we say thank you. Thank you for showing this world what absolute support, love and resolve look like."

Among other things, the funds raised will be used to purchase a cuddle cot. It gives families an opportunity to be with their deceased baby longer, to allow for the healing process to start. It also allows time for family and others to visit and say their goodbyes.

As the Clinical Manager of WDMH's Family Birthing Unit, Mikyla Lennard is passionate about delivering the best care possible to WDMH patients and community. She and her family participated in the run. "We have some of the very best nurses at WDMH and in our Family Birthing Department and they tell me how important the cuddle cot is along with proper education. We are so thankful to Charlee's parents and everyone who participated."

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Cutline: At the cheque presentation are (l-r): Dave and Mallory Holmes and their daughter Emmie.

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