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November 22, 2022

Dear <Salutation>,

What do you love the most about the holidays? For me, it's hosting big family dinners and spending time with dear friends.

With the holidays just around the corner, I can't help but think about Ginette and Paul Purser, a couple in their 70s living in east end Toronto. I bet they are looking forward to preparing a delicious Christmas feast and gathering around the table with their adult children and grandson.

After everything they have been through, the Pursers have many reasons to celebrate.

Perhaps you remember receiving Ginette's letter a few weeks ago in which she shared the harrowing story of how Paul came close to losing his life last year – *not once but three times*. And how each time, during those frightening moments, the staff at Michael Garron Hospital (MGH) fought to save her husband's life and give him the best care possible.

Paul is doing well today. He has almost fully recovered. And Ginette is grateful to have her companion of 46 years, *her Paul*, beside her.

This Christmas, thanks to you, the Pursers will have the greatest gift of all – their family together.

<FirstName>, I am deeply grateful for your past support that has made a real difference to the hospital, our staff and, most importantly, our patients.

Now, I'd like to ask if we can count on your support once again. A donation in any amount will ensure that exceptional care – like the one Paul received – continues to be available to every person in our community who needs it.

Will you send a special gift today to help save more lives this holiday season?

If you've already sent your gift, thank you! However, if you haven't had the chance to give yet, I hope you will take a moment to do so now.

Your gift will ensure that our community hospital can continue to deliver the very best diagnosis, care and treatment to all residents who live in East Toronto.

The truth is, you never know if and when you or someone you care about, your next-door neighbour or a friend living down the street, may be experiencing a health crisis and need urgent care.

You may recall from Ginette's letter that Paul's ordeal started innocently. Paul came to MGH to have one of his knees replaced. But things started going downhill when an infection showed up in the incision weeks after Paul was released from the hospital.

It turned out that Paul had developed a serious and life-threatening lung infection. He had to be admitted to the hospital, his life hanging by a thread. For four weeks, Paul was in and out of a state of delirium.

All of this was happening during the pandemic, making a terrifying situation even more difficult. Because of strict visitor restrictions, there were days when Ginette couldn't enter the hospital. All she could do was helplessly wait and pray that the treatment Paul was receiving would work. And that she wouldn't have to call her children with the dreadful news that their father had passed away. Thankfully, Ginette never had to make that call.

<FirstName>, Paul is alive today because of you. The lifesaving, first-rate medical care that Paul received at MGH is available thanks to the generosity of our caring neighbours like you.

You help to make your community hospital the best it can be. Thanks to you, Ginette didn't have to be alone during her darkest, most frightening moments. The nurses at MGH helped ease Ginette's anxiety by setting up FaceTime calls when she wasn't allowed to visit. And when she was, they showed her how to put on personal protective equipment so she could be in the room with her husband. They took care of Ginette just as much as they took care of Paul. The nurses even had a sweet nickname for him – *Poppy!*

Thanks to you, every step of the way, the Pursers had first-rate care on a first-name basis. That's the kind of care patients receive at MGH, and YOU help make it possible!

<First Name>, thank you for caring so much about your hospital, your neighbours and your community. Because of wonderful donors like you, the Pursers experienced warm, compassionate and expert care – *close to home*. Your support of MGH is the reason thousands of people throughout East Toronto can rely on the very best care in their greatest moments of need.

That's why I'd like to ask you to please send a holiday gift today.

We wouldn't be able to provide the outstanding level of care that Michael Garron Hospital is known for without the kindness and support of our caring donors like you.

You may remember reading in Ginette's letter how touched she was by the compassion and genuine concern that the staff showed towards Paul and her family.

“I think they wanted him to live just as much as I did, and they went above-and-beyond to make sure that was the outcome.”

The Purser's experience is not unique. I hear similar comments from patients and their families all the time. The staff go the extra mile to treat each patient and their caregiver as a person, not a health card. This intimate, patient-centred care makes MGH a truly special place and the heart of the community – *and it's available thanks to you*.

<First Name>, please support your community hospital this holiday season. Your donation will ensure more families like the Pursers can receive compassionate, expert care right here in East Toronto.

May you and your loved ones have safe, happy and healthy holidays!

With my heartfelt thanks,

Mitze Mourinho
President

P.S. Please mail your gift and reply form to Michael Garron Hospital in the enclosed postage-paid envelope by December 31st to get a 2022 tax receipt. Thank you.

P.P.S. If you have already sent your holiday donation and our letters have crossed paths in the mail – *thank you!* But if you haven't, I hope you'll consider making a gift to ensure MGH can continue to be there for every person in our community – during the holidays and every day of the year!