

# Supporting exceptional health care for future generations



THE LASTING IMPACT OF A GIFT IN  
YOUR WILL TO UHN FOUNDATION





# A proud history of transforming health care

Toronto General Hospital's first official donation holds a special place in its history. Service medals from the War of 1812 were melted into gold bouillon to provide funds for the hospital's construction, turning treasures from the past into a gift for the future.

As the city grew, that vision for the future remained. Our hospitals joined forces and expanded – integrating healthcare services to best serve patients.

By 1999, with the **Toronto Hospital** including the **Toronto Western Division**, the **Toronto General Division**, and the **Princess Margaret Hospital**, we officially became known as **University Health Network (UHN)**.

UHN integrated with **Toronto Rehab Institute** in 2011, bringing together acute hospital care with follow-up rehabilitation at seven sites across the GTA.

In 2016, we integrated with **The Michener Institute of Education** pioneering Canada's first partnership of a health care organization and an educational institution.

Today, **UHN Foundation** raises funds for ongoing care and innovation at Toronto General and Toronto Western hospitals, Toronto Rehab and the Michener Institute.

**Planned gifts to UHN make history – and continue to transform lives and the future of health care.**

**UHN's hospitals and care teams have a rich history of world-first achievements that have changed patient lives for more than a century:**



**1922**

World's first clinical use of insulin in the treatment of diabetes



**1961**

Discovery of blood-forming stem cells, enabling bone marrow transplants



**1983/1986**

World's first successful single and double lung transplants



**1996**

World's first awake outpatient craniotomy for brain tumour removal



**2010**

World's first use of deep brain stimulation to treat anorexia



**2014**

World's first small-incision procedure for aneurysms done with endoscope



**2019**

World's first robot-assisted brain surgery on a live patient



**2023**

Named one of the top 5 hospitals, and the top publicly funded hospital in the world



**UHN is proud to be recognized as a global leader in patient care and research. It is a testament to the dedication and passion displayed daily by our staff, physicians, researchers, Board and volunteers. We share this recognition with each of them, and with all of our donors, whose tireless support allows us to continue our work to deliver a healthier world.**

— Dr. Kevin Smith, UHN President & CEO

## MAKE A LASTING IMPACT THROUGH A GIFT IN YOUR WILL



**A gift in your will brings innovative research ideas to life.**

Innovation and discovery are at the core of UHN. You enable revolutionary research to get off the ground, leading to discoveries and treatment options.



**A gift in your will accelerates medical breakthroughs.**

From purchasing equipment to upgrading labs and operating rooms, to recruiting some of the world's best medical minds, your thoughtful giving helps our hospitals remain on the cutting edge.



**A gift in your will preserves your values beyond your lifetime.**

As you establish your own legacy, you will ensure the best-in-the-world patient care UHN is known for. Your gift of future funding allows us to accelerate discoveries and provide patients with the world-class care they need and deserve.

*You can leave a legacy that builds a healthier world, today and tomorrow.*



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

# UHN's own Raj Kothari

## MY DEEPLY PERSONAL REASONS FOR GIVING BACK

Growing up, I remember seeing my father and grandfather share their time, talents and resources with others. They cared about their community, and that stuck with me.

When I became a father myself, I wanted to instill the same values in my children. My wife, Shaila, and I chose charities close to our hearts and looked for meaningful ways to give back.

Today, it makes me proud to see my three grown daughters living with a passion for philanthropy. They understand the impact every gift makes.

When I first joined the board for the UHN Foundation, I was amazed by the innovative research, education and patient care that define our world-class programs.

What I couldn't know then was that my own family would rely on UHN's top-level care. After experiencing a stroke, my daughter Shruti needed emergency surgery followed by extensive rehabilitation.

**That's when I truly saw your gifts in action.**



UHN attracts the brightest medical minds, so I knew top neurosurgeons were working to save my daughter's life. I knew they were using the latest equipment, purchased with donor funds. As Shruti recovered, I knew there was no better place for her to be than Toronto Rehab.

When someone I love needed the best possible care, UHN provided it. That's the world I want for my grandchildren.

**They are the reason I give back.**

REAL PATIENT IMPACT

# Shruti's story



**TEAM UHN GOT ME BACK TO THE LIFE AND THE PEOPLE I LOVE**



March 7, 2020 was a sunny spring Saturday. I was practicing yoga on my deck when I fell over suddenly. I couldn't feel my left leg.

The next thing I remember was being in a speeding ambulance on the way to Toronto Western Hospital. After that, I was unaware of the heroic efforts underway to save my life.

**I'd had a stroke.** Doctors needed to remove half of my skull to alleviate the swelling. I was unconscious in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) when the pandemic struck. With COVID-19 patients flooding the ICU, I was moved to UHN's Toronto Rehab.

Under lockdown, my nurses held tablets with the smiling faces of my family. I was determined to go home to them and to the other love of my life – performing on stage.

My therapists helped me reach each goal throughout the rigorous work of recovery. I learned to speak, and then to transfer to my wheelchair. Finally, I took my first steps.

I was discharged on August 4, 2020 the day before my dad's birthday. I was beyond excited to celebrate at home!

Still, it was a bittersweet goodbye to my wonderful therapy team. I performed some Shakespeare to lighten the mood, but we shed plenty of tears.

**Every day, I'm thankful for the UHN care teams and donors like you who support them. Thanks to you, there are so many parts I'll still get to play.**



## UHN TORONTO REHAB: Completing the care cycle

After receiving treatment at our clinical programs, UHN patients come to Toronto Rehab to regain their strength, relearn vital life skills and discover new ways to approach daily tasks so they can return to their lives.

Toronto Rehab is Canada's largest hospital dedicated to adult rehabilitation and is home to the KITE Research Institute, the number-one rehabilitation institution in the world.

We strive to deliver the best possible outcomes as we serve UHN patients in our specialized programs:

- ✔ Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Program
- ✔ Complex Continuing Care Program
- ✔ Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation Program
- ✔ Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation and Multi-System Program
- ✔ Geriatric Rehabilitation Program
- ✔ Specialized Dementia Unit

A gift in your will ensures UHN can provide exceptional care to every patient throughout their journey – from diagnosis to recovery and beyond.



# It's our turn to help

ALLAN SAYS THANKS TO UHN, WITH A GIFT IN HIS WILL



**The treatment I received throughout my transplant experience was second to none. Margaret and I were so grateful to have had such an amazing level of care.**

That's when we decided we wanted to do more. We wanted to contribute to the hospital through a planned estate gift and make a larger impact for years to come.

We had a lawyer update our wills to include UHN Foundation. We found a way to take care of our son and grandchildren and give back to the place that saved my life. To us, it's the perfect way of saying thank you.

One year after my surgery, my wife Margaret and I were on a river boat in France, taking a long overdue trip to celebrate our wedding anniversary, enjoying the breathtaking European scenery.

**Toronto General Hospital gave us this moment, and allowed us to celebrate this milestone. It brings us great joy to know that through a gift in our will, we'll help further incredible research at UHN, and give future patients more time with their loved ones.**

Researchers in the transplant program discovered how to improve the quality of damaged donor lungs.

The results? We are able to use organs that previously would have been unsuitable. We've increased lung transplants by 100 per cent in five years.

**Thanks to planned gifts to UHN Foundation, innovative research studies are leading to groundbreaking new discoveries like this one at Ajmera Transplant Centre.**

I'll never take for granted how lucky I am to be alive. I truly cherish each moment life brings.

Anniversaries, travel, even reaching my next birthday ... these milestones all seemed uncertain when I was first admitted to UHN's Ajmera Transplant Centre at Toronto General Hospital with liver failure back in 2014.

At that time, the news was grim: although my liver disease was serious, I didn't meet the criteria to receive a donor liver just yet.

We tried not to lose hope as my health deteriorated. Three years later, after doctors found a lesion on my liver, we got the call from the hospital: there was a donor liver for me.



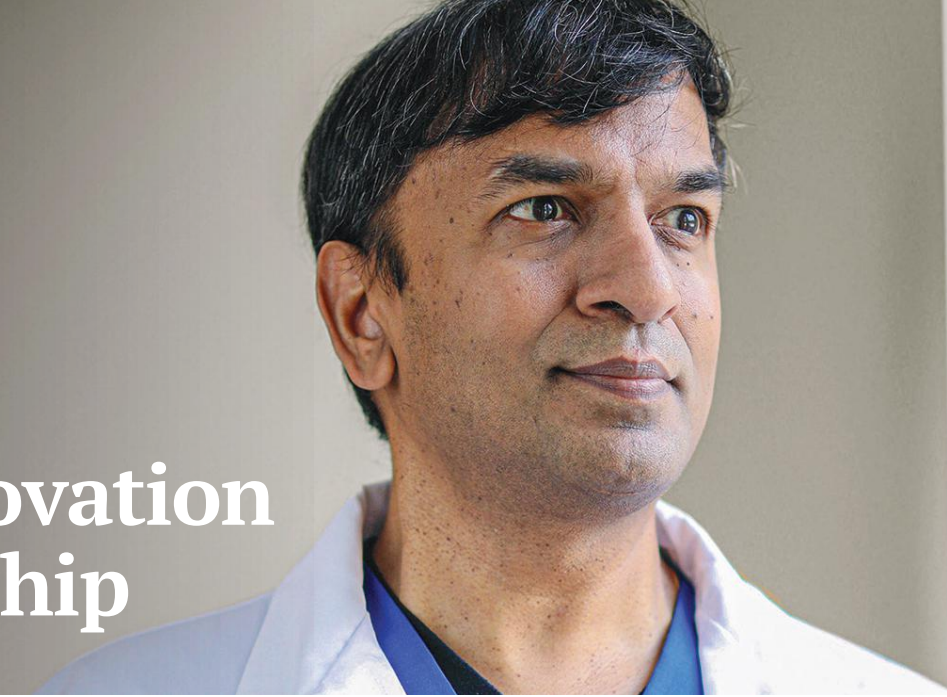
## LEADING THE WAY – and leading the world

Collaboration is at the core of the **Ajmera Transplant Centre** at UHN, one of the largest and most successful transplant programs in North America. We lead the way in clinical care and research.

One life-saving example is the Ex Vivo technology that was pioneered at Toronto General Hospital.



## From innovation to leadership



### DR. ATUL HUMAR ON THE LATEST ORGAN TRANSPLANT BREAKTHROUGHS

Organ transplantation is nothing short of a miracle, allowing us to give people hope for survival when their vital organs fail.

My team at the Ajmera Transplant Centre use that miracle as the starting block to finding new ways of advancing transplantation and saving even more lives.

Thanks to our wide research footprint, we're able to be boldly innovative. We can move quickly from basic ideas to transplantation models and then on to clinical use. From there, we can turn our passion to leadership as we share what we learn with other transplant programs around the world.

**Our Ex Vivo perfusion technique was a world first.** We took lungs that were unsuitable or damaged and developed a way to repair them *outside the body* before transplanting them.

After sharing our work, we moved on to pioneer successful kidney, liver and heart Ex Vivo transplants.

Today, we're focused on progressing Ex Vivo technology even further. We want to modify organs through advanced technologies to create "super organs" that are resistant to rejection or infection.

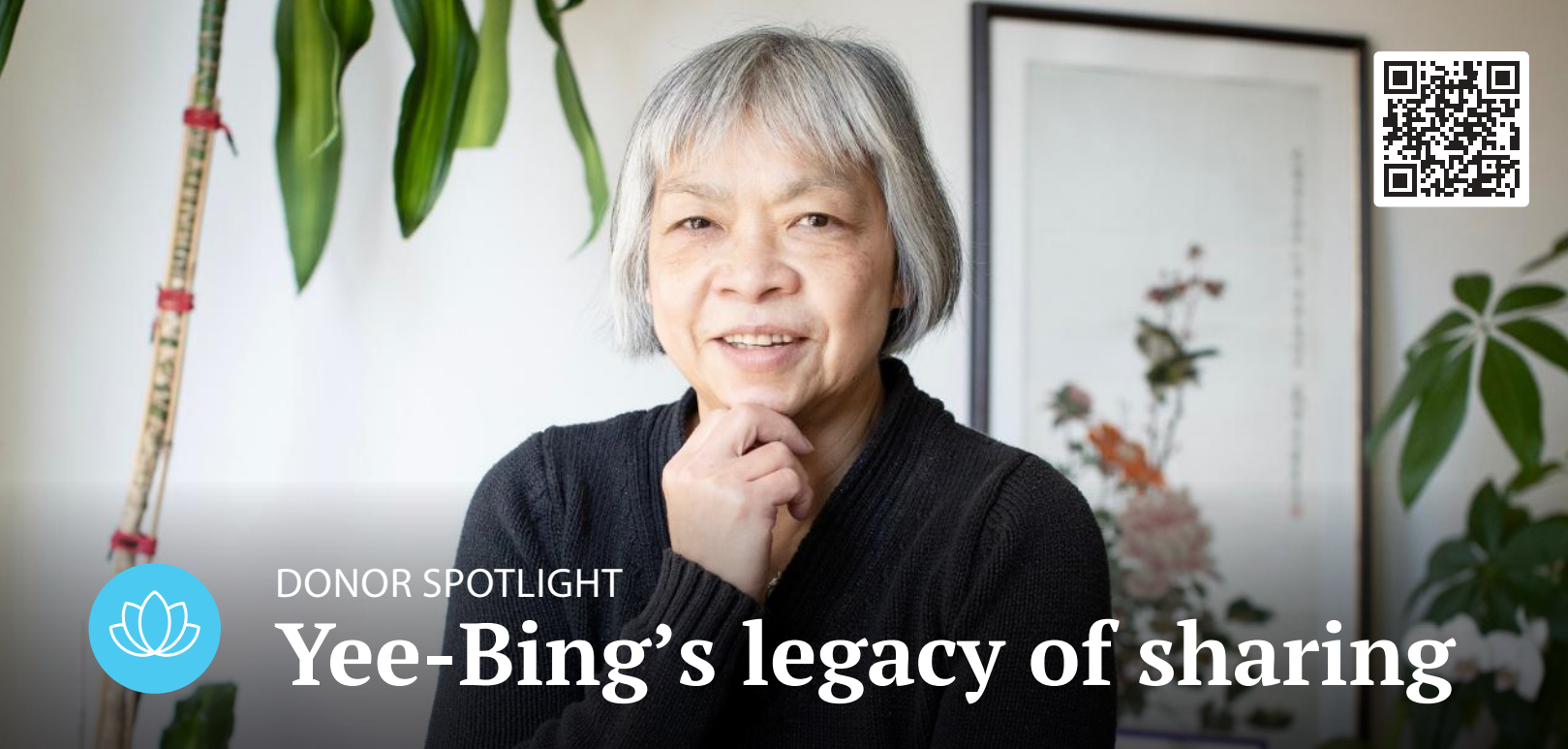
That's just a sample of the incredible research that we're doing in the labs right now. I'm so grateful to each and every donor who makes our work possible.

*Through a gift in your will, you can be a part of the revolutionary research that is transforming organ transplants around the world.*

**A lot of the research we do is very cutting-edge. Philanthropy allows us to really get into the work.**

— Dr. Atul Humar, Director, Ajmera Transplant Centre





DONOR SPOTLIGHT

# Yee-Bing's legacy of sharing

I grew up sharing everything. As one of seven siblings, I really didn't have a choice!

My mother taught me about kindness and caring. My father worked hard to bring his family to Canada so his daughters would have the best opportunity to get a higher education.

Wanting the next generation to be better off than we are is one of the most beautiful and important parts of my Chinese heritage.

Sharing is still at the heart of my family today. I love cooking Chinese dishes for family celebrations, and my nieces and nephews stop in often to give me lessons in the latest technology.

I'm proud to watch the younger generation find joy in sharing what they have. They are carrying on our family legacy.

Before I retired, I took a look at my finances. I decided that donating my life insurance policy would be the ideal way to share what I have with someone who can benefit from it in the future.

I immediately thought about something my mother said after my father passed away. She was so grateful for the dedicated doctors at Toronto General Hospital who cared for him, and she wished that she had the means to make more donations to the hospital.

I've had some complex medical issues myself, and I've relied on Toronto General Hospital for care. I want to help UHN scientists keep doing what they do best to help the next generation.

My gift strengthens my family's long legacy of sharing. And trust me when I say, nothing makes me happier than that.

— Yee-Bing Wong, Legacy Donor

**If I can share what I have with others to make a better life for them – why not? It's a win-win situation!**



# Ways to leave a legacy

## CHOOSING THE BEST FIT FOR YOUR LASTING GIFT

For decades, gifts in wills have supported medical breakthroughs that have transformed health care at UHN. We encourage you to speak to a lawyer or financial planner to determine what method will work best for you. Here are some of the more common options:



### Giving in your will

Leaving a gift in your will is the most popular and easiest way to make a future gift. It has no effect on your current income and can significantly reduce the taxes payable by your estate. Your gift can be a specific amount, stocks or securities, or a percentage of your estate.

You'll find sample wording on page 15 of this booklet to help get you started.



### Giving with life insurance

Giving through life insurance can help increase the size of your gift, and in most cases, also provides significant tax benefits.

You can designate UHN Foundation as a beneficiary or co-beneficiary on an existing life insurance policy and your estate will receive a tax credit. Or, you can transfer ownership of an existing life insurance policy to us today and receive a tax receipt for your annual premiums.



### Giving through retirement planning

Did you know you can name UHN Foundation as the beneficiary or co-beneficiary of your registered retirement savings plans (RRSPs), registered retirement income funds (RRIFs) and/or pension plans?

Funds that otherwise would be reduced due to taxation are re-directed to research and treatment. This is a popular way to offset taxes owing on funds at the time of death, while retaining full access to your retirement funds for the duration of your lifetime.

**Whatever form you choose, your gift will provide UHN with future funding. Your gift will allow us to accelerate discoveries and provide patients with the world-class care they need and deserve, for generations to come.**

Questions? We'd be happy to talk to you more about leaving a legacy gift. Please reach out to us at any time by email: [legacy@uhn.ca](mailto:legacy@uhn.ca) or phone: 416-603-5300 or toll-free: 1-877-864-4483.



INSPIRED GIVING

## Joe Mulder's Legacy of Love

### HOW A SPECIAL GIFT IS CHANGING LIVES BY RAISING VOICES

I think it's essential to give with your heart, by asking, what is important to me?

When my husband passed away from lung disease, I had a lot of time to think that over. I knew what was important to Richard. I wanted to find a way to honour his memory and give back to the hospital for the care he received.

Richard was a patient at the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Clinic at Toronto Western Hospital. After he died, his fellow patients suggested a music therapy group would benefit all of them. The Singing to Breathe program was born.

Every other Tuesday, a music therapist leads lung program patients in song, no matter their musical ability.

Richard would be thrilled to know how life-changing Singing to Breathe is. Participants talk about the friendships they've formed, their increased energy, and greater ease in breathing. They proudly report that they can even hold notes longer!

My annual donations, along with tribute gifts from our family and friends, support the program today. But I want to ensure Richard's legacy lives on and enables patients to experience the proven benefits of music therapy for years to come.

**I'm leaving a gift in my will to UHN Foundation to do just that.**

The Richard Malo Internship in Music Therapy will allow the program to continue to grow. It will be Richard's lasting legacy and the best way I can imagine to honour my partner.

**You can't take it with you. If you can give back, you should do your part.**

— Joe Mulder, Legacy Donor

REAL PATIENT IMPACT

## Dan and Shanna's Story

### WITH NO TIME TO LOSE, UHN DOCTORS SAVED MY EYESIGHT

One morning in July 2022, I woke up with blurry vision in one eye. You know that feeling, when you rub your eyes and then go about your day?

But the fuzzy feeling persisted and my vision got worse. My wife, Shanna, was concerned. Born with a retinal issue, she's a longtime patient of the Donald K. Johnson Eye Institute at Toronto Western Hospital. She convinced me to have my eye looked at.

She was right to worry: my retina was becoming detached. I needed immediate surgery to save my vision.

The whole ordeal was scary, but my amazing surgeons put me at ease every step of the way. They even told me to call them personally whenever I needed to. When I had a reaction to the eyedrops late one night, my doctor went back to the hospital just to see me.

I think that says everything about the level of care at UHN. Not only did I have sight-saving treatment when I needed it, but I was cared for throughout my recovery.

My first-class care was no surprise to Shanna. Her team at Toronto Western Hospital monitors her eye condition every six months. And anytime Shanna has a concern, she's examined right away.

**We both know how precious our eyesight – and our health – is. As we raise our young family, we're incredibly thankful to have access to such outstanding health care at UHN.**



### ON A MISSION TO RESTORE VISION: The Donald K. Johnson Eye Institute

Accommodating more than 85,000 patient visits per year, the Donald K. Johnson Eye Institute is Canada's largest clinical and research institute for vision.

The program is renowned for its global leadership and mentorship, training the next generation of highly skilled vision specialists from more than 40 countries.

Scientists at the Donald K. Johnson Eye Institute are tirelessly seeking new treatments and cures for diseases of the eye. Donor support helps them gain new insights into debilitating eye conditions, and find new treatments and cures that will preserve and restore sight.

*A gift in your will ensures the world's best-and-brightest medical minds have the resources they need to provide life-changing care to patients young and old.*



# What will my legacy accomplish?

## YOUR GIFTS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO REVOLUTIONIZE MEDICAL TREATMENTS

A gift in your will ensures continued excellence in patient care and transformative research across UHN.

When you choose to leave an unrestricted gift, you're allowing UHN Foundation to direct funding to the areas of greatest need, making the biggest possible impact. You offer solutions in the face of unforeseen challenges, such as the COVID-19 crisis.

You also provide stable funding for groundbreaking research programs. You build the bridge connecting clinical expertise to scientific success.



**A gift in your will gives researchers, like those at the McEwen Stem Cell Institute, the opportunity to go further, faster with their discoveries.**

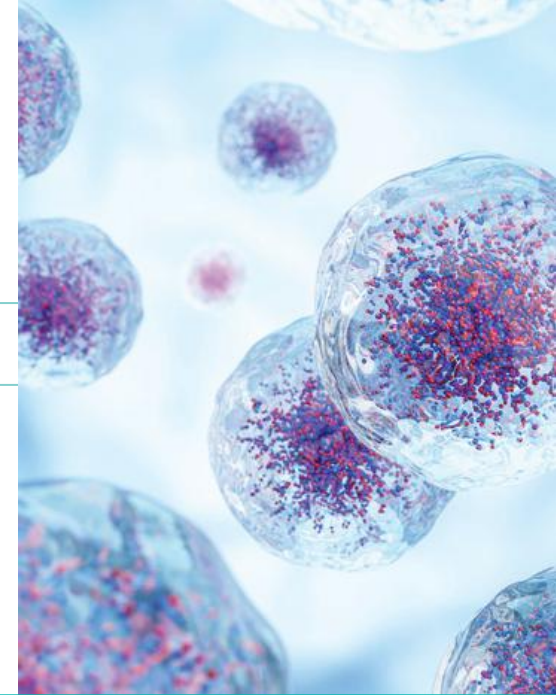
— Julie Quenneville, UHN Foundation CEO

# The future of stem cells at UHN

## YOU CAN HELP US REVOLUTIONIZE TREATMENT AND CARE

The goal of the McEwen Stem Cell Institute is to lead the field of stem cell research by translating in-depth knowledge of stem cell biology into treatments for some of society's most debilitating diseases.

With the support of philanthropy, UHN is working towards advances in four major areas:



**Heart disease** is the leading cause of death in the world.

One research focus involves regenerating damaged heart tissue by transplanting heart cells made from stem cells. The goal is to prevent the progression to heart failure.



Approximately two million people worldwide die of **liver disease** each year.

Our research is focused on producing human liver cells from stem cells, to be transplanted into the patient's damaged liver. The stem cells will regenerate functional liver tissue, replacing the need for a whole organ transplant.



**Type 1 diabetes** affects more than 300,000 Canadians. The treatment for this type of diabetes is insulin, but patients who can't properly manage blood sugar levels with insulin can experience severe complications.

Researchers are working to eliminate the need for insulin injections by perfecting insulin-producing cells from stem cells. These cells will be transplanted into patients to restore their capacity to produce insulin, possibly treating or even curing diabetes.



For patients suffering from different **blood cell diseases including leukemia**, bone marrow transplantation is a life-saving therapy. The stem cells for this therapy are harvested from matched donors, which can limit the number of patients that can be treated.

Our scientists are working to produce large numbers of blood-forming stem cells that could dramatically increase the number of patients who are able to receive this therapy.

One success in any of the research programs will open the floodgates and make it easier for the other research programs to succeed and bring cell therapies to patients.

*A gift in your will ensures the funding is there to help care teams navigate the unknown, and to advance critical research that will transform the way we treat disease.*



ALL ABOUT WILLS

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is a will, and why is it important?

A will is a legal document that outlines what happens to your money, property and possessions after your death. It's also a way of making sure you have a plan for how you will take care of your loved ones and the causes you care about most.

## Who can leave a gift in a will? Isn't that just for the wealthy?

Not at all. You may be surprised to learn that nearly 1.5 million Canadians alive today have already left gifts to charity in their wills. A gift in your will is an opportunity to make a lasting impact on a cause that reflects your values.

## What makes a gift in a will special?

Not only are you extending your generosity beyond your lifetime, but often there are financial benefits when you include a gift in your will. A financial advisor can help you reduce the taxes paid on your estate, leaving more money to go directly to your loved ones and chosen causes.

## What if I already have a will?

You don't have to update your will to add a gift. You can use a simple legal document called a codicil to make an addition or amendment. It can be as short as a paragraph to include UHN Foundation. Alternatively, you could make UHN Foundation the beneficiary of your retirement savings or life insurance policy.

## What about my loved ones – can I still provide for them?

Absolutely. In fact, a will is the best way to ensure your loved ones are provided for. You determine what assets or portion of your estate is allocated to family, friends and your favourite charities. And, you can change your mind and revise your will if needed.

# How do I make a gift in my will?

Leaving a gift in your will is easier than you might think. By planning ahead, the promise of a healthier world for future generations starts with you.

No matter where you are in the estate planning process, we are here to help with any questions you may have and ensure you have all the information you need. We understand these are big decisions that take time.

## TYPES OF GIFTS IN WILL

Below is some sample wording to help get you started. Our team is happy to work with you to ensure your wishes are fulfilled.

### A fixed sum, or specific bequest, is a gift in will of a specified amount or property.

#### Sample wording

I direct my trustees to deliver, pay or transfer the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in cash or in kind to UHN Foundation to be used where it is needed most.

### A residual bequest is a gift from the remaining portion of the estate, after debts, taxes and administrative expenses have been paid.

#### Sample wording

I direct my trustees to divide the residue of my estate into as many equal shares as may be necessary to give effect to the following provisions and to distribute such shares to the following organization: \_\_\_\_ % share to UHN Foundation to be used where it is needed most.



## Helpful information

If you are thinking about a legacy gift please contact us. We would be delighted to work with you and your advisors to help you achieve your legacy goals. You can reach out to us by telephone or email.

**Phone** 416-603-5300  
**Toll-free** 1-877-864-4483  
**Email** legacy@uhn.ca

You'll want to share the information below with your lawyer or financial advisor, who can help ensure your wishes are properly documented:

**Legal name**  
UHN Foundation

**Address**  
UHN Foundation  
R. Fraser Elliott Building, 5th Floor, Rm 5S-801  
190 Elizabeth Street  
Toronto, ON M5G 2C4

**Charitable Number**  
12386 4068 RR0001

*Please consult a lawyer when making changes to your will.*





## Contact Us

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