



## We Want the Best for Ottawa

“The devastating news last November struck us. We were both diagnosed with breast cancer in the same week. Both in our early forties with no family history, we were in shock. We have young children, families, careers and vibrant lives. How could this happen? What are the chances? We both live healthy life styles, we had both had regular mammograms. We both have dense breasts.”

Unfortunately, traditional mammography was not able to detect all of their tumours. A more sensitive test would show that they both had invasive ductile breast cancer. Rebecca was sent for MRI, where it was discovered that she had 5 more tumours that had not be previously detected. Mary-ellen also went for an MRI and a small tumour was missed. It wasn't until they had surgery that it was revealed that, in fact, Rebecca had one large 6cm tumour. The fact is the imaging just wasn't able to identify exactly how much cancer was present. Thankfully, the surgeons removed the entire area during surgery. Had we just gone with the original mammography results, we would be in a very different boat today. 10 months later, we are both recovering from chemotherapy, surgeries and radiation but the one thing that keeps nagging us is that Ottawa needs better breast cancer screening. We want the best for Ottawa. Ottawa needs the best breast screening

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technology. This new imaging can change lives and can be the difference between life and death.

Since the inception of the Breast Health Centre in Ottawa in 1997, the number of patients has increased by 40 percent and breast imaging and procedures have increased by 175 percent. Annually, the Breast Health Centre cares for over 33, 000 patients and it is anticipated that there will be a minimum of 1000 newly diagnosed breast cancer patients this year.

We were committed to raising \$250 000 to bring new breast screening technology to Ottawa and be the first Breast Health Centre in Canada with this life-changing technology such as the 3 TESLA MRI. We did it. Through the generous support of our amazing community in Ottawa and A donation of \$250 000 from Suzanne Halpenny , we've been able to surpass our original goal and are now working on bringing a new ultrasound machine as well as support ongoing research in best practices in breast cancer oncology. We are hoping that you can help. With your support, we can help people detect cancer earlier, help save lives and help them receive the best treatments possible. Please consider helping us acquire this new technology and research and bringing it to Ottawa.

Your support will:

1. Reduce wait times between diagnoses and treatment for breast cancer patients.
2. Improve the identification and diagnosis of tumours in high risk patients.
3. Allow for research in breast imaging.
4. Increase access to MRI and ultrasound equipment for patients by 3, 328 MRI scans per year.
5. Allow quicker access to magnetic resonance imaging for other patients.
6. Reduce the number of false positives.
7. Help develop the best practices in oncology for breast cancer patients.

Unfortunately, time is a factor in a breast cancer diagnosis. We hope you will help us help others in giving them more time and the best chance possible. We are asking local business, individuals and large corporations to come on as sponsors and donate at [www.treeofhopecampaign.com](http://www.treeofhopecampaign.com)



Sincerely,  
Rebecca and Mary Ellen