

For Immediate Release

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Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital Foundation
Carleton Place, ON

Matching Gifts Program bring in big bucks for Carleton Place Hospital

The Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH) Foundation is thrilled to announce that the Carleton Place Drugmart – IDA and its staff have donated \$2739 to the ongoing needs of the hospital. The gift was made possible through a matching gifts program between the Carleton Place Drugmart and its staff.

“The Carleton Place IDA and its staff have implemented a wonderful program and it shows what a group can achieve when working together”, stated Norma Hamilton, President of the CPDMH Foundation. “We are very pleased with the continued support we have received from both the IDA and its staff over the years and on behalf of the Hospital and the Foundation, I would like to thank everyone for their generosity.”

The matching gifts program began in 2003 with a \$10,000 commitment to the *Help Improve Tomorrow Today!* campaign. When the group fulfilled its commitment to the campaign, the staff decided to continue the program and have directed deductions from their pay check to the hospital. All funds donated by the staff are matched dollar for dollar by the Carleton Place Drugmart. Since the program began, it has raised \$19,428.00 for the Hospital.



Esmail Merani, Aziz Dhalla and the staff of the Carleton Place IDA presenting Norma Hamilton, President of the CPDMH Foundation with a cheque representing IDA's donation to the Foundation

“We are very proud of what we have been able to accomplish on behalf of the hospital and we would like to thank our fantastic employees for making this gift possible. It only takes a couple of dollars per pay from each of us to make our contribution significant,” stated Mr. Esmail Merani, and Mr. Aziz Dhalla, co-owners 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.”

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 January of this year, Mr. Dhalla, Mr. Merani and staff of the Carleton Place IDA were formally recognized by Aga Khan Foundation Canada for their outstanding commitment to the World Partnership Walk. The Walk brings together tens of thousands of Canadians in nine cities to help vulnerable communities in Africa and Asia climb out of poverty

“The Carleton Place Drugmart matching gifts program provides a true example of how small amounts can turn into big gifts over a period of time,” said Chantelle Troy, Manager/Community Relations Officer of the CPDMH Foundation. “Like Mr. Merani and Mr. Dhalla, I hope other businesses in the community are inspired by this initiative and decide that a matching gifts program would fit within their organization.”

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