



BLUEWATER
HEALTH
FOUNDATION

HERE FOR
you

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The Heart of Community Care

For more than a century, Bluewater Health and our founding hospitals have been providing healthcare to the community of Sarnia-Lambton. From welcoming your new baby into the world, to end of life care for your loved ones, and all of your important moments of need in between, your community hospital is here for you. Bluewater Health is truly the heart of the community.

Since 2003, Bluewater Health Foundation's sole purpose has been to raise funds to support our community hospital, Bluewater Health. We envision a healthy community sustained through a culture of generosity, while creating, inspiring and cultivating expressions of kindness to equip Bluewater Health in its care for our community.

While it may seem like the Sarnia site of Bluewater Health was just built, we in fact opened up the doors nearly 15 years ago! Much of the equipment that was purchased during the construction is now nearing or at its end of life. Healthcare trends and available treatment modalities have shifted considerably over the last decade.

Trends and demographics in our community are influencing and shaping programs and services made

available at Bluewater Health. We are cognizant of an aging population as well as significant increases in people from Lambton County being diagnosed with cancer, living with chronic health issues, and suffering from mental health and addiction issues. As such, it is imperative that we plan accordingly for the future needs of our patients, their families, and our dedicated staff, physicians and volunteers.

"The expansion of Bluewater Health's Cancer Care Clinic will greatly benefit our patients, providing additional space and improved ease of access. This is necessary for our growing community and will help us to continue providing the highest standard of care for the people of Sarnia-Lambton."

- Dr. Kenneth Yoshida, Oncologist

Currently, an identified need and priority for Bluewater Health is the establishment of a medical day treatment space. This collaborative approach will bring together several core departments with one shared location and focus: the provision of close to home specialized care for patients across Lambton County.



Exceptional *Care* Close to Home Made the Difference

Patient Story:

Fernando was diagnosed with stage four colorectal cancer in April 2021. At the time, the prognosis was dire; he was given just four months. For several years prior to his diagnosis, Fernando says symptoms were almost nonexistent. Aside from issues with acid reflux, he says he felt energetic, was able to run and was living a full life. It wasn't until he began to have issues eating that he felt something was amiss. By the time the cancer was discovered, it was thought Fernando had been unknowingly living with it for up to four years.

He says undergoing chemotherapy treatment was an exhausting experience.

"It wasn't easy, at one point, I was down to 94 pounds," Fernando says. "I couldn't eat or drink... I had no energy."

But he says it also transformed his outlook on life, bringing his tight-knit family even closer together and giving him a new appreciation for friendships and each new person he meets.

"My wife, Isaura, has been amazing every step of the way," he says.

Fernando gives major credit to Bluewater Health staff and the cancer care clinic for saving his life. He says undergoing treatment throughout the COVID-19 pandemic was a lonely experience, but the compassionate care and endless support he received from nurses, physicians and staff truly made the

difference. Being able to access exceptional care close to home was a major help in his journey. Today, Fernando says he is taking things one day at a time. His energy is back most days and he is able to live a generally normal life, spending time with his family, including his three granddaughters.

"Bluewater Health is just full of amazing people; to me, they are my family," he says. "The cancer care clinic is a blessing, it's such a great facility. I have no words that can fully express my gratitude."

Lab Stats



2,234,531
TESTS PERFORMED



313
BIOPSIES



61%
TESTED POSITIVE
FOR CANCER



A *Time* for Transformation

At Bluewater Health, we want to create a multi-disciplinary space that offers cutting edge and innovative approaches to care and treatment. This space will be designed to suit the needs of our patients today, tomorrow and beyond.

The Cancer Clinic at Bluewater Health is seeing more patients, and the facility design, completed over a decade ago, no longer meets current needs in terms of patient flow, capacity, accessibility, comfort and privacy.

Through a large-scale renovation, Bluewater Health will bring together oncology and pharmacy in a network of services to provide an organized and cohesive experience. This center will be designed and built upon patient and family-centred care. It will enrich quality of care and build hope for patients and their loved ones.

The redeveloped space will include new patient reception and waiting areas, and versatile clinical rooms where examinations, procedures and consultations will take place with your physicians and care team in a private area. These clinical rooms will be equipped to host many procedures that currently require use of the OR. A brand new state of the art lab was installed last year and supports innovative and evolving technology testing. The onsite pharmacy will provide the remaining piece of the network of services for patients in the cycle of treatment.

The outcomes of this redevelopment will be improved patient flow and experience and increased capacity for future growth and development.

Oncology Program Stats



3,726
CHEMOTHERAPY
VISITS



7,696
OUTPATIENT
VISITS



737
VIRTUAL
VISITS



1,866
DIAGNOSTIC
PROCEDURES

Bluewater Health's Pharmacy *Care*

For the last ten years, Bluewater Health's outpatient pharmacy team has specialized in delivering outstanding oncology care. Oncology pharmacists work closely with patients undergoing chemotherapy and other cancer treatments, helping patients and families navigate the often overwhelming world of medication. Oncology pharmacists take the time to ensure all new chemotherapy treatments are safe to use with the patient's home medications. They also help mitigate potential interactions through discussion and planning with the patient's oncologist. BWH Oncology pharmacists ensure patients feel heard and are well-equipped with the tools and knowledge needed to safely complete their chemotherapy.

Ten years ago, there were only 20 drug treatment options for cancer patients; today the Bluewater Health Pharmacy dispenses more than 60 oral cancer treatment medications. As the oncology landscape is rapidly evolving, their team works diligently to update knowledge and processes. By working closely with BWH Oncologists, the pharmacy team is able to implement new chemotherapy medications and regimens efficiently and effectively. This allows our patients to receive gold-standard care locally without having to travel far for it.

Cancer treatment can bring with it many unexpected expenses, with a large burden often coming from the chemotherapeutic agents themselves. We recognize that the burden of these medication expenses may create a significant barrier for patients in accessing the recommended treatments. To alleviate some of these burdens, the Pharmacy Care Oncology Fund has been established at Bluewater Health.

Any adult who is undergoing treatment at the Bluewater Health oncology clinic, and who is experiencing a financial burden as a result of their cancer and its treatment, is eligible to apply for assistance.

Drug Access Navigators (DANs) at Bluewater Health advocate on behalf of patients to access compassionate supply from drug manufacturers, access to reimbursement from insurance companies and filling out EAP forms and Trillium applications has saved these dollars out of the patients' own pockets. As the Pharmacy Care Oncology Fund is solely supported by donations, alternative funding options are explored, with support from the Drug Access Navigators, before an application to Pharmacy Care Oncology Fund is considered.





Help us reach our
fundraising *goal*
of \$3.7 million

The transformation of the cancer care clinic at Bluewater Health will require considerable support and community investment. Bluewater Health Foundation, together with our generous community, needs to raise **\$3.7 million** to support the cancer care clinic redevelopment.

Two in five Canadians are expected to be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. Having access to care and treatment close to home is crucial; avoiding excess travel means one less stressor for patients living with cancer.

While government funding supports the operation and administration of hospitals, it is donations and

community investment that fund critical equipment purchases, replacements and upgrades throughout Bluewater Health. This is equipment that helps perform everything from day to day tests, clinical treatments, surgeries and critical, possibly lifesaving, diagnostic scans.

With your support, Bluewater Health will be able to evolve alongside the ever changing healthcare needs of the Sarnia-Lambton community. The necessary updates to the current space will strengthen our capacity and ability to treat and care for patients like Fernando.

By investing in our community, you are not only strengthening healthcare, but giving hope to those patients in need of care today, tomorrow, and into the future.

Please consider making a donation and see the impact your gift can make.



8,913

ONCOLOGY REFILLS
DISPENSED
(37 DAILY AVERAGE)

TOP DIAGNOSIS
GROUPS



Malignant
BREAST &
PROSTATE
Cancer

7,554

OUTPATIENT
DIALYSIS
PROCEDURES





BLUEWATER
HEALTH
FOUNDATION

**To support the cancer clinic
redevelopment, call or email:**



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