

Media Advisory



ATTENTION NEWS/HEALTH EDITORS:

A Little Hope Goes a Long Way – Toronto Family Gives Back to St. Joseph's Health Centre

Project Hope volunteers visits patients spending Christmas in hospital at St. Joseph's

TORONTO, December 14 – Patient and family centred care is at the heart of everything we do at St. Joseph's Health Centre – and that's what brings a west Toronto family back for a visit every Christmas Eve to say thank you for the great care they received.

Jane Watson and the Project Hope Team will be coming to St. Joseph's on Christmas Eve with gifts for all our patients – a small token to mark the holiday season for those that can't be at home with loved ones. This is the 7th year for Project Hope at St. Joe's – a family tradition to give back to the hospital that honours the memory of Jane's son, who was rushed to our Emergency Department several years ago and passed away.

"It's all about giving back," said Watson. "St. Joe's was wonderful to my family during a very difficult time. The staff was so compassionate. We have never forgotten that."

"Christmas can be a very difficult and lonely time for people in hospital. Spending a couple of minutes with each patient can really make a difference to them," said Watson. "It lets them know that someone is thinking about them; that they are not forgotten. Every year someone will tell me that this will be the only gift they receive and that we will be their only visitors. That definitely makes our visit worthwhile," said Watson.

Interview opportunity: Jane Watson, Project Hope lead and supporter of SJHC

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