

# GIVING LIVES BACK

SUMMER 2020

 **West Park** FOUNDATION **get your life back**



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# A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



**Joanne Cole**  
Chief Executive Officer  
West Park Foundation

During this time of unprecedented uncertainty and upheaval, two things have stood out to me.

First and foremost, West Park's outstanding team of front-line workers – skilled and dedicated doctors, nurses, therapists and staff – continue to keep our patients safe and have gone the extra mile to provide the care, comfort and friendship they need, especially during this difficult period of visitor restrictions.

But what is also clear is that West Park truly plays an essential role in the healthcare system. Our deep expertise in respiratory medicine and complex continuing care has allowed us to have a critical role during the pandemic. We have opened up new beds for ventilated but medically stable patients to free up space in GTA intensive care units for those fighting COVID-19, and we will be needed long after the pandemic is over, as the virus's long-term effects on lung function become known.

You can learn more about our Long-Term Ventilation Service and hear from some of our front-line workers in this issue.

The pandemic has brought much change to the Foundation. With regret, we first postponed but have now cancelled the 2020 Tournament of Stars, our annual basketball event. We will hit the courts again in March of 2021. As I write this message, we are reviewing our other signature events and planning exciting new virtual events to bring us all together, while we are apart. I invite you to visit the Events page on our website at [westparkfoundation.ca](http://westparkfoundation.ca) to learn more.

Even in the midst of all this change one constant remains at West Park: construction has continued on our new hospital. After more than a year of "early works" preparation, excavation is underway and the first crane is on site – a very welcome sight! You can keep up with the building progress through our Construction Cam at [wpconstructioncam.org](http://wpconstructioncam.org).

As we navigate this difficult time together, I hope that you and your loved ones are doing well. From the entire Foundation team, wishing you all the very best.



## WORK CONTINUES ON WEST PARK'S NEW HOSPITAL

Construction of our new state-of-the-art hospital is continuing in earnest. There is now a pit forming in front of the Ruddy Building, as construction crews dig the footprint of the new facility, and the first crane has arrived. Be sure to visit [wpconstructioncam.org](http://wpconstructioncam.org) to check out our Construction Cam and catch all the excitement as we build our new hospital.

*Photo credit: Marc Tasipit*

# PANDEMIC SHINES LIGHT ON VITAL ROLE OF RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS



From left to right: **Joana Vargas, Maria Duarte and Jenny Marcos**, who are seen wearing their personal protective equipment on the cover of the newsletter.

If there is one thing that respiratory therapists agree on, it's the fact that many people don't know they exist. While the current COVID-19 pandemic has shone a light on the very important work they do in intensive care units, at West Park, respiratory therapists have a vital role, providing care for all patients with health conditions that affect lung function.

They work with patients who are ventilator dependent and respiratory rehabilitation patients with chronic breathing disorders. They provide education and support for people who are transitioning from in-patient care to living at home. And on evenings and weekends, respiratory therapists, who are also trained in advanced cardiac life support, lead all rapid responses and code blues, in coordination with the doctor on call.

The Long-Term Ventilation Service is where West Park's respiratory therapists spend most of their time, working with patients who are invasively ventilated, requiring mechanical assistance to breathe. These patients call West Park home, and are some of the hospital's most vulnerable.

We spoke with three respiratory therapists, who shared their perspective of working on the front-line during the pandemic.

*"We did have some suspected COVID-19 patients here in March that interacted with a patient who had tested positive for the virus. So the respiratory therapy team, along with the doctors and other care staff had to decide 'how are we going to protect these patients and how are we going to protect the staff?'"*

- Jenny Marcos

*"At the first sign of any change in a patient's status, such as a low fever or a dry cough, they are put into isolation and tested for the virus right away. We have to be very careful."*

- Joana Vargas

*"We take breathing for granted. We don't think that there will be a point where we can't breathe. We try our best to optimize a patient's ventilation so that they don't feel that breathing is a challenge."*

- Maria Duarte

The full article can be read online at [westparkfoundation.ca](https://www.westparkfoundation.ca).

# WEST PARK'S IMPORTANT ROLE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In West Park's Long-Term Ventilation (LTV) Service, many of the patients call the hospital home. An interprofessional team provides 24-hour care and support for these patients who are invasively ventilated, requiring mechanical assistance to help them breathe.

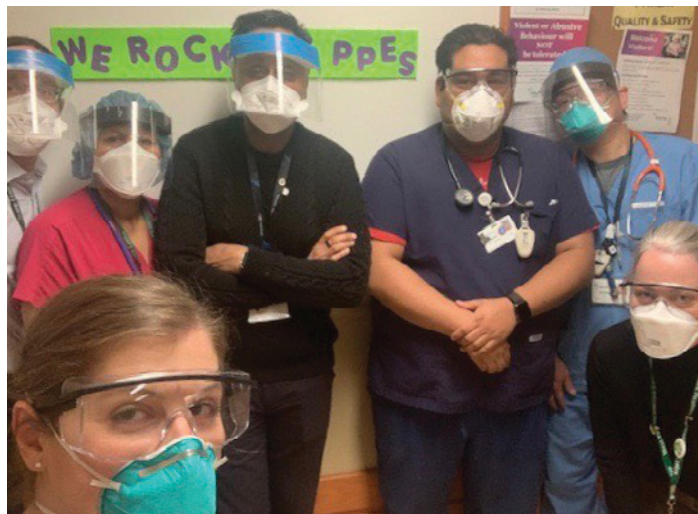
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the LTV Service has expanded to add 23 more beds – an increase in capacity of more than 60 per cent. This is in support of the Toronto Region's pandemic response, in particular, the effort to increase capacity in acute care hospital's Intensive Care Units (ICU).

"We play a key role in helping ICUs transfer their medically stable chronically ventilated patients out of the ICU service, when these patients no longer need that level of care," says Raj Kohli, the Clinical Practice Leader for Respiratory Therapy and the Clinical Coordinator of the Long-Term Ventilation Strategy at West Park. "Our role is critical in moving these patients to more appropriate settings and allowing the ICUs to free up beds and ventilators for the patients who require that level of care."

West Park's role is especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic, helping to ensure that the healthcare system isn't overwhelmed and that people who have become critically ill with the virus can be admitted to ICUs. West Park, as the Centre of Excellence for Long-Term Ventilation, is leading the coordination process to transfer these patients, and has accepted patients from North York General, Humber River and Trillium Health Partners.

"These transfers can really enrich a patient's life," says Angela Dowd, West Park's LTV Service Manager. "An ICU environment is very different from the environment we provide here at West Park. It's about ensuring the right patient is in the right bed receiving the appropriate level of care at the right time."

The LTV Strategy was established in 2006 after a SARS review discovered that one of the biggest barriers during the epidemic, as people were getting sick and needing intensive care, was that many ICU beds were being occupied by medically stable chronically ventilated patients.



*Staff members working in West Park's Long-Term Ventilation Service.*

"Before SARS, there was never a strategy or system in place to consistently transfer patients who no longer needed the ICU but remained because they were invasively ventilated," says Kohli, who worked at West Park during the SARS epidemic in 2003, when the hospital had opened Ontario's first dedicated SARS Unit.

It has been an extremely busy time for West Park's front-line healthcare workers as they navigate the uncertainty of the current pandemic along with the increase of LTV patients.

"Our processes for keeping patients safe hasn't changed because that is always our number one priority, but the timeframe and responsiveness of the team, including ensuring that everything is in place for the patient, is quicker," says Dowd. "The staff has been absolutely amazing. Everyone is working their absolute hardest, going above and beyond to make sure we are providing not only excellent care and responding to health system needs, but also ensuring that we are addressing the human aspect of care."

"Staff are also realizing the important role that West Park has in this process because if we can't get the patients out of the ICU, then a patient who is critically ill may not have access to a bed," adds Kohli. "It's challenging, but the role we're playing in the grand scheme of things is an essential one."

# CELEBRATING THE SUPPORT OF THREE GENEROUS FAMILIES



*West Park celebrated the Troop, Weishuhn and Wilson families on March 5th.*

On March 5th, West Park celebrated the support of three families that have made significant contributions to the Foundation's **Get Your Life Back Campaign**.

Patients, staff and other members of the West Park community gathered in the hospital's Enbridge Auditorium to thank the Wilson, Weishuhn, and Troop families for their generous gifts, which will have a big impact on our new hospital.

"These generous gifts will make our new hospital a better place by enhancing the care experience for patients and their families," says Joanne Cole, West Park Foundation CEO. "We are grateful for their support, which will make a difference in the lives of our patients for decades to come."

Gordon Wilson, a member of West Park's Board of Directors from 1989 to 1994, and a long-time patient of the Day Hospital, donated \$250,000 to create the **Audrey Wilson Therapy Trail**, in memory of his wife of more than 60 years. The trail will benefit future patients and their families by connecting them with the healing benefits of nature. Gordon and Audrey shared a love of hiking in the great outdoors, and in a few short years, this trail will help West Park integrate nature into rehabilitative care.

The hospital's auditorium is often described as its family room. It hosts special events, like patient Pub Nights and Coffee Houses, as well as presentations and gatherings for staff. David Weishuhn, a former West Park patient and Foundation Board member, and his family have made a generous gift of \$250,000 to fund the **Weishuhn Auditorium**. The Auditorium will be a feature element in the new hospital, giving our community a central meeting place.

Ian Troop, Chair of the Get Your Life Back Campaign, and his father Fred have made a \$100,000 family gift to fund the **Frederick and Isabella Troop Family Dining Room** and the **Frederick and Isabella Troop Family Activity Room** in the MSK Rehabilitation Service. Witnessing the exceptional care that Ian's brother Alex received at West Park after becoming seriously injured in a snowmobile accident three years ago, the Troops were inspired to help future MSK patients.

The activity room will allow for customized recreation therapy to help patients regain fine motor skills, while the dining room will help patients connect with each other, and with family and friends, during a long hospital stay.

# Kiwanis Club Donates \$25,000 to the Get Your Life Back Campaign



On February 4th, members of the West Park community celebrated a generous \$25,000 gift to the **Get Your Life Back Campaign** from the Kiwanis Club of Kingsway Humber to create a children's play area in the new hospital. The play area will be an accessible space for our patients to make happy memories with their young visitors.

## SMART WILL & ESTATE PLANNING INFORMATION SESSION

On February 6th, the Foundation hosted an information session for West Park supporters on strategies for preparing a will and estate. The event was held at St. George's Golf & Country Club, where Matthew Urbach, partner with Shibley Righton LLP, gave a special presentation to participants.

As a lawyer who practices in the areas of estate, civil and commercial litigation, Urbach regularly writes articles on the topic of estate planning, and contributes his expertise

to stories about estate law in Lawyer's Daily, Investment Executive, CBC News Radio and the Financial Post.

Urbach's presentation highlighted important factors to consider when preparing a will, including the value of talking with family and beneficiaries about estate plans; and how including charitable giving as part of your estate plans can reduce taxes and make the most of the legacy you leave to your family.

If you are interested in attending future estate and financial planning sessions and/or are interested in learning more about Planned Giving at West Park Foundation, please visit [westparkfoundation.ca/ways-to-give/make-a-planned-gift/](https://westparkfoundation.ca/ways-to-give/make-a-planned-gift/) or contact **Jacqueline Cooper** at **416-243-3613**, or by email at [jackie.cooper@westpark.org](mailto:jackie.cooper@westpark.org).

# TOURNAMENT OF STARS: TIP OFF ON MARCH 27, 2021



With the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic still unfolding, and the timeline to end social distancing measures unclear, West Park Foundation has decided to cancel the 2020 Tournament of Stars presented by EllisDon.

“As always, the health and well-being of our participants and guests at our annual celebrity basketball tournament is our highest priority,” says Joanne Cole, CEO of West Park Foundation. “We will hit the courts again with our NBA alumni next year, when we can all enjoy an exciting day of basketball in safety and confidence.”

Originally scheduled for March 27-28, the tournament was first postponed to an unspecified date later this year, but will now resume on March 26-27, 2021.

“We are grateful to our many generous sponsors and donors, our fabulous NBA alums and to everyone who signed up to play for their continued support of West Park and the patients we serve,” says Cole.



## OUR NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE



Be sure to check out our new website, **[westparkfoundation.ca](http://westparkfoundation.ca)**! We have made it easier for our community to learn more about the impact of their support for West Park Healthcare Centre. You can read stories about our Patients and Donors, and keep up with our Latest News and the Get Your Life Back Campaign to help build our new world-class hospital.

# GET THE LATEST ON ALL OUR EVENTS

Stay tuned as we update our popular signature events to reflect our changing times.

Please visit our website at [westparkfoundation.ca/events](http://westparkfoundation.ca/events) for news on all our events, including the West Park Foundation Golf Classic and UNCORK UNTAP UNWIND, and announcements about fabulous new events being developed.

See you soon!



**UNCORK  
UNTAP  
UNWIND**



**NEW DATE FOR 50/50 JACKPOT DRAW**  
**Thursday, June 25, 2020**  
@ 2pm in the West Park Foundation Office

**Guaranteed MINIMUM \$10,000 cash prize to winner!!!**

TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKET TODAY,  
LEAVE A MESSAGE AT 416-243-3663

**\$25** per ticket **OR** **\$100** for FIVE tickets



50% of proceeds to West Park Healthcare Centre

Lottery Licence # M809714. Prizes must be accepted as awarded.  
For lottery rules and draw details, please visit [westparklottery.ca](http://westparklottery.ca).  
Only 1,800 tickets available.



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**PRIVACY STATEMENT**—“West Park Healthcare Centre Foundation considers your privacy a priority. We do not rent, sell or trade your information. Your personal information will be used to provide you with information about how your gift is used and updates on West Park Healthcare Centre.”

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