

<Date>

Ms. Generous Donor

<Address>

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Dear <DonorName>,

I'll be honest — when the doctor called me to come in for an ultrasound after seeing my MRI results, I wasn't alarmed. Sometimes you get called back.

But as it turned out, the ultrasound picked up on something. A lesion close to my chest wall.

In a way, I wasn't shocked. I was expecting it. It was just a matter of time.

You see, I have a history of breast cancer in my family. My mom is a two-time breast cancer survivor, so I was considered high-risk. Because of that, I was part of the early screening Breast Care Program at St. Joseph's Health Care London.

My name is Sondy Taran, and I've been a London resident for almost three decades. I raised my four children here. And I gave birth to all of them at St. Joseph's.

I am so grateful to call St. Joseph's *our* hospital. And I'm sure you are too.

I'm writing to you today because I consider you a neighbour. Even though we never met and may not live close to each other, we have something important in common — we care about the people in our city having access to the best health care possible.

<Salutation>, your past support is the reason high-quality care was available to me when I most needed it. Thank you so much for helping to make St. Joseph's a place that all of us can count on in our greatest moments of need.

Will you consider renewing your support with a gift of <GiftAsk1> today?
You'll help to ensure St. Joseph's Health Care London is equipped with the best, most advanced equipment to diagnose, treat and care for people in our community.

Luckily, I was in really good hands — the best. I am so thankful that through routine screening my cancer was caught early and I am OK.

I was also lucky that the ultrasound machine was able to detect the mass even though it was located deep inside the tissue. If you ever wondered why having the newest, most advanced equipment is so important...*this is why*.

The difference could quite literally be life or death. An older ultrasound machine may not have been as precise. The doctors could have easily missed the mass. And the outcome could have been very different for me.

That's why new, state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment is so precious. *It saves lives.*

The doctors were able to do a biopsy right away, and I got called within a week with the official diagnosis — *stage one invasive mammary carcinoma*. It's a fancy medical term for stage one breast cancer.

So, there I was, one week after my 50th birthday, learning that I had breast cancer. It's one of the scariest diagnoses you could receive.

What's even scarier is that cancer can happen to any one of us. And it can happen without any warnings. Sadly, in many cases, cancer is not caught until it's at an advanced stage. Chances are you know someone who has been diagnosed with it. Or perhaps like me, you too had this devastating news delivered to you.

Finding cancer early is important. When doctors catch cancer while it's still small like they did in my case, it is less likely to spread and there is a better chance of treating it successfully. The treatment is also far less invasive. That's why the Breast Care Program at St. Joseph's plays such an important role in the prevention and treatment of cancer for thousands of women in our region.

When you are fighting cancer, you need the very best care you can get.

I was fortunate to have it right here in our city of London. From undergoing a biopsy, ultrasounds, mammograms, radiation and surgery to receiving follow up care — everything I needed was available right here, close to home.

If you or a loved one ever had to turn to St. Joseph's, you can appreciate how important it is to be able to count on high-quality, expert health care. And that includes having a compassionate team of expert staff who care for you every step of the way.

I can't say enough about the team of doctors who cared for me and how knowledgeable, professional and dedicated they were. Dr. Anat Kornecki, Head of Radiology, and my surgeon Dr. Armand Parson were absolutely amazing. They are the

reason I stayed positive throughout the whole experience. They gave me hope and confidence that things would turn out all right.

Dr. Kornecki is a true champion for women and breast cancer prevention! She's doing some pretty amazing things to push breast cancer prevention forward and bring personalized care to every patient. And Dr. Armand is the most patient, empathetic, thorough and kind surgeon.

I received my diagnosis right when the pandemic hit, so we couldn't meet in person with Dr. Armand. He spent so much time on the phone with my husband and me and took the time to explain everything to us carefully. His kind and caring approach made such a huge difference to our family. And during the surgery, my cancer care team consulted live with Dr. Armand, answering questions and providing the information he needed. I think it's pretty incredible how my entire medical team came together!

That's why when the St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation asked me if I'd share my story with you, I immediately agreed. What became clear to me during my cancer experience is that the outstanding care I received would not have been possible without the generosity of our community — *people just like you and me.*

Thank you for being a donor and caring so much about the health of our community! I hope you'll send a generous gift today to ensure all of us continue to have access to the best care possible.

Many people are unaware that our government doesn't fund new and replacement medical equipment. St. Joseph's relies on the generosity of our community to purchase new technology and upgrade equipment at the end of its lifespan.

Everything from the ultrasound and MRI machines to the CT scanners and surgical equipment — the tools used to diagnose and treat me and thousands of other patients, are made possible through donor support.

As you can imagine, this specialized equipment comes at a very high cost. Because these essential purchases can only be made with the help of donations from our community, I hope you'll consider making a gift to St. Joseph's today.

Another important thing I learned talking to the medical staff is that our community is growing — *and aging.* This means that more of our neighbours will turn to St. Joseph's for cancer care in the coming years. We need to ensure that every patient continues to benefit from the latest medical technology and care, just as I did.

We are a community. We are friends and neighbours. And St. Joseph's is here to serve us and our families. It's up to all of us to do our part to ensure that the very best care stays close to home.

<Salutation>, please join me in supporting our local health care by making a donation to St. Joseph's Health Care London today.

Your renewed support will make a real difference to countless people in our community, perhaps even someone you know and love.

The right time, the right people and the right equipment. It's why I am alive today.

It is my hope that by sharing my story with you, you'll be reminded how important it is to have access to the latest medical technology, and how important it is for all of us to do what we can to ensure this high level of care continues to be available to people in our city.

I encourage you to send a donation today. You'll help purchase breast imaging and other essential medical equipment at St. Joseph's so other families can count on the very best care during the most difficult moments of their lives.

With my heartfelt thanks,

[signature]

Sondy Taran
Grateful Patient

P.S. I am incredibly grateful for the outstanding care and state-of-the-art technology that helped save my life. And I am grateful to you for helping to make all of it possible. Please help St. Joseph's continue to offer the very best care to our community by sending a special donation today. Thank you!