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Dear Friends;

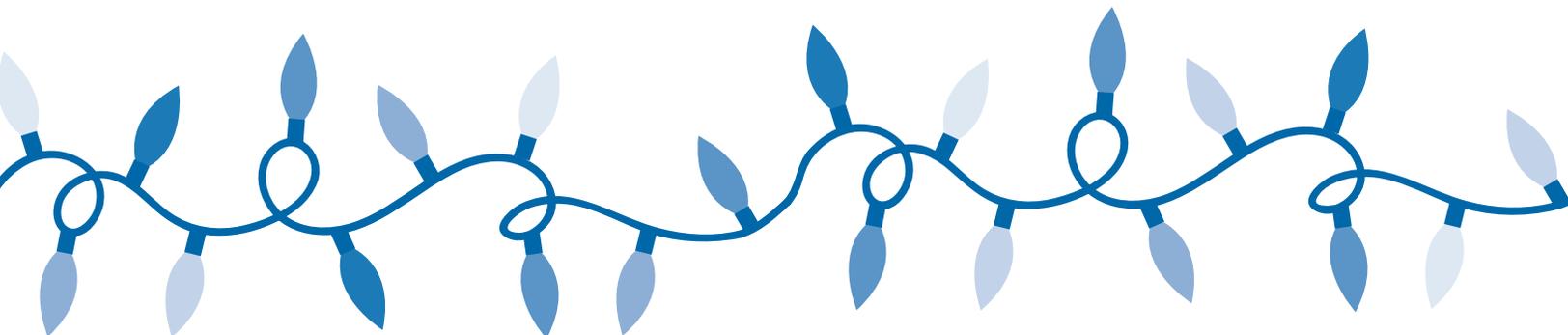
What's one thing hospitals can't function without? **BEDS!!** I found this out first hand last spring when my son Jesse had a very serious accident which left him in hospital for one month and back for many visits. Jesse spent weeks in Kingston where he required multiple surgeries and casts. It was very exhausting for us travelling back and forth daily. However, once he started to improve, we requested that he be transferred home to Trenton Memorial Hospital (TMH) for recovery. It was a painful transfer, only to find out when we arrived, that the bed he was to recuperate in - didn't work. I questioned why they wouldn't just buy a new bed, only to find out that **the hospital operating funds don't provide finances for equipment that the patients and staff need, the community does.**

My son wouldn't be here today without the care he received at the hospital.

This was something so simple to me. Everybody that enters this hospital, whether it's through the emergency, the OR, or admitted, are going to use a bed. How can the hospital staff provide care without a bed? As a staff member of Leon's, I was so thrilled to learn we were supporting the Buy-a-Bed campaign, just weeks after I finally got my son home. Our staff toured Trenton Memorial Hospital and until then I didn't know just how heavily hospitals relied on public donations. Whether it's a bed, a CT Scanner, ultrasound, x-ray, stretcher, or surgical instruments, **the doctors and nurses depend upon quality medical equipment to take the very best care of us.**

This is why it's so important to support our hospital. Any gift you give will make a difference. **My son wouldn't be here today without the care he received at the hospital.** The staff at TMH are great, but they can only do so much without the appropriate equipment they use each and every day. In our case, for my son the bed was his lifeline and he wasn't able to function without it.

Since Jesse's accident, I've also realized just how many more times my family has used the services at TMH. The hospital cares for more than the aged, it doesn't discriminate by age, gender, illness or accident. We all need the hospital at one time or another, even when we aren't expecting to. I was so relieved that the Emergency Department at TMH had the tools they needed at the time my son arrived so that could stabilize him for his transfer to a more specialized care centre.



Thank you for letting me share Jesse's story. This is why we can and should all try to help our hospital, TMH. This year they need over **\$1.872 million for equipment** such as beds and new lasers for the Ophthalmology department. The lasers will treat retinal tears/detachments caused by diabetic retinopathy as well as treat glaucoma, or clouding of the eyes after cataracts. Without treatment for those with diabetes and people over 60, it can lead to blindness. These two lasers – the Pascal Laser and YAG Laser – cost a total of \$224,476. This is a lot of money, but to the 1,500 patients treated each year, it is about their quality of life, **their light, their vision.**

Like a bed was for my son, these Ophthalmology pieces are to those with a loss of vision. Without these laser treatments, patients will not be able to see clearly or live independently; they risk losing their vehicle licenses, being able to care for themselves, or do the regular day to day things that help them to maintain their quality of life, that many of us take for granted.

Please join me by donating to the Trenton Memorial Hospital Foundation **“Lights of Hope Campaign”**. I'm thankful my son is with us this year and I'm grateful to the hospital staff and our community for making sure that our hospital could provide the treatment my son needed at the time of his accident.

Give the gift of vision to yourself, your family and friends this holiday season. A light will hang on a tree in the ER/OR waiting area, where it will symbolize all the hope and good in the world; and serve as a reminder, in Christmas tradition, to provide light to others.

Thank you for letting me share my story of the incredible compassion and care we received at TMH. I hope it has touched you in some small way.

Sincerely,



Michelle Sleep
Jesse's Mother

P.S. The Christmas lights are a symbol of light and hope. You can provide light for our eye patients all year long by joining our monthly giving club. The details are on your reply form.

P.S.S. The lights campaign is available online at www.tmhfoundation.com to make your gift and dedicate a light. Your light will be printed and displayed in the TMH ER/OR Waiting room. You can also email the website and address to family and friends who might like to participate in the **“Lights of Hope Campaign”**.

Season's  Greetings