



## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
May 18, 2021

### **Local Business Leader and Long-Time Northumberland County Resident Announced as Chair of Upcoming NHH Foundation Capital Campaign**

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY** – Local business leader and long-time Northumberland County resident, Hank Vandermeer, will serve as Chair for what is set to be the largest capital campaign in the history of Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) and in Northumberland County. The *Exceptional Community, Exceptional Care* campaign will support the funding of advanced technology at NHH to ensure residents across west Northumberland have access to faster, better, and smarter care close to home.

“NHH is facing significant capital needs in the coming years to support the enhancement of services, meet the needs of our growing and aging population, and attract and retain talented physicians and clinical experts,” says Pam Went, Chair of the NHH Board of Directors. “While many residents remember the exciting time when our hospital first opened its doors, nearly two decades have now passed. Throughout this time, I am proud of how our hospital has grown and adjusted to meet the changing needs of our community and we now stand at a pivotal point where we must come together once again to ensure our community continues to have access to the modern high-quality healthcare it deserves. As a Board, we are delighted NHH Foundation has accepted the responsibility of raising funds to support the significant needs ahead.”

“The past year has amplified the critical role our hospital plays in our community,” reflects Jeff Gilmer, Chair of the NHH Foundation Board of Directors. “The pandemic has demonstrated the importance of modern technology, accurate data, and quick results – the importance of staying ahead of the curve. The provincial government does not typically fund the capital equipment or technology required to ensure this; instead, the responsibility to do so is that of the community. We have seen why we cannot afford to wait to address imperative needs, why we must plan ahead and work together to ensure NHH is well-prepared to meet our future head on.”

“Hank Vandermeer and the Vandermeer family have long been supporters of NHH Foundation, and on behalf of the NHH Foundation Board of Directors, I want to thank Hank for accepting the role to lead our *Exceptional Community, Exceptional Care* campaign,” continues Gilmer.

When asked why he has signed on to Chair this campaign, Vandermeer shared, “NHH plays a leading role in caring for our community. I want to help our Hospital remain strong and I understand the need for all of us to come together to ensure this, which is why I plan to give my efforts until the last dollar is raised. In every industry, good equipment can make a real difference and for healthcare in particular, quality and speed are imperative.”

Funds raised through the *Exceptional Community, Exceptional Care* campaign will be directed towards three critical priorities. To keep pace with advances in medical technology, embrace the importance of interconnectivity and efficient partnerships between care providers, put patient safety first, and prepare for the anticipated increase on demands for hospital services, this campaign will:

- Fund the purchase of both a new Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Computed Tomography (CT) scanner
- Support the implementation of a new integrated clinical information system that will fundamentally change the delivery of healthcare
- Continue to allow NHH to invest in new and improved technology in all departments throughout the hospital

“Immigrating to Northumberland County at a young age, I saw the difference a caring community could make as my family and I settled into our new home,” remembers Vandermeer. “My parents always stressed the importance of giving back to one’s community, explaining that if everyone contributes as they can, it creates a strong and positive place to live. Recent times have been a reminder of how lucky we are to live in Northumberland County, and I am honoured to be able to give back to my community at this crucial time. While our community has certainly grown throughout my life, and especially in recent times, the caring spirit that made my family and I feel so welcome remains. Our hospital is imperative to our community and is also a catalyst for attracting new residents – we must all commit to making sure NHH remains vibrant to meet our growing needs.”

“Residents of Northumberland County can expect to hear more about this exciting campaign over the next several years,” says Gilmer. “In the coming months, Hank, with the support of the Foundation staff and both Foundation and NHH volunteers, will be working to enlist his team. I am confident under his leadership our community will continue to have access to exceptional modern healthcare, close to home.”

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**About the Northumberland Hills Hospital Foundation** – The mission of the Northumberland Hills Hospital Foundation is to inspire generous giving to enable exceptional patient care at Northumberland Hills Hospital. With a dedicated team of enthusiastic volunteers and staff, the NHH Foundation is passionately committed to improving health care and the quality of life for people living in west Northumberland. Since 2002, the NHH Foundation has raised over \$61 million to build and equip Northumberland Hills Hospital. This support comes from generous community support through a variety of programs including major gifts, planned giving, signature and third party events, direct mail and commemorative giving. For more information, visit: [www.nhhfoundation.ca](http://www.nhhfoundation.ca) or [like us on Facebook](#).

**About Northumberland Hills Hospital** – Located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto, NHH delivers a broad range of acute, post-acute, outpatient and diagnostic services. Acute services include emergency and intensive care, medical/surgical care, obstetrical care and palliative care. Post-acute specialty services (PASS) include restorative care and rehabilitation. Mental health care, chemotherapy, dialysis and 16 other ambulatory care clinics are offered on an outpatient basis through partnerships with regional centres and nearby specialists. NHH offers a full range of diagnostic services, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT) and mammography. The hospital serves the

catchment area of west Northumberland County. A mixed urban and rural population of approximately 60,000 residents, west Northumberland comprises the Town of Cobourg, the Municipality of Port Hope and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs approximately 600 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians and volunteers. NHH is an active member of the Central East Local Health Integration Network. For more information, please visit [www.nhh.ca](http://www.nhh.ca) or follow us on Twitter @NorHillsHosp.