

For Immediate Release

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Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital Foundation
Carleton Place, ON

IDA and staff donate big bucks to Carleton Place Hospital Foundation



Esmail Merani, Aziz Dhalla and the staff of the Carleton Place IDA with a cheque representing their donation to the CPDMH Foundation

Since 2003, most of the employees of the Carleton Place IDA have been deducting a small amount from their paycheques and donating it to the Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH) Foundation. Through a matching gifts program, all funds donated by staff are matched dollar for dollar by the IDA and to date the program has raised a total of \$14,929.

“The donation given by the IDA and its staff over the last few years is an amazing achievement and a true example of how small amounts can turn into big gifts over a short time,” said Sylvie Powell, President of the CPDMH Foundation. “On behalf of the Foundation, I would like to thank the IDA and its staff for their wonderful generosity and for setting a terrific example of how a business can support the community.”

Aziz Dhalla and Esmail Merani have been the co-owners of the Carleton Place IDA since 1991 and have other IDA pharmacies located in Richmond and Stittsville. Their partnership began 32 years ago with a pharmacy in North Bay. In 2004 Mr. Dhalla and Mr. Merani were recognized as the Carleton Place Businessmen of the Year and during that same year the pharmacy was awarded the Best Pharmacy and Technician Team designation in Canada.

In May 2004, the Carleton Place IDA was the first business to announce their support of the *Help Improve Tomorrow Today!* campaign with a three year pledge of \$10,000 through the matching gifts program. The pledge has been completed but the IDA and its staff have continued to support the fundraising efforts of the CPDMH Foundation. In addition to the donation from their business, Mr. Merani and Mr. Dhalla were also instrumental in securing a \$5,000 grant from the PharmAssist Foundation and a \$15,000 grant from the Green Shield Benefits Association for the Foundation.

“We are very proud of what we have been able to accomplish on behalf of the hospital and I would like to thank our fantastic employees for making this possible. It only takes a couple of dollars per pay from each of us to make our contribution significant,” stated Mr. Esmail Merani, co-owner of the IDA. “We hope other businesses in the community will see what we have done and decide to introduce a similar program with their employees.”

Through its matching gifts program the Carleton Place IDA and its staff are also supporting Breast Cancer Research. Over many years, Mr. Dhalla and Mr. Merani, with the help of their staff, have also raised over \$500,000 for the World Partnership Walk which brings together tens of thousands of Canadians in nine cities to help vulnerable communities in Africa and Asia climb out of poverty.

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