

INTOUCH

**“MY HEALTH CARE
TEAM AT MACKENZIE
HEALTH GAVE ME
MY LIFE BACK.”**

HOW MARY DEFIED ALL ODDS
AGAINST COVID-19.



A MESSAGE FROM KRISTA FINLAY PRESIDENT & CEO, MACKENZIE HEALTH FOUNDATION

As we navigate through the uncertainty of our global health care crisis, there's one thing that is certain: your commitment to the work of our front-line team and advancing care at Mackenzie Health.

You have supported our front-line team through the COVID-19 pandemic and demonstrated incredible generosity by helping us move closer to achieving our \$250-million Ultimate campaign fundraising goal. The campaign has helped build and now equip Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital, and enhance care at Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital. You have played a role in every milestone we have achieved. Thank you!

As you read through the pages of this edition, I hope you'll join me in celebrating all that has been accomplished to date. I look forward to the day when soon, once COVID-19 pressures have stabilized, Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital will fully open as planned to support our community. Our second hospital will support expectant parents and their children, those struggling with mental health challenges, patients recovering from a stroke and those in need of surgical or emergency care. This is the collective vision of our two-hospital future that we all share, and it will soon be a reality for our growing community.

With sincere gratitude,

INTOUCH

InTouch is published by Mackenzie Health Foundation in support of the ultimate in health care at Mackenzie Health.

To find out more about the Foundation's fundraising priorities and upcoming events, call 905-883-2032 or visit mackenziehealth.ca/foundation



THE ULTIMATE SUITS YOU

10 Trench Street
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 4Z3

STAY IN TOUCH

foundation@mackenziehealth.ca

@MackenzieHealth

[facebook.com/MackenzieHealth](https://www.facebook.com/MackenzieHealth)

@mackenziehealth

Mackenzie Health

Charitable Business Number: 11930 6215 RR0001

CONTENTS

3

FEATURE STORY

Mary's miraculous story of recovery, against all odds, from COVID-19

4

ULTIMATE CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Learn how families are supporting exceptional care close to home and giving back to the community

7

PLANNED GIVING

Joan Smith shares why Mackenzie Health has a special place in her heart

8

HOSPITAL NEWS

A look at how Mackenzie Health is supporting our communities and answering the call as a system solution to manage COVID-19



Mary at her home in March 2021.

“MACKENZIE HEALTH GAVE ME MY LIFE BACK” MARY’S MIRACULOUS STORY OF SURVIVAL AGAINST ALL ODDS

The birth of a grandchild is one of life’s greatest blessings. It’s the very reason Mary took a month off work to support her daughter during this new chapter.

It’s also the reason Mary rationalized that the symptoms she was experiencing for two weeks — shortness of breath, her heart fluttering and an unpleasant feeling in her stomach — would go away on their own. But that simply wasn’t the case.

After the birth of her granddaughter at Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital, Mary couldn’t shake the nagging feeling that something wasn’t quite right. So, she visited the Emergency Department where an ECG was performed right away.

Mary was then admitted to the ICU before going into cardiac arrest and her heart stopped beating. ICU physician Dr. Eyal Golan was at the helm and acted immediately.

Unlike anything Dr. Golan had ever seen before, Mary was fully awake when he and the ICU team took turns performing CPR. More than that, she was able to communicate with them but then unresponsive when they stopped CPR. This continued to happen for over an hour and a half.

“Mary’s heart was beating just long enough for me to call her husband and four children to come say their goodbyes,” says Dr. Golan.

While CPR was performed, each family member took turns speaking to Mary, holding her hand and saying how much they loved her — knowing that this was likely the last time they could.

Incredibly, after over 90 minutes of CPR, Mary’s heart started beating again and for a long enough period of time that she was placed in a medically induced coma to protect her brain. Dr. Golan warned her family that she may not make it through the night.

But, as Mary puts it, she was way too stubborn to let that be the end. “Dr. Golan is my hero, my guardian angel,” says Mary. “Dr. Golan never gave up on me, telling his team to keep going while performing CPR. Because of their persistence I defied the odds.”

Once stable, Mary was transferred to the Regional Cardiac Care Program at Southlake Regional Health Centre where tests showed that Mary had a heart infection, which most likely developed during the two weeks she felt unwell. Doctors also worried she could have brain damage. But once again Mary defied expectations, and after waking from her coma, she immediately recognized her husband.

After a 10-day stay at Southlake Regional Health Centre, Mary returned to Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital for follow-up care, spending three days in the cardiac inpatient unit before returning home to continue her recovery.

“I shouldn’t be here, but I am,” says Mary. “I want my health care team at Mackenzie Health to know that they gave me my life back.”

As she was recovering, Mary was determined to find a way to thank her real-life superhero, Dr. Golan. She and her husband visited Dr. Golan and presented him with a plaque in honour of his dedication — a powerful, visual reminder that he’s the reason Mary is alive today.

While Mary’s recovery journey is far from over, she looks forward to spending time with family and friends, and eventually returning to work, all with one goal in mind: to live each day with purpose, like it’s her last.

SUN-BRITE

Since 1973



Above: Onorio (Henry) Iacobelli, President and founder of Sun-Brite Foods Inc., with his son John Iacobelli, Chief Executive Officer at Sun-Brite Foods Inc., Unico Inc. and Primo Foods Inc.

Left: Unico staff at their distribution centre in York Region.

THE IACOBELLI FAMILY SHARES THEIR RECIPE FOR SUCCESS WITH A \$1-MILLION GIFT TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH

For the Iacobelli family and their nationally-recognized businesses, Sun-Brite Foods Inc., Unico Inc. and Primo Foods Inc., giving back has always been second nature.

In late 2020, Unico Inc., Primo Foods Inc., and Onorio (Henry) Iacobelli and family pledged \$1 million to the Ultimate campaign, to support the Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) within the Mental Health Unit at Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital. The gift provides access to the specialized care needed to help treat and support the growing number of people who require mental health care in the community. Mackenzie Health's inpatient Mental Health Program will be relocated to Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital where the Unico, Primo, and Onorio Iacobelli and Family Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit

will include eight beds compared to the current four-bed unit at Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital. This space has been uniquely designed for less stimulation and constant monitoring by our crisis team to support high-risk patients and provide the best chance at healing and recovery.

In York Region, about 275,000 people, or one in four, suffer from mental illness, including depression, anxiety, bi-polar disorder and schizophrenia.



Join [Simone](#), Patient Care Manager of the Mental Health Program, for a sneak peek inside the Mental Health Unit.
[YouTube.com/MackenzieHealth](https://www.youtube.com/MackenzieHealth)

"It's humbling to have the Unico, Primo, and Henry Iacobelli and Family Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit named to honour our family roots and over 100 years of longstanding traditions in bringing our communities together," says John Iacobelli, Chief Executive Officer of Sun-Brite Foods Inc., Unico Inc. and Primo Foods Inc. "We hope that we can continue to do good for the community, good for the people and good for each other's well-being. We hope that those who can will join us in supporting one another."

With a local Unico Inc. distribution centre in York Region, a primary focus for the Iacobelli family continues to be giving back to the local community to ensure their employees, families and communities have access to the ultimate health care and mental health supports. In times of greatest need, this gift will help to support those in our community who need it the most.



Zeeshan and his brother Waleed honour their grandfather's legacy and give back to the community.

ENTREPRENEUR ZEESHAN MALIK HONOURS HIS LATE GRANDFATHER BY GIVING HOPE TO NEW FAMILIES

Entrepreneur Zeeshan Malik has fond memories of his grandfather Malik Abdul Khaliq Awan. He was the kind of man with a big heart and a passion to serve his community and help those around him.

“He was a man full of love and light and a true blessing to me and my family. I wanted to pay homage to him in a meaningful way,” says Zeeshan.

Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital has played a significant role in caring for Zeeshan’s family, recently providing care and nursing to Zeeshan’s father.

For that reason, Zeeshan, a 20-year resident of Vaughan, didn’t hesitate to honour his late grandfather’s memory with a gift in support of the Ultimate

campaign to fund a labour, birthing, recovery and postpartum room within the Birthing Centre at Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital.

“For me, the Birthing Centre is where new life is born daily and it signifies everything my grandfather embodied — love, light and blessings,” says Zeeshan.

Zeeshan’s gift will help deliver seamless care and compassionate support for mothers, babies and children during their most precious moments, including when welcoming a newborn.

Through his donation and deep connections to the community, Zeeshan hopes that he can inspire other young entrepreneurs and business professionals to do their part — big or small — in making a difference.



When Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital opens, the new Birthing Centre will be equipped for close to

4,000

births a year compared to our current volume of 2,742 births a year.



Join [Mayura](#), Manager, Woman and Child Program, for a sneak peek inside the Woman and Child Program.

[YouTube.com/MackenzieHealth](https://www.youtube.com/MackenzieHealth)



EMERGING LEADERS ARE DRIVEN TO LEAD AND INSPIRED TO GIVE

Mackenzie Health Foundation's Emerging Leaders Council, a group of up-and-coming community leaders, professionals, business owners and entrepreneurs, is driven to support the Ultimate campaign. With the leadership of co-chairs George DiPede and Marisa Fabiano, the Emerging Leaders Council pledged to raise \$1 million to help fund a state-of-the-art operating suite at Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital.

In late 2020, the Emerging Leaders Council hosted an exclusive event, *A Virtual Night in the OR*, to provide a glimpse inside an operating room at Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital. The event was emceed by CityTV reporter Stella Acquisto and featured Dr. Luke Bui, Deputy Chief of Staff and General Surgeon; Dr. Christopher Gallimore, Orthopedic Surgeon; Dr. Michael Kogon, Urologist; and Heather Whittemore, Manager of Perioperative Services at Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital. Attendees had an opportunity to ask questions during the Q&A segment and learn how Mackenzie Health will elevate surgical care to a whole new level. The event helped raised more than \$120,000 for the Ultimate campaign.



The Surgical Unit at Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital will feature seven operating rooms that

are custom-built to support minimally-invasive and complex open surgeries with the integration of smart technology.

The technology will allow surgeons to access patient digital images, and consult and collaborate with colleagues in real time via videoconference – without leaving the room.

The open concept operating rooms are three to four times larger than traditional rooms and designed to lead to better patient outcomes, including reduced recovery time.

Are you an emerging leader?

Looking for an unrivalled opportunity to shape your legacy and increase access to care in York Region? Learn about our Emerging Leaders Council.

Visit mackenziehealth.ca/emerging-leaders or contact Ashley Rodrigues, Manager of Community Giving, at ashley.rodrigues@mackenziehealth.ca



Visit our [YouTube channel](#) to view a recording of the Night in the OR event.
YouTube.com/MackenzieHealth

STEP UP WITH US TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY AND HELP FIGHT COVID-19

As the pandemic continues to evolve, Mackenzie Health's incredible front-line team are proud to step up to support our community and be part of the provincial solution to fight COVID-19. As we work together to provide the ultimate in care to patients in our region, we have witnessed an outpouring of support for our front-line team.

Messages of support and more than \$1.1 million in donations to our COVID-19 Response Fund have energized and motivated our front-line team as they care for our community under trying circumstances.

From supporting long-term care facilities and operating a COVID-19 vaccine clinic, to opening Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital to support the province's capacity pressures, Mackenzie Health is proud to respond to the health crisis we face and help those who need it most.

It's not too late to make a donation to support our front-line team during the COVID-19 crisis. Visit mackenziehealth.ca/donate

We are grateful to our community for continuing to show appreciation and respect for our front-line team at Mackenzie Health by leaving messages on our virtual Wall of Thanks. Add your own at theultimatesuitsyou.ca/wall-of-thanks

LEAVING A LEGACY TO ENSURE CARE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Joan Smith and her family won't hesitate to tell you: Mackenzie Health holds a special place in their hearts and has been an important part of many milestones. It was their gratitude and experience that prompted Joan to give back in a meaningful way.

"I'm connected to Mackenzie Health in so many ways — from living in Richmond Hill for 48 years to the birth of my three grandsons at Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital, to being a volunteer with Mackenzie Health for 15 years. It's also where I received successful cancer surgery," says Joan. "Mackenzie Health saved my life, so I wanted to give back to help future generations receive the same great care."

When someone has received exceptional care themselves, or they are grateful to physicians and staff for providing compassionate care to a loved one,



they often look for ways to give back and make a lasting difference in the community. Like Joan, many choose to leave a legacy gift in their will.

When you give a legacy gift, you can direct your donation to any area you choose — whether it's advancing care in a department or a program that means something to you or ensuring Mackenzie Health can continue to provide the ultimate care for future generations, when and where they need it.

To start your legacy planning today and to become a member of our Legacy Society, visit mackenziehealth.ca/legacy-giving or contact Niki Gastis, Senior Manager of Leadership Gifts, 905-833-1212 ext. 7372, niki.gastis@mackenziehealth.ca



WALL OF THANKS

SUE, VAUGHAN

Thank you all front-line workers - nurses, doctors, technicians in COVID-19 assessment centres and labs for risking your lives in this unknown path to save our lives. You saved my life and my family's lives from COVID. You are all our heroes. Our gratitude and prayers are with you. Be blessed every day of your life. Sue

STEPHANIE, VAUGHAN

Thank you for all you do each and every day! You continue to save lives while risking your own. You are true heroes not only during this pandemic, but always. My grandmother just got her vaccine at the new Vaughan hospital and my family is so grateful! ❤️

ANONYMOUS, CANADA

Thank you for all the risks you take for us! We appreciate that you act so quickly! And even though our words are simple, our appreciation is greater!!! 😊

SHOKUR FAHD, RICHMOND HILL

How does one begin to thank heroes? I guess by saying "Thank you for saving lives!"



Above: Rolando was among the first seniors, aged 80 years and older, to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the Mackenzie Health COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic at Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital.

Right: Screeners like Liubov are keeping everyone at Mackenzie Health safe during the pandemic.



MACKENZIE HEALTH EXTENDS SUPPORTS TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Mackenzie Health continues to navigate the challenges presented by COVID-19 while providing exceptional care to our community in immeasurable ways. The support received from patients, families, government partners and donors alike has buoyed our front-line teams at Mackenzie Health.

Throughout the pandemic, Mackenzie Health answered the provincial government's call for hospitals to support the long-term care community as well as retirement and congregate living spaces where the impact of COVID-19 has been felt the most. Mackenzie Health developed a support team consisting of nurse practitioners, registered nurses and managers to assist the community sector seven days a week.

Since April 2020, Mackenzie Health has supported 10 long-term care homes, 17 retirement homes, two addiction centres and shelters, and 88 group homes in western York Region. Our Mackenzie Health community support team has been

answering questions posed to our dedicated hotline, hosted virtual town hall meetings, redeployed staff, and conducted infection prevention and control sessions and webinars with experts. A mobile swabbing team also supported 35 facilities by testing thousands of residents and staff.

In addition, Mackenzie Health:

- introduced *MackenzieHelps* to help those with complex care needs continue their care safely at home;
- created two dedicated COVID-19 units;
- expanded critical care space with an additional eight critical care beds funded by the provincial government;
- opened two COVID-19 Assessment Centres, offering tests to our community seven days a week;
- opened a cold and flu clinic, providing access to care for non-urgent symptomatic patients to be assessed by a doctor;
- made it possible for existing patients to book appointments for their COVID-19 tests online using the new SMARTScheduling feature in MyChart

As part of province-wide efforts to fight COVID-19, in late December 2020, we opened a COVID-19 vaccine clinic in the

Giovanni and Anna De Gasperis ♦ Eugene and Eva Kohn Learning Centre at Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital to vaccinate priority groups as identified by the province's guidance framework. The province initially prioritized the earliest vaccine doses to vaccinate Ontario's most vulnerable — health care workers and essential caregivers who work in hospitals, long-term care homes, retirement homes and other congregate settings caring for seniors who were eligible in December.

In March, Mackenzie Health expanded our vaccination efforts to support York Region Public Health's rollout of the vaccine program by administering vaccines to various priority groups in our community, including seniors and community health care workers. Mackenzie Health continues to support the vaccine rollout as additional priority groups become eligible for the vaccine under the provincial framework. Since December, Mackenzie Health has administered almost 40,000 doses of the vaccine — this is, on average, 600 doses per day.

Mackenzie Health continues to work alongside government partners and public health officials to support staff, physicians, patients, families, and our communities in the fight against COVID-19.



Pictured above: On Sunday, Feb. 7, Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital opened as a pandemic relief hospital to support the province's fight against COVID-19. The first patient transfer from Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital arrives at Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital.

ANSWERING THE CALL: MACKENZIE HEALTH OPENS CORTELLUCCI VAUGHAN HOSPITAL AS A SYSTEM SOLUTION TO FIGHT COVID-19

On Feb. 7, Mackenzie Health marked another significant milestone in our history -- it opened the doors of Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital with an exclusive focus on supporting the surge in COVID-19 cases in Ontario by creating additional space to care for critical and acute care patients. As Ontario's first net new hospital in more than 30 years, Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital was built to help solve hospital capacity challenges in the Greater Toronto Area and help end hallway health care.

During the final stretch of preparations for opening Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital, our staff, physicians and volunteers at Mackenzie Health stepped up with grace and determination to support the current and urgent needs in the health care system. Staff and physicians were redeployed from their home departments and preparations were made to the critical care and general medical floors of Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital. All this while continuing to support patients and families at Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital and our community-based locations.

Once COVID-19 pressures have stabilized, Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital will fully open to serve our rapidly growing communities in western York Region. Together, Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital, Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital and our community-based locations will provide the ultimate in health care.



Staff at both Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital and Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital were welcomed as they arrived for their shift on Sunday, Feb. 7.



medicine and critical care patients were moved from Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital to Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital on day one.



More than 350
patients transferred to Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital from Ontario hospitals in need of relief.*

**As of April 22, 2021.*

OUR DONORS MADE THE ULTIMATE POSSIBLE



Our donor names proudly displayed on the donor recognition walls at Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital.



MAKE YOUR ULTIMATE MARK— THERE'S STILL TIME

We couldn't be more grateful for our donors and their tremendous contributions and support. We are excited to share that we have now raised more than \$200 million of our \$250-million Ultimate fundraising goal, which is the local share required to build and equip Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital and enhance care at Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital. While the doors of Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital may be open to support the COVID-19 crisis, there is still significant work to do to continue to fund essential equipment and technology to support the ultimate in care — things like incubators, ventilators, ultrasounds machines and so much more. Together, we can realize our two-hospital future and provide the ultimate in health care.

With recognition opportunities starting at \$10,000, you can make an impact in this community.

The ultimate is within reach and we would love to let our community know the important role you played in making it possible at Mackenzie Health.

If you would like to learn more about the attractive recognition opportunities available within Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital, please contact foundation@mackenziehealth.ca or call 905-883-2032.



CIBC employee and avid cyclist Christopher Piersanti ready for a ride.

WHY CHRISTOPHER RIDES: A CIBC EMPLOYEE'S STORY OF CYCLING AND SUPPORT

Giving back is deeply embedded in CIBC's culture, and equally adopted by their employees.

For Christopher Piersanti, Community General Manager at CIBC, physical fitness has always been an important part of his life. After his father-in-law passed away a couple of years ago, Christopher wanted to take on a new fitness challenge to honour him.

Christopher was once an avid cyclist, travelling to Italy to take part in a 160 km race with a close friend — also a CIBC employee — and 3,000 other riders. Despite their struggles along the route, determination and strength ultimately prevailed and they made it to the finish

line. It was one of his most rewarding and memorable experiences.

“My father-in-law was always so proud of my cycling journey,” says Christopher. “I realized I wanted to get back to that.” So, he dusted off his bike and started training again with a few of his CIBC colleagues. Together, they raised \$55,000 to benefit Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital and Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital — Christopher's community hospitals.

Today, Christopher and his cycling group continue to ride and are proud to support their local hospitals. And as we endure subsequent waves of COVID-19, it's never been more important.

That's why CIBC has partnered with Mackenzie Health Foundation, offering a matching gift opportunity to riders of this year's Ride for Mackenzie Health cycling event.

Thanks to donors like Christopher — who's taking part in the Ride for Mackenzie Health this year — and generous partners like CIBC, Mackenzie Health can continue to provide world-class care to patients and families in Vaughan, Richmond Hill, King and beyond. “[Let's] keep the spotlight on our local hospitals and charitable giving,” says Christopher. “I'm excited to continue making an impact in my community.”

THE ULTIMATE EVENTS ARE BACK

Warmer days are nearly here! Are you ready to get outside?
Join us to ride, golf or stride in support of Mackenzie Health.

With your help, we can reach our fundraising goals and
continue to deliver world-class care to our community.

Visit our event websites below to register and learn more.

Participants are required to follow all COVID-19 Public Health measures in effect on the day of the event.



PRESENTED BY



SUNDAY JUNE 6 2021

YOUR OWN ROUTE.
YOUR OWN WAY.

MHFRIDE.CA

2X

THE IMPACT!
CIBC will match
your donation!*



PRESENTED BY



TUESDAY JUNE 22 2021

18 HOLES.
1 MISSION.

MHFGOLF.CA



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25 2021

RUN, WALK, FUNDRAISE.
TOGETHER, APART.

MHFSTRIDES.CA

EXCITING PERKS AWAIT.
SIGN UP TODAY!



THE ULTIMATE SUITS YOU

**Funds raised by riders will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to a total of \$20,000.*