

December 11, 2023



To you this holiday season,

Working as a general surgeon in a tight-knit community is rewarding and challenging. One of the most significant advantages is establishing relationships with your patients. You get to know your patients on a more personal level than you would at larger hospitals.

I should pause and introduce myself: **I'm Dr. Paul Collins and I've been a general surgeon at St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital (STEGH) for nearly 20 years!** As a healthcare provider and proud member of this community, I want what's best for my patients and their families. Ultimately, that is receiving the care they need close to home.

With the Emergency Department getting busier, the increasing complexity of patient problems and our growing population, **it's our shared responsibility to support our hospital and ensure it can keep up with the future demands of our community.**

That's why I'm writing to you this holiday season. We need to purchase essential surgical equipment for the OR and equipment used in the Medical Device Reprocessing Department (MDRD).

Every day, the MDRD sterilizes, decontaminates, inspects and packages thousands of medical devices and surgical instruments used hospital-wide. We wouldn't have the tools we need in the OR without our dedicated MDRD professionals.

Please turn over

I have included a list of items needed with my letter. **For the OR, these are some of the ways you will be supporting the Surgical Team at STEGH:**

- **Neptune and Neptune Docking Station:** Provides surgeons with the tools they need to visualize the operative site.
- **Fluid Warmers:** Help maintain the patient's body temperature during longer surgeries.
- **Sonosite Ultrasound Machine:** Allows our anesthesiologists to see joints and veins to administer pain relief effectively.

Please consider making a special holiday gift today.

Medical equipment is a lot like owning a vehicle. Both require regular maintenance and upkeep to operate effectively. After a couple of years, the equipment or vehicle may need new parts. Finally, no matter how well they're taken care of, they need to be replaced or they are eclipsed by new technology.

A gift in support of your hospital this holiday season helps staff and physicians like me deliver outstanding care to the community we love,



With sincere gratitude,

Paul Collins

Paul Collins, MD, FRCSC, FACS
Adjunct Professor, UWO
General Surgeon
St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital