



**BLUEWATER**  
HEALTH  
FOUNDATION

2023 - 24

# ANNUAL REPORT



# A Message from the Executive Director and Chair of the Board

The 2023-24 fiscal year was one that will not be forgotten anytime soon. It was full of surprises, challenges and change, and through it all, we were continuously reminded that the Sarnia-Lambton community stands with us, offering unwavering support. This became more obvious than ever following my heart attack in August of last year. It was a terrifying experience and caused me to reevaluate certain aspects of my life. Working in healthcare philanthropy, my appreciation for healthcare providers was already huge, but it has since grown even more following my journey as a patient. I am so grateful to the staff who saved my life, and to members of the community who reached out with messages of support and love. I cannot thank everyone enough.

When the hospital was struck by a cyberattack in October, the community was patient, kind and understanding throughout our ongoing recovery. The foundation's fundraising efforts and ability to operate were hindered by the attack but, like the dedicated team of the hospital, the work did not stop. While there were concerns that fundraising might be negatively impacted, with the support of our caring community, donations continued to be made for ongoing hospital projects, and the annual events carried on, and some even grew! A special thanks to NOVA Chemicals, who made a generous donation of \$500,000 to the cancer clinic, bringing us even closer to our \$3.7 million dollar goal.

The Dream Home Lottery was our largest in its 29-year history, and continued to be the Foundation's highest grossing fundraiser thanks to those who purchased tickets for a chance to win big!

Jack Sherman, Board Chair



[www.bwhf.ca](http://www.bwhf.ca)



Kathy Alexander and Jack Sherman

We launched Sunday Funday, a brand-new event hosted collaboratively with the community based Sexual Assault Survivors Centre, the Spring 50/50 exceeded our goal and raised \$30,000, and the gala with Hayley Wickenhesier sold out in record time. The success of this past year, despite its challenges, was due to the dedicated efforts of the small but mighty foundation team.

I cannot stress enough that none of this would be possible without all of you – our generous and caring community. The future of healthcare in Sarnia Lambton is bright because of the kind and generous people of our community. We are truly thankful.

Kathy Alexander, Executive Director





# Foundation Highlights

## Oncology

One of our current fundraising priorities is the foundation's support of the cancer clinic, which is undergoing a major renovation that will transform the current space to improve patient flow and provide increased capacity for future growth and development.

The annual 2023 gala raised more than \$80,000 and a generous donation from NOVA Chemicals of \$500,000 are just two examples of many acts of kindness we've seen from Sarnia-Lambton in support of this vital project.

With the support of our generous community, the Foundation has nearly reached its \$3.7 million fundraising goal!

## Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Treatment Centre

As part of the second-floor redevelopment of the Norman St. building, the Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Treatment Centre is also undergoing a refresh and relocation.

The Foundation has been working diligently towards a fundraising goal of \$600,000. This will allow for Bluewater Health to continue providing care to survivors of sexual violence in a safe, comfortable and discrete space.

In collaboration with Sexual Assault Survivors' Centre Sarnia-Lambton, a brand-new event, Sunday Fun Day, was spearheaded to help fundraise for this project.



# Community Support



832 gifts received in memory of 232 people.  
\$117,124 total donated to 24 departments/projects



Employee Giving  
\$27,766



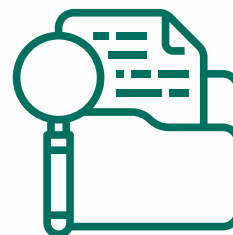
120,364 Dream Home Tickets Sold  
480,214 50/50 tickets sold  
10,973 prizes awarded!



2,415 Donations



1,900 Block Party attendees



83 BWH Staff Education Grants

*See the Impact Your Gift Can Make*



# The Year in Photos



*The most wonderful time of the year! A special Christmas delivery from Point Edward Fire & Rescue, who donated over 200 gifts following the Santa's Responders Toy Drive*

*Celebrating the grand opening of YWHO Sarnia-Lambton was such an incredible day full of hope and joy! A prime example of what community collaboration can do.*



*The Annual Golf Fore Health Tournament was another huge success, a sold out event that raised over \$34,000 for your local hospital!*



*NOVA Chemicals made a special gift of \$500,000 towards Bluewater Health's cancer clinic*







We welcomed Canadian hockey icon, Dr. Hayley Wickenheiser, to the stage at the 2023 Gala. She shared her incredible story, *From Skates to Scrubs*, a journey from her time as an Olympic ice hockey player to becoming a medical doctor.



Linda and Al Weeres were the big winners of this year's Dream Home Lottery. The longtime supporters were absolutely thrilled!

thank you

# Who We Are

## Foundation Staff

Kathy Alexander - Executive Director

Rebecca Brander - Development Officer

Tabitha Brinn - Database & Lottery Specialist

Courtney Dickinson - Administrative Assistant

Melissa Schilz - Communications Advisor

Adelle Stewardson - Special Events & Stewardship Coordinator

## Foundation Board of Directors

Jack Sherman - Chair

Dr. Robert Hislop - Vice-Chair

Rudy Bhola - Secretary Treasurer

Colin McElrea - Past Chair

Mark Braet - Director, CEEHF Representative

Charles Fisher - Director

Laurie Hicks - Director

Melanie Hockin - Director

Michelle Parks - Director

Barry Riedy - Director, BWH Board of Directors Representative

Manjit Singh Brar - Director

Andrew Warder - Director

Dr. Cheryl Wilsie - Director

Paula Reaume-Zimmer - Ex-Officio, President & CEO, Bluewater Health

Margaret Dragan - Ex-Officio, Chair, BWH Board of Directors

# Get in Touch



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