

Casino Royale Gala raised over \$40,000 for two new cardiac defibrillators!



Over 160 people attended the Gala on September 24th. Guests were treated to craft beer and wine, played Monte Carlo games, danced and ate, bid on some great items and had fun while raising money.

Thanks to all who supported the Durham Hospital!

See event pictures at [facebook.com/durhamfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/durhamfoundation)

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Her Story– Sandie Maldonado

Sandie and Henry Maldonado moved to Durham because of a house. They were visiting the area, fell in love with a lovely old house and set out to learn more about their new hometown.

Before they had a chance to settle in though, they learned first-hand how important it was to have a hospital nearby.

Here is Sandie's story

"I knew something was very wrong. My feet were the size of small boats. I didn't have enough energy to make the bed and I was having trouble breathing. After surviving two open heart surgeries, my first worry was that my valve was not working properly

My husband and I moved to Durham three years ago after living in Dufferin County for twenty-five years. We knew there was a hospital in town but were not familiar with the rest of the town and area yet.

After a visit to my doctor, I made an appointment at the Durham Hospital for a chest x-ray. On the day of my appointment, a turkey had been in the oven for a few hours. I thought I would have time to get home to finish cooking.

My husband, Henry drove me to the hospital with our dogs. He dropped me off, went to Tim's for a coffee and returned to wait.

After registering, I walked to the X-ray department. That one-minute walk seemed to take an hour because of my shortness of breath. I was greeted by a lovely woman who took the X-rays. She asked if I was all right and I answered that I was just a little out of breath.

She finished and we began to walk out of the room. She said 'I think you ought to see someone in our Emergency Department.' 'But I have a turkey in the oven!' 'OK, I understand, but this won't take long and I really think that you should see someone, now.' As she talked I realized she was leading me to the ED. She was very serious and took control. A lovely nurse came to get my information immediately.

Three minutes later I was on a table and the best-looking doctor I've ever seen was examining me. I'm no spring chicken but one has to appreciate beauty wherever it is found, even on a hospital gurney!

He promised that he would



try to get me home in time for my turkey supper. He also told me that it was good I had come in as I had fluid on my lungs and was in heart failure.

I had to have many tests while I was there and time was slipping away. I was in the ED about an hour and a half when my husband came in looking for me. I had completely forgotten he was waiting for me in the car!

I cannot thank the Durham Hospital staff enough for realizing I was in trouble and acting so quickly to help me. Impressed and grateful don't even begin to describe my feelings. I doubt I would have received this level of care anywhere else.

You never think about how important it is to have a well-equipped hospital and great staff until you need them. Thank you so much!"

COMMITTED TO GREAT CARE - SOFIA GRAHAM, RN

Sofia will be a familiar face to many area residents. She cared for many seniors, working as a Personal Support Worker at Rockwood Terrace for ten years.

Sofia moved here at sixteen, and after marrying a local Durham boy, Don Graham, settled down to raise their family. Sofia is the mother of six active children, aged 9-21 years and spends a lot of her free time in hockey arenas or at baseball diamonds.

Sofia always wanted to be a nurse, and realized that caring for others was her passion. She made the commitment to become a Registered Practical Nurse, going to school while working.

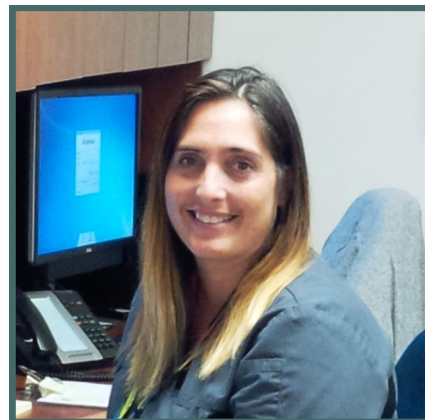
She worked at the Walkerton Hospital as an RPN from 2000 then

made the decision to go back to school full-time to get her Registered Nursing Diploma. She was hired at the Durham Hospital in 2003 and has been here since.

Sofia made the transition from student to teacher and has been a Clinic Instructor for the Nursing Program at Georgian College in Owen Sound for five years!

She hopes to go back to school someday and earn her B.Sc. in Nursing. She enjoys opportunities for further learning in Emergency Medicine and Patient Care.

Sofia works with other RNs, PSWs and RPNs. She loves working as part of a team and takes her role as a Team Lead seriously. She is a mentor and coach to new nurses.



Sofia loves working here and feels it is good for people to see a familiar face when they are facing a health crisis. She is a bit of a practical joker, is outgoing, adaptable, well-organized and always puts the patient first. Thanks, Sofia!

MICHELLE KENNEDY RN—PASSIONATE ABOUT FRONT LINE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS



Michelle is a self-proclaimed "military brat", who moved around Canada and England with a military father. Maybe that's why she makes friends easily and isn't afraid to accept a challenge.

After the family settled on a hobby farm near Holstein, Michelle attended Grey Highlands and worked at the Homestead Golf Course. She met Steven Kennedy there. They now have two kids after thirteen years of marriage.

Michelle wanted to be a doctor when she started nursing, but loved the job and has never looked back – now into her 13th year as an RN.

She works in multi-sites, covering obstetrics in Walkerton, Emergency Department in Collingwood and the ED and ward floors in Durham. She enjoys the variety and challenge of the other roles but loves being more directly involved with patient care.

Working with the same patients each day allows her to get to know them, their circumstances, family and available supports. This information is important to customizing their care plan for discharge.

Michelle enjoys the team approach used in patient care in Durham. Everyone who is involved with the patients is consulted in their care to enhance their recovery and future health. Michelle is very involved in several hospital committees as an advocate for front-line health care staff. Her advice is for people to be responsible for their health and take care of their hospital too.

CALM, CARING COMPASSIONATE – DEBBIE DETZLER



Debbie Detzler is a woman who knows how to stay the course. She has been welcoming people to the Durham Hospital for thirty-eight years and married to husband Tracy for thirty-two. These 2 milestones

are longer than many Durham residents have been alive!

When Debbie was eighteen, she left home for Grade 13 one September morning and returned home with a job at the front desk of the hospital. At the time, she never expected the job to last a lifetime, nor did she expect it to be so fulfilling.

Debbie attended Conestoga College part-time for three years to become a Physiotherapist Assistant and worked part time in the Out-patient Physiotherapy Department until it closed, then returned to full-time work as a Registration Clerk.

Her role has changed over the years – in the beginning she answered the phone for the local ambulance service (volunteers all!) and acted as the dispatch as well. These days

Debbie and several other front line staff handle registration for Admissions, Emergency, the Lab, Diagnostic Imaging, Specialist Clinics and Cardio-Respiratory.

Debbie feels the two most important parts of her role are to be familiar with all aspects of the hospital to provide better customer service and to remain calm, helpful and reassuring. She loves working with a great team and greets everyone with patience and a smile.

Debbie raised four amazing kids, enjoys her Cuba vacations and stays fit with daily walks, golf and cross-country skiing.

Debbie steps up where needed to make a difference in patient care!

A FRESH FACE IN THE LAB– KENDRA KARL

It's so nice to see young people entering the health care field! Kendra Karl has been a Medical Laboratory Technologist for six years, after graduating from Cambrian College in Sudbury. Kendra attended John Diefenbaker Secondary School in Hanover.

As she was considering her future, she arranged to job-shadow several different people at the Walkerton Hospital. Realizing she liked health care and knowing there would be a future in it, she started her education path in Pre-Health while considering her options. Soon afterwards she firmed up on her direction and graduated the three-year program.

Kendra is enjoying her work in the lab, finding a lot of variety and a good balance between working with people and using equipment. She worked two years in Seaforth, one year in Hanover and three years in Markdale before finally coming to Durham.

Like many others, Kendra moves between the Walkerton, Chesley, Kincardine and Durham Hospitals and still occasionally works a shift at the Markdale Hospital.

Most of her family still live in Hanover where she was the middle child of three and only girl. Kendra enjoys gardening, taking her little



Schnauzer/Poodle cross dog on walks and spending time with her boyfriend. She will be even busier soon as they are building a house together and she hopes to start a family. Good luck, Kendra!



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Other News and Events!



**The 2016 Christmas Campaign
will launch on November 21!**

Thanks to the generosity of area residents, the annual Christmas campaigns have raised over \$190,000 since 1997!

These funds have been used to purchase several important pieces of medical and diagnostic equipment for the Durham Hospital, ensuring quality care is available for all who need it.

The goal for 2016 is \$22,000 to help fund the purchase of a Portable Diagnostic Imaging machine for use in the Emergency Department and in patient rooms.

Donations are recognized by an ornament placed on one of the two trees in the building. Gifts can be made in memory, send holiday wishes or thank a health care provider.

Please give generously when your form arrives this year, invest in local health care!