



# IMPACT 2025

Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation

## 2025 Reflections & Thanks

What an incredible year it has been for our community. As we look back on 2025, we are reminded of the power of coming together to support our hospital and strengthen local healthcare and programs for all. We are truly grateful for the generosity, time volunteered, trust, and shared commitment shown by residents, partners, visitors, and volunteers – proof that when our community unites, great things happen.

Although the *Here for You in the Highlands* Diagnostic Imaging Campaign concluded in 2024, its impact is being felt in meaningful ways. At the beginning of 2025, only six months after becoming operational, the new CT scanner is clearly saving lives—supporting faster diagnoses, improving emergency outcomes, and allowing EMS services to stay in Haliburton County more often, close to the people who need them most.

That momentum carried forward with the arrival of the Mammomat B Brilliant mammography system—delivered on a chilly February day and ushered, just barely, through our doors—bringing advanced breast imaging closer to home. New ultrasound equipment in both Diagnostic Imaging and the Emergency Department further expanded access to care, while construction is now underway to install new X-ray equipment. When complete in 2026, this final phase of the project will create additional emergency patient care spaces and a dedicated mental health room, offering a safer and more supportive environment for patients and care teams alike.

Beyond diagnostic imaging, your generosity continues to touch many areas of local healthcare. This past year, the Foundation funded essential equipment and critical programs supporting our most vulnerable residents, including Meals on Wheels, where demand has more than doubled in less than a year. Thanks to you, all approved projects have been funded, while we responsibly build reserves to meet future needs.

As you read this report, we hope you feel proud of the role you have played in strengthening healthcare across Haliburton County and we hope you continue to embark on this journey with us. Your support is making a difference every day—and together, we are building a healthier future for our community.

Thanks for your support!

David Blodgett, Board Chair  
Melanie Klodt Wong, Executive Director



## Year in Review



*"Your mammogram machine saved my wife's life."*

*-2025 HHHS Grateful Patient*

Thanks to your generosity, HHHS welcomed the new state-of-the-art mammography equipment in February, which was operational by early spring. Your donations made this life-saving technology possible, improving early detection and strengthening breast care close to home.



Minden Health Hub is bustling with activity including an internal medicine clinic and the new women's clinic led by the calming, and supportive, Gynecologist, Dr. Jennifer Mark. The women's clinic hosted its first and highly successful Pap-a-Palooza in the spring, a cervical screening clinic designed to make preventative care more accessible and convenient for our community. The women's clinic equipment is funded by the HHHSF and Minden Health Care Auxiliary. The next Pap-a-Palooza will be on Jan 27, 2026.



In the Spring, HHHSF funded the purchase of a much-needed GlideScope Video Laryngoscope for the HHHS Emergency Department (ED). This advanced equipment helps emergency teams secure a patient's airway quickly and safely during critical situations, supporting faster, more precise care when every second counts. Pictured: the ED care team learning about the new equipment.



HHHS was excited to welcome a new ultrasound machine to the Emergency Department, funded by the HHSF Here for You Diagnostic Imaging Campaign. This advanced technology allows care teams to quickly assess and diagnose patients at the bedside, helping deliver faster, more accurate care when it matters most. Pictured: HHHS emergency doctors testing out the new capabilities of this advanced equipment.



HHHSF joined Split the Pot in June and our community has benefited! This Ontario-wide 50/50 lottery supports more than 80 hospitals across the province - every ticket purchased helps strengthen local healthcare while giving players a chance to win big prizes.

In October two local residents won big jackpots! Congratulations to Jesse Woodward who took home \$25,000, and Ricky Danilko and his wife Winnie who took home \$200,000!



Jesse Woodward wins early bird prize!



Ricky Danilko with Winnie Danilko wins top prize in October Split the Pot!

[Purchase Your Tickets Today](#)



We are incredibly honoured to celebrate the dedication and milestones of some truly remarkable volunteers, marking 5 to 35 years of generous service to HHHS and HHHSF. We were proud to recognize Lynn Childs, Greta Lariviere, Susannah Moylan, David Blodgett, Mary Magee, Klara Oyler, and the many HHHS volunteers who give so much of their time and heart to our community with the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards presented by our long-time supporter, the Honourable MPP Laurie Scott.

A heartfelt congratulations to all who were honoured, with a special acknowledgement to 25-year pin recipients, Klara Oyler and Lynn Childs.

Your decades of service to the HHHS Foundation reflect an unwavering commitment to the health and well-being of the Highlands. We are deeply grateful for your dedication and enduring support.



Our annual MooseFM Health Radiothon, proudly driven by Minden Subaru, was a huge community effort and success, raising an incredible \$200,193 for local healthcare!

This remarkable achievement was made possible by the generous matching gift by The WB Family Foundation, the generosity of many donors, the support of our sponsors, and the dedication of many volunteers and community champions. Thank you to everyone who tuned in, gave generously, and helped make this event such a powerful opportunity to advance care close to home.



The HHHS Foundation is thrilled to share that the County of Haliburton has announced that five new physicians will be joining the Haliburton County community this year—an exciting milestone for local healthcare. Recruiting doctors to rural areas has historically been a challenge, however the addition of the CT Scanner at HHHS is helping to attract and retain physicians who want to practice in a rural setting.

Dr. Harrison Bishop joined the Emergency Department team this summer, and Dr. Jennifer Mark is now accepting new patients at the gynecology clinic at the Minden Health Hub. Dr. Mario Lupo has taken over the practice of the recently retired Dr. Norm Bottum, ensuring continuity of care for patients. Dr. Carly Eisbrenner will be rostering 700 new patients while also supporting the Emergency and Inpatient departments at HHHS. Looking ahead, Dr. Max Rannie will join HHHS in April 2026, providing hospitalist care and shifts in the Emergency Department. Welcome!



Adding five new physicians in a single year is an incredible achievement for Haliburton County and allows those retiring to feel confident that their patients are in good hands. We extend a special heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Norm Bottum on his retirement. Thank you Dr. Bottum for providing compassionate care, dedication, and commitment to the health and well-being of Haliburton County. Your impact on our community will be felt for many years to come.

This past September, Dr. Keith Hay stepped down as Chief of Staff at Haliburton Highlands Health Services after two years of dedicated leadership. The HHHS Foundation thanks Dr. Hay for his commitment to advancing local healthcare and his continued support.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Paul Faulkner as HHHS's new Chief of Staff. A respected Emergency Department physician, Dr. Faulkner brings valuable frontline experience, and we look forward to working with him in support of exceptional community care.





In the fall, we were delighted that the annual HHHS and HHHSF Volunteer Appreciation event was hosted by our friends at the beautiful Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve. It was a meaningful opportunity to come together, enjoy the beautiful Haliburton Highlands and say thank you to the important people who make it all possible.

To all HHHS and HHHSF volunteers: your dedication, generosity, and unwavering commitment play a vital role in optimizing local healthcare across Haliburton County. We are truly grateful for everything you do.



We continue to support the needs of all areas of HHHS including Hyland Crest and Highland Wood long term care residences. In October, HHHS introduced MealSuite nutrition software in the kitchens and dining rooms of both homes, thanks to community donations, marking a meaningful enhancement to resident dining and care.

MealSuite streamlines meal planning, ensures accurate dietary and allergy tracking, and helps staff better support each resident's unique nutritional needs and personal preferences. With improved menu management and safety controls, this system is already helping to enhance nutrition, and overall resident satisfaction.

In October, the HHHS Foundation Board of Directors came together for an all-day strategic planning session, focused on shaping the future of care in our community. Through thoughtful governance, long-range planning, and a renewed commitment to strategic initiatives, the Board is continuing to strengthen the Foundation's role in supporting local healthcare.

This important work is ongoing as we plan ahead, stay focused on our priorities, and build a strong foundation for continued excellence in local health services, today and for the future.



#### The HHHS Foundation Board of Directors

**Back row:** Ross Sykes (Treasurer), Roger Trull (Director), Peter Henry (Vice-Chair), Keith Sjogren (Campaign Committee)

**Front row:** Troy Austen (Director), Karen Hudson (Director), Kelli Preston (Director), Melanie Klodt Wong (Executive Director), Christine Tufssel (Director), Irene Odell (HHHS Board Chair), Jennifer Burns West (Interim HHHS President and CEO), David Blodgett (Chair), Susannah Moylan (Director), Katie Walmsley (Director).

**Not pictured:** David Coulson (Director)



We are thrilled to welcome Timber the Wolf, the newest member of the HHHSF Pack!

Timber joins a long line of cuddly animals and teddy bears who have become a collectors delight. Stop by the HHHS Haliburton site to see the full collection and purchase a puzzle of the class picture!

Timber is available for purchase at HHHS locations and grocery stores around the County for \$30 each, and every single one helps strengthen care close to home.



Heat-Line Freeze Protection Systems, a proud family-founded local company, has made a strong commitment to our community, pledging \$25,000 over the next five years in support of local healthcare.

This generous gift proudly launches our Corporate Giving Program, setting the stage for other local businesses to step forward, give back, and create a lasting impact on the health and well-being of our community.

Contact the HHHS Foundation Office to learn more.



A huge thank you to Scott Pollard and Suzannah Patmios for their incredibly generous \$100,000 matching donation, which kicked off on Giving Tuesday and powered our Holiday Campaign through the season of giving raising over \$288,000 so far, with the campaign continuing through mid-January.

[Learn More](#)



In December, Haliburton Highlands Health Services announced the appointment of its new President and CEO, Jack Hutchison, who will officially join the organization on March 30, 2026. We look forward to welcoming Jack and to working closely with him as we continue strengthening local healthcare and advancing shared priorities for our community.

We also extend our sincere thanks to Veronica Nelson, former President and CEO of Haliburton Highlands Health Services and now President and CEO of Ross Memorial Hospital, for her exceptional leadership and partnership. During her tenure at HHHS, Veronica's vision, compassion, and dedication were instrumental to the success of the Here for You in the Highlands Diagnostic Imaging Campaign, helping bring much-needed new services closer to home.

[Read More](#)

## Community-Led Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who has supported local healthcare in the last year. We are honoured to highlight the fundraising efforts of some of the community-led initiatives that help bring better care to the County.

- Bruce Down has raised over \$10,000 for local charities in just over a year
- Gary Bouwmeister's Rock on the Dock supported HHHSF and Sirch
- 1st of many Movie Night Fundraiser supported the new mental health space in the emergency department
- Toronto Outboard Races annual raffle draw raised over \$9,000 this summer
- Ontario Federation of 4 Wheel Drive Recreationists (OF4WD), have given over \$100,000 over the past 21 years
- A Pig Roast at Haliburton Highlands Brewery raised funds and good eats!
- 30th annual Kushog Lake Invitational Golf Tournament continues to support HHHSF year after year
- Hawk River Construction appeal to their network inspired over \$18K in donations

Thank you all for your tireless efforts to support local healthcare!



## Support Our Local 50/50 Lottery!

The HHHS Foundation 50/50 Lottery (LIC# RAF1478709) monthly online charity raffle supports the purchase of priority capital equipment for local hospital and healthcare facilities in the Haliburton Highlands.

Every ticket sold helps improve care for patients and families in our community, while giving participants two chances to win each month: a \$500 Early Bird Draw and the Grand Prize Jackpot. Purchasers must be 18 years of age or older and located in Ontario at the time of ticket purchase.

We are thrilled when local residents play and win! Thank you to everyone who supports local healthcare through the 50/50 lottery — your participation truly makes a difference.

[Play our local 50/50](#)

## Memorial Donations

Throughout the year, the Foundation is honoured to receive gifts made in memory of loved ones, friends, and colleagues. These meaningful donations create lasting impact, helping to support health and well-being across Haliburton County. If you are considering a legacy gift or a gift of securities, we invite you to connect with the Foundation office to learn more about the many ways your generosity can make a difference.



The Believe in the Magic of Giving Campaign is a beautiful way to close out 2025, bringing our community together in support of local healthcare. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has already given, and to those who are planning to support HHHSF. Your generosity makes a life-saving difference in the health of the highlands every single day.

**Pledge Your Support Today**

