

The Northumberland Hills Hospital Foundation Launches

Light Up a Life Campaign

(Dr. Collin's Letter)

November 21, 2006

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY – Today marks the official kick-off of the 2006 ***Light up a Life*** fundraising campaign, in support of the Northumberland Hills Hospital Foundation.

Funds raised through this year's campaign will help purchase sophisticated laboratory equipment that will be used in the diagnosis and treatment of disease. The hospital laboratory is an important part of hospital operations: almost every patient using the hospital – including those undergoing dialysis or chemotherapy – depends on the laboratory for vital test results.

"The lab runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and completes over 200,000 tests per year," says Dr. Allison Collins, Laboratory Medical Director for the Northumberland Hills Hospital. "Your support will help ensure that patients are diagnosed quickly, safely, and as accurately as possible."

In a letter being mailed to Foundation supporters, Dr. Collins provides an explanation of some of the specific equipment that this year's ***Light up a Life*** campaign will help to purchase; included are the following:

Vitek Microbiology Unit – This instrument is used by lab technologists to identify bacteria and their sensitivity to antibiotics. It helps doctors to determine which antibiotic they should prescribe to fight infections most effectively.

Shandon Cytospin – This is a high speed centrifuge that processes samples of spinal fluid so that the bacteria that cause meningitis can easily be identified by the technologist.

Blood Bank Refrigerator and Freezer Units – After 19 years and 15 years respectively, these items had to be replaced to ensure that fresh blood donations and frozen plasma could be stored safely for future use in patients. Last year, the laboratory transfused more than 2,500 units of blood and blood products.

On Wednesday, December 6, the community is invited for a ***Light up a Life*** ceremony, to celebrate the campaign. Starting at 7:00 p.m., in the Main Street Bistro of the Northumberland Hills Hospital, there will be a number of family focused activities, including star cookie decorating, seasonal entertainment, refreshments, and free draws. The highlight of the evening will be the lighting of the Rotary Club of Cobourg Courtyard, shortly after the ceremony begins.

For the past 12 years, the community has been very supportive of the ***Light up a Life*** campaign. Last year, the campaign raised over \$97,000, which was used in the purchase of two ventilators for the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital.

Those interested in learning more about the ***Light up a Life*** campaign, or in reading Dr. Collins's letter, are invited to visit the Foundation website, at www.nhh.ca. To make a donation, or to offer your support, please call the foundation office at (905) 372-6811, ext. 3065.

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For more information, please call

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