



London Health
Sciences Foundation

2016

2026

ON



215 MILLION REASONS

Early into its third decade, from 2016–2026, London Health Sciences Foundation (LHSF) celebrated the successful conclusion of the Why Campaign in 2018, raising more than \$215 million to advance patient care, research, education and innovation across London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC). Surpassing its ambitious \$200 million goal, the campaign became one of the most successful fundraising efforts in the history of health care in Southwestern Ontario, made possible by thousands of donors who believed in a healthier future for our region.

The impact of that generosity continues to be felt today. Campaign support helped accelerate breakthroughs in cancer care, neuroscience, cardiac care, mental health, women's health, orthopaedics and personalized medicine. Donors invested in leading-edge technologies, expanded access to specialized programs, attracted world-class clinicians and researchers and created new opportunities for education and training. The campaign also helped bring transformative innovations closer to patients, from advanced simulation and surgical technologies to personalized approaches that tailor treatments to each individual.

Most importantly, the Why Campaign laid the foundation for a new era of discovery and care. What began as an ambitious vision became a transformational investment in the future of health care—one whose impact continues to be felt by patients, families, clinicians and researchers every day.

TERRY ZAVITZ

Terry Zavitz has built a distinguished career in insurance and business as the founder of Zavitz Insurance & Wealth, now HUB Zavitz. A dedicated volunteer and advocate for better health care, she served on LHSF's Board of Directors and brought her leadership and community connections to her role as Co-Chair of the Women's Care Why Campaign Cabinet. In addition to supporting major gift efforts, Terry helped lead successful community fundraisers over several years, including Stop the Leak, which raised funds to establish a new Urogynecology Clinic. Her commitment, strategic insight and ability to bring people together helped create lasting impact for women and families across the region.



HEAR
FROM
TERRY

**Terry Zavitz, Generous Donor,
Former LHSF Board Chair & Board Member,
Women's Care Campaign Cabinet Co-Chair**

FOUNDATIONS | A glimpse at a few milestones that helped shape our third decade.

1 THE VERSPEETEN FAMILY CANCER CENTRE

In 2023, the late Archie and Irene Verspeeten made a transformational \$20 million gift to transform cancer care. After losing his wife and two of their sons, Alan and Ron, Archie was determined to help prevent other families from enduring that same pain.

As the largest single donation in the history of health-care foundation contributions in Southwestern Ontario, it built on a lifetime of generosity from the Verspeeten family totalling \$27 million. Today, the Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre stands as a lasting tribute to that legacy—supporting exceptional patient care, attracting the next generation of cancer specialists and advancing groundbreaking research aimed at improving how cancer is prevented, diagnosed and treated for patients at LHSC.

2 EPILEPSY PROGRAM

LHSC's Epilepsy Program became the first in Ontario to perform a robot-assisted stereoelectroencephalography (SEEG) procedure using the Renishaw neuromate™ surgical robot, enabling clinicians to precisely map seizure activity in the brain through targeted electrode placement. This milestone was made possible through a \$500,000 donation from Domino's Pizza of Canada chief executive Mike Schlater and his wife, Lilibeth, followed by another half-million-dollar gift from Domino's Pizza, Inc. that supported the introduction of laser ablation technology, providing a minimally invasive treatment option for patients with complex epilepsy. Together, these advancements have strengthened LHSC's Epilepsy Program, now the largest in Canada, providing specialized care to approximately 200 patients each year.

3 NAZEM KADRI SURGICAL CENTRE

London-born NHL star and Stanley Cup champion Nazem Kadri made a \$1 million gift to LHSC in 2022 to help usher in a new, innovative surgical care model for Canada. Through the Nazem Kadri Foundation's early support and Kadri's transformational donation, LHSC's Nazem Kadri Surgical Centre (NKSC) became Ontario's first high-efficiency ambulatory surgical centre. Designed for low-risk outpatient procedures, the NKSC is helping reshape how surgical care is delivered in Ontario—allowing more patients to receive timely treatment in a centre built specifically for same-day surgery. This pioneering centre continues to be sustained through donor support and has since caught the attention of the Ontario government, leading to new provincial funding that will help it expand its reach and improve access to surgery.

4 CARDIAC HYBRID OPERATING ROOM

A long-held vision for cardiac innovation became reality in 2020 with the opening of the Cardiac Hybrid Operating Room at University Hospital. It combines the diagnostic functions of a catheterization laboratory with the surgical functions of an operating room (OR), allowing teams to perform complex procedures in one integrated space. Made possible through donor generosity, the Hybrid OR enables minimally invasive treatments, reduces recovery times and improves patient safety while providing immediate access to life-saving surgery when needed. As the first cardiac hybrid OR of its kind in Canada, it strengthened London's position as a leader in cardiac innovation and expanded access to advanced heart care for patients across Southwestern Ontario.

Past. Present. Purpose.

Thanks to \$1.3 million in donor funding, LHSC's Maternal Fetal Medicine team acquired 12 cutting-edge ultrasound units. That generosity included support from one remarkable estate gift of \$700,000 and the Payday Plus 50/50 LHSC Staff Lottery. Together, these gifts are helping families receive earlier and more precise diagnosis, giving babies the best possible start and parents more time to prepare when it matters most.

This contribution is just one example of how the Payday Plus Staff Lottery is making an impact. Since launching in 2020, it has become Ontario's largest hospital staff lottery, with more than 170 winners and over \$4.7 million raised for patient care.

Through this program, LHSC staff and affiliated teams choose to give back in another way, beyond the great care they provide. Every payday, half the jackpot goes to one lucky winner, while the other half funds essential programs, equipment and patient supports across LHSC and Children's Hospital.

DR. DAVID PALMA



For more than a decade, donor support has helped Dr. David Palma and his team push the boundaries of cancer treatment through groundbreaking research in precision radiation therapy. As a Radiation Oncologist at LHSC, Dr. Palma led the internationally recognized SABR-COMET clinical trial, challenging the long-held belief that metastatic cancer could only be managed, not cured. By using highly targeted radiation to treat cancer that has spread, his research has helped patients live longer, maintain their quality of life and, in some cases, achieve lasting remission. Today, this work continues to shape cancer care around the world, offering new hope to patients and families facing some of the most difficult diagnoses. In addition to his clinical and research leadership, Dr. Palma also serves as a Board member for LHSF.



HEAR
FROM
DR.
PALMA



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