



Kim O'Grady Empowers Care.

"When I learned how little the funding is that the hospital actually gets, I was astonished," remembers Kim O'Grady. "There are so many amazing people at our hospital always doing more with less - I figured as part of this community, I needed to do my part too."

Kim O'Grady is many things: One part real estate broker, one part philosopher, one part women's advocate and all parts entrepreneurial. She's been in and around Huntsville for years with just a short time away.

"I love this community," says Kim, "especially the business owners, our true community leaders, and the people who move here to make big changes in their lives."

"Focus on who you are as opposed to who others think you should be."

Kim started a women's group called Athena Verve which is focused on supporting and empowering women who are going through big changes. She also opened the Chestnut

Park real estate office which is comprised primarily of solo agents who collaborate and support each other.

"Based on what I'm seeing, people of all ages at all stages are moving here," says Kim. "We're growing. So building hospital and healthcare capacity to anticipate that growth is a big

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challenge. We need the new facility, the new infrastructure and new technology to equip it. This will all add needed capacity. It will also help with talent recruitment - if I was a young physician or healthcare professional, I'd have to consider moving here. A big part of that is our new hospital."

Kim was welcomed to the Huntsville Hospital Foundation Board in 2025, and now serves the greater community alongside the terrific Foundation team and other Board members.

"For my part, I give monthly," says Kim. "I set it up a while back, and I don't have to overthink it. Like paying yourself

first for retirement planning, only this is my monthly investment in my hospital. For our community to stay strong

We need to take care of the people who take care of us.

and grow the right way, we each need to commit to this hospital. We need to be responsible to the amazing healthcare team that chooses us."

Thanks Kim - for empowering care in so many ways.

Dave James makes all the right moves at (and for) Huntsville Hospital.

Dave James has called Muskoka home for 44 years now. He met his wife Lauralea of 31 years in Gravenhurst. He was living in Bracebridge at the time and she was from Huntsville. Talk about an all-Muskoka romance.

"I joined the Huntsville Hospital Auxiliary 16 years ago and recently served as the President," says Dave. "Right now I spend my Auxiliary volunteer time mostly as a hospital porter. I move patients around as required, help people find their way around the hospital and even help staff by delivering charts and other miscellaneous admin tasks. It's very gratifying. You get to make a difference you can see in real time."

Dave's other activities with the Auxiliary focus on helping the volunteer group raise money to support hospital equipment and technology purchases.

"Auxiliary volunteers staff the Gift Shop - all the profits from that go to the hospital," says Dave. "We also participate in the multi-hospital Split The Pot Lottery. Put it all together and we literally raise thousands (and tens of thousands) of dollars every year for Huntsville Hospital. We work with the Foundation to direct those funds appropriately and everyone wins as a result. Another critically important, non-financial project we continue to support is the Blood Donor Clinic."

The big challenge for the Huntsville Hospital Auxiliary going forward is two-fold: "First we need more volunteers to keep



doing what we're doing. It's only a few hours a week and you get to make that real-time difference in your community every time you're there. You can see it. And your community and hospital staff can see and appreciate you too. Second, we need to do our part to build the new hospital and attract the professionals and specialized staff we need. We all need to work (and move) together to get 'er done."

For more information about the Huntsville Hospital Auxiliary and volunteer opportunities, please **contact by email or phone: Lorrie Lamb, lorrie.lamb@mahc.ca, 705-789-2311, ext. 2297.**

RN Erin Roebuck: Exactly where she wants to be.

Erin Roebuck moved around a little with her family after growing up in Huntsville until she was 10. Years later, she got her nursing education at Loyalist College in Belleville and her nursing degree through Brock University. But getting back to her 'hometown' Huntsville was what she hoped for and as it turned out, Huntsville Hospital was her last placement before graduating. Coincidence? Nothing about Huntsville Hospital's Clinical Lead for Medical Surgery, OBS and 18-year veteran is by chance.

In her role, she coordinates care between staff, patients and nursing staff - and gets involved with every patient on the floor so she and her team can better manage outcomes. We asked for her nurse's perspective on a few topics of interest to Huntsville Hospital donors:

What are the challenges now?

"Over the last few years we have been dealing with more patients than beds, and not enough nurses to look after them. Gone are the busy summers, it seems to be year-round these days. We need more beds and more nurses to take care of them.

If recruiting is the challenge, how can you impact that today?

"For starters, we all have to be open to creative and innovative ways to care for our patients - we have to be collaborative, working together to help our patients regardless of the limitations on services available. Recruiting new staff, I think is something that we need to focus on our own "home grown nurses". Mentoring and supporting new nursing staff that are from the area will help keep nursing staff in our community. The promise of a new hospital with more space, better patient flow and new solutions will be very attractive.

Speaking of easier, how will the new hospital help?

"Building a new hospital will allow the entire interdisciplinary team to care for the patients efficiently and effectively. Better workstations, patient room placement, up to date connectivity, accessibility are just some of the things a new



building will provide. It will also provide more family centered care with more room in the rooms, places for them to sleep, better digital systems that diagnostic test results can be reviewed with patients and families will make a big difference. Just like having the MRI has improved our capacity in diagnostics and treatment, a new hospital will do the same for all patient care."

Any last words for donors?

"Your hospital is a Best Practice environment. Our nurses, doctors and all staff strive to optimize patient care in every way possible. Our team goes the extra mile, and that's what donations make possible."

Thank you Erin.

RAISE MUSKOKA, the campaign to build one integrated healthcare system, two new hospitals and one phenomenal future, is off to a great start thanks in a large part to the Bob Hutcheson inspired matching gift of \$17.5 million. Please help us keep up the positive momentum by doubling the impact of every dollar you donate to Raise Muskoka and our new hospitals.



Please donate online (huntsvillehospitalfoundation.ca/matching) or contact Meaghan Byrnes at meaghan.byrnes@mahc.ca



Dave knows having the right technology and equipment in our hospitals now helps attract and retain professionals to the area. Vocal community support and donations pay for the equipment and contribute to solving both of the challenges he identifies as important.

Just Like Father Christmas, Dave Shows Up Every Year.

Every year around Christmas, Fred Claus (aka Dave McCartney) drives from Kearney (pronounced car-knee for those who don't know) to deliver a very generous cheque in support of Huntsville Hospital. And yes, cookies are exchanged too.

Dave has been living in Muskoka since 2007 and moved into his Kearney / Almaguin home about four years ago with family close by. He last visited Huntsville Hospital as a patient during the Alberta wildfires when he had difficulty breathing. But more than that, he brings a unique perspective to supporting "everyone's hospital" and especially the new build and its importance to his community North of town.

"Attracting primary care doctors and nurses to our communities is one big challenge - so is getting people to

understand that while the government builds hospitals, it's up to the community to equip them," says Dave. "Long before I retired, I was in charge of the physical plant at Toronto General Hospital and back in 1978, I helped with the build of the Huntsville Hospital we have today. Based on what I'm seeing and hearing, we're in good hands and moving in the right direction with our new facility here and in Bracebridge."

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"I've been giving annually for the last four years and I always get a great, warm reception at the Foundation," says Dave. "Giving annually and dependably helps the hospital stay current: Technology and equipment wears out and the tech updates are consistent. That's why our giving has to be consistent too."

"All the communities and residents of Almaguin know that Huntsville Hospital is our hospital," concludes Dave. "There is great support here for the new build and the community sessions have helped contribute clarity to what we're getting. We'll have amazing care and access close by - it will be everything we need close by, as it has been for years."

Thanks Mr. Claus (aka Dave). We appreciate the support.

Help us keep our promise to ensure and pay for continuing hospital improvements in Muskoka. Please give today!

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