

Discover What Care Close to Home Means to Dr. Pace

As Chief of Emergency Medicine at STEGH and a proud member of this community, I see firsthand just how quickly lives can change, and how powerful your support truly is.

I chose Emergency Medicine because I wanted to be there for people on the hardest days of their lives. There is no greater privilege than doing that work in the place I call home.

Last year, our Emergency Department cared for more than 62,000 patients from across our community. As our community grows, so does the need for strong, responsive, and compassionate emergency care.

By supporting STEGH's Emergency Department you are helping strengthen the people, tools, and resources our team relies on when seconds matter.

To learn more about your impact visit our website or scan the QR code.



Dr. Jacob Pace
Chief of Emergency Medicine
STEGH

your HeartBeat

**JUST LIKE A HEARTBEAT, YOU ARE INTEGRAL
TO KEEPING OUR HOSPITAL GOING, STRONG, AND STEADY.**



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A Message from our Executive Director



Ryan Byrne
Executive Director
STEGH Foundation

I can't help but be inspired by the remarkable generosity found across our St. Thomas and Elgin County community.

Although I am new to the role and organization, I feel like I am in the company of like-minded friends and change-makers who understand the vital importance of great health care, close to home.

It's donors like you who step up to rally for our ever-evolving Emergency Department needs, caregivers who take an extra minute to pop by the Foundation office to share a message of thanks, and our community partners who always find a way to think of us in their end-of-year business operations.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

Bringing Life Into Focus

This past Spring, our community came together with one goal: to help bring world-class vision care closer to home for patients across St. Thomas and Elgin County.

Thanks to your heartfelt generosity, the Spring Ophthalmology Campaign was a tremendous success - improving the way hundreds of patients receive cataract and eye-care treatment every year.

Together, we reached 100% of our goal supporting the purchase and installation of advanced Ophthalmology tools, including the Verion Image Guided System, to give our surgeon the accuracy, stability, and visualization needed to deliver safer, highly personalized eye-care procedures.

Your support helps STEGH expand access to modern eye-care technology, giving patients the gift of clear, confident vision and helping thousands see their lives with greater clarity and hope.



A Community Milestone for Vision Care

Because of your generosity, we are expanding the scope of ophthalmology care available right here, at STEGH. New technology and upgraded tools are helping patients receive timely cataract surgery, retinal repairs, glaucoma treatments, and other vision-saving procedures - without the stress of travelling outside of our community.

With special thanks to the STEGH Auxiliary, whose generosity contributed more than 50% of the campaign's total goal. This achievement was further strengthened by community groups who rallied around this cause and helped strengthen local vision care.

Thank You for Bringing Clearer Vision Within Reach

When you support vision care, you help your neighbours see their lives with greater clarity, hope, and possibility. Thank you for making this progress - and this impact - possible.

Early Detection, Powered by Community



YOUR GENEROSITY IS STRENGTHENING BREAST IMAGING CARE CLOSE TO HOME

This year, our community came together to improve breast cancer screening and diagnostic care for patients across St. Thomas and Elgin County.

Thanks to heartfelt support from individuals, events, community groups, and a transformational legacy gift, new mammography technology has been 100% funded.

The impact of this project will touch thousands of lives - offering earlier detection, compassionate care, and more hopeful outcomes.

Thank you for helping ensure that everyone in our community has access to modern Breast Imaging services, close to home.

COMMUNITY STORIES OF SUPPORT

Turning Advocacy into Action: THE BOTTONI PROJECT

Founded by male breast cancer survivor Brian Lynch in honour of his surgeon, Dr. David Bottoni, THE BOTTONI PROJECT exists to break the silence around male breast cancer and ensure men know they are at risk too. Through awareness events including THE BOTTONI RIDE, this project has directed significant community fundraising toward STEGH's Diagnostic Imaging department - including mammography - helping ensure both men and women have access to earlier detection and more accurate imaging.



Their advocacy and generosity continue to change the conversation around breast cancer in our region and strengthen care close to home.



Through his leadership, Brian has helped raise more than \$120K in support of Diagnostic Imaging and mammography at STEGH strengthening access to early detection and care close to home.



Pictured: Brian Lynch (left) and Dr. David Bottoni (right).

A Legacy of Love from Barbara Blewitt

Barbara Blewitt's extraordinary legacy gift has transformed breast imaging and patient care at STEGH. Through her generosity — alongside the shared legacy of her husband, Ted Blewitt and her parents, Ottie and Clara Underhill — a new Mammography machine has been fully funded, strengthening compassionate, advanced care for patients when they need it most.

Her gift to STEGH reflects that lifelong commitment ensuring compassionate and advanced care for patients during some of their most vulnerable moments - a lasting expression of love for the place she called home.

Born and raised in Elgin County, Barb spent nearly 100 years in the community she loved. She and her husband Ted were married for more than 70 years, living a simple, hard-working life grounded in care for others. Over time, the investments they built together grew into a legacy with the power to strengthen local health care for generations.

A Community Tradition of Care: Geerlinks Home Hardware



Pink Pumpkin Day has grown into one of the region's most recognizable breast cancer awareness traditions, thanks to the entire Geerlinks team. Hosted simultaneously at three locations - St. Thomas, Port Stanley and Parkhill - the events invited families to purchase bright pink pumpkins that symbolized hope, solidarity, and early detection. Every pumpkin sold helped fund STEGH's mammography advancements, bringing modern breast imaging technology closer to home for women and men across Elgin County.

Driving Care Forward: Carrier Truck Centers

Carrier Truck Centers has been a longstanding champion of local healthcare, using its workplace culture and community reach to drive impactful fundraising. Through employee-led giving and event participation, the Carrier Trucks team has helped accelerate STEGH's ability to upgrade mammography equipment. Their commitment demonstrates how local businesses can meaningfully influence healthcare by ensuring patients have access to accurate, comfortable breast imaging services right here at home.

