



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Date: June 17, 2021

### **Finding the Silver Linings**

The WDMH Foundation held its second virtual Annual General Meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup>, providing an opportunity to share some of the highlights – and silver linings – of the past year.

“The outpouring of generosity for the WDMH team is one of the most incredible silver linings of the past year. To see our local communities rally together and support front-line workers has been nothing short of awe-inspiring. We are all so thankful,” noted Managing Director Kristen Casselman in her remarks. “I also want to talk about our wonderful donors. I have missed meeting with donors in person, as well as their surprise drop-in visits at the office. But I want you to know that our donors have found other ways to reach out, to connect, and to keep supporting WDMH and Dundas Manor.”

Foundation Board Chair Peter Krajcovic shared some of the many successes of the past year:

- \$330,277 - including 29 new pieces of equipment and a major upgrade to WDMH’s wireless network - has been transferred to Winchester District Memorial Hospital. COVID-19 delayed some of the hospital’s requests to the Foundation for medical equipment purchases, but in the last two months alone, 8 pieces of equipment have been funded, totaling close to \$150,000.
- The Judy Lannin Christmas Wish Tree brought much-needed joy during the festive season. There were 466 gifts, totaling \$57,090, almost \$12,000 more than the year before.
- There were 16 community-organized fundraising events, raising \$81,099.39.
- Lynne’s Club – the monthly giving program – has 166 active members. Since 2011, this program has raised \$392,337.
- There were 56 tributes through the Honour Your Caregiver Program for WDMH staff, totaling more than \$12,000.
- And the Foundation was honoured and touched to receive 25 planned gifts totaling almost \$3.6 million. We are so grateful that WDMH was a charity of choice for these legacy gifts.

Details on the Foundation’s growing partnership with Dundas Manor Long-Term Care Home were also shared. “Our relationship with Dundas Manor has continued to blossom this past year, with a major focus on the campaign for a new home” noted Peter Krajcovic. “We are putting the pieces in place and getting ready for the public launch down the road. We are excited to take on this challenge, and we know that local communities will be behind us every step of the way.”

During the meeting, WDMH Board Chair James Pitruniak offered thanks on behalf of the hospital: “The hospital is dependent on the Foundation to plan its capital purchases – lifesaving equipment to keep the hospital running. Your work makes our job that much easier. This has been an amazing year thanks to generous community spirit and the tireless efforts of Foundation staff. Hat’s off to you and thank you!”

At the end of the meeting, Corporate Member Dwayne Holmes proposed a motion of appreciation to thank the Board of Directors, Kristen Casselman, and her staff for their incredible work over the past year. The motion was passed unanimously.

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