

September 8, 2010

She's in
a fight
for her
life.



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We'll call her Danielle, but that's not her real name.

She's 36, married and the mother of three young children, ages 7, 11, and 13.

We have changed some of the details of her story to protect her privacy, but she is a real person and at this very moment fighting for her life.

Danielle discovered a lump in her breast in May 2010 and was immediately referred to Markham Stouffville Hospital's Breast Health Centre where she underwent a series of tests, including a mammogram, ultrasound, MRI and biopsy.

One week later Danielle was diagnosed with breast cancer and she is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatment as I write to you.

"When they told me it was cancer, I was in complete shock. I couldn't believe that it was happening to me. I have children and a husband who need me, so there isn't anything I won't do to win this fight."

Even though Danielle's prognosis is good, no one knows if she will survive. Cancer is a deadly disease and 102 Canadian women lose their lives to breast cancer every day.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your recent donation and kindly ask that you consider supporting your community hospital once again with a special gift. With the continued support of caring donors like you, Markham Stouffville Hospital will do everything possible to ensure that Danielle — and every other cancer patient who is counting on us — receives the very best care, right here at home.

I'm writing to you with this urgent request for help today.

Although many people don't realize it, the government does not fund new and replacement medical equipment. As a community hospital, we RELY on the support of our Markham Stouffville Hospital family members, like you, to help us keep up with the huge demand for cancer care in our growing community.

Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation
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By making a special gift today, you can help:

- Purchase essential equipment for the Hospital and our cancer clinic, ensuring a fast, accurate diagnosis and rapid targeted treatment, ultimately reducing anxiety and the number of sleepless nights for patients like Danielle, and her family.
- Support our expansion of cancer care that will build on the success of our Breast Health Centre's 'one-stop shopping' approach, where patients with other kinds of cancer can undergo all testing and receive collaborative, specialized cancer treatment in a positive and healing environment.

But more importantly, your gift today will help give Danielle and other cancer patients the strength and encouragement to keep fighting.

In Danielle's words, "*When I was first diagnosed, everyone told me to go to a specialized cancer hospital downtown. But the very first time I visited Markham Stouffville Hospital, I knew I was in the right hospital. The quality of care I'm receiving is amazing and when I arrived for my second chemotherapy visit, everyone knew my name,*" Danielle shares.

**There's no doubt that Danielle has an incredible fight ahead.
But it's a fight that she's determined to win.**

"To be honest, I'm really scared. I don't know what lies ahead. I have a lot of uncertainty and fear the unknown. What I do know is that I'm in the right hands and that I'm going to fight with everything I've got."

Please help our cancer patients like Danielle who are fighting for their lives by making a special gift today.

Sincerely yours,



Suzette Strong, MA, CFRE
Chief Executive Officer
Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation

P.S. Usually when I write to you, it's to share an incredible success story that you helped make possible. But Danielle is different. She's fighting cancer right now, *at this very moment*. Please send your special gift — because patients like Danielle urgently need your support today.

Quick Facts:

- An estimated 166,400 new cancer cases were diagnosed in Canada in 2008.
- In 2007 MSH had 1,800 visits to our oncology clinic, and that number is expected to almost triple to 5,000 by 2014.
- To date in 2010, we have already performed approximately 86 cancer surgeries and the demand continues to grow.
- Our expanded cancer care program will offer a 'one stop shopping' approach where patients can receive rapid diagnosis and treatment for breast, colon, prostate and lung cancer, resulting in reduced patient wait times.

Markham Stouffville Hospital would like to express its heartfelt thanks to Danielle and her family for so generously sharing her story. Her courage is truly an inspiration.

