

\$1M Pledge from Fred Helson Names the *Marg and Fred Helson CT Scanner Suite* at Georgetown Hospital.



The Georgetown Hospital Foundation (GHF) recently launched its *Campaign for Georgetown Hospital: Investing in Care – Close to Home*, with the announcement of the largest pledge ever received by the hospital. The Foundation has received an historic pledge of \$1,000,000 from Fred Helson.

Mr. Helson announced his amazing \$1M gift at the GHF's annual Donor Appreciation Celebration at the Club at North Halton on Wednesday, June 22nd – just one day before Mr. Helson's 90th birthday. As a result of this monumental gift, the CT Scanner Suite, which is a highlight of the Foundation's fundraising efforts, will be named after Mr. Helson and his late wife Marg.

"It is a thrill to be part of this remarkable gift," said K.C. Carruthers, Executive Director of the Georgetown Hospital Foundation. "We are at the beginning of the biggest fundraising campaign in the hospital's history, so it is very heartening to have Mr. Helson leading the way with the biggest pledge in the hospital's history."

"Marg would just love the fact we could do this," explained Mr. Helson. "The hospital was always her first place of choice to lend our support."

Mrs. Helson, who passed away in September of 2008, lived her whole life in Georgetown. She worked for 45 years at the CIBC branch downtown. One of her responsibilities in her early days with the bank was looking after the donation "thermometer" in front of the bank that was used to track the amount raised in the original fundraising campaign to build the hospital over 50 years ago.

In turn, Fred was involved in the legal work for the hospital during its construction and its early years when it was known as Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. Mr. Helson earned a degree in chemistry and worked for a time for Baxter Medical before



Marg and Fred Helson at the Annual Hospital Christmas Ball in 2006.

obtaining his law degree and beginning a distinguished and successful law career in Georgetown with the firm that became Helson Kogon Ashbee and Schaljo on Mill Street.

The Helson's have been among the most generous supporters of GHF over the years. Presently, Mr. Helson sits on the Board of Directors for the Foundation and serves on the Governance Committee.

When asked about his decision to make this significant contribution, he explained that, "Marg and I have both had to endure the unpleasant experience of being sent to other hospitals for CT Scanning. Our hospital was important in making Georgetown a self-sufficient town and as such I feel it is important for us to help keep the facility up-to-date for our doctors and staff, as well as all of the patients who come to Georgetown Hospital for care."

"The Helson's long-time support of the hospital and community is inspiring - they have truly made their mark in Georgetown," noted John Oliver, Halton Healthcare Services President & CEO. "I am pleased to say that in recognition of the Helsons' generous support, their significant contribution will be celebrated as the new CT Scanner Suite at Georgetown Hospital will be named after Fred and his wife Marg, We thank the Helson's for this gift and for their years of commitment to the hospital."

The Campaign for Georgetown Hospital is GHF's biggest-ever fundraising drive. The Campaign will assist in funding the construction of a new 14,000 square foot Emergency Department – doubling the size of the existing cramped ER. Featured in the expansion will be the acquisition of Georgetown Hospital's first CT Scanner, eliminating the need for patients to travel to other area hospitals. In addition, the Diagnostic Imaging Department will be transformed in a larger space - consolidating services that are currently located outside the Department and improving the quality of care that the Hospital provides to its patients.

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