

Giving in the Spirit of the Season!

December 2010

YARMOUTH HOSPITAL FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 7, Yarmouth, NS B5A 4B1



Dear Friend,

Before reading this letter in its entirety, please take a deep breath. Now slowly exhale. If that simple exercise was relatively easy then you may wish to acknowledge this blessing in your own way...

Now take a moment to imagine that you or a loved one were faced with a traumatic situation whereby every breath was a struggle....or worse still, you can't breathe on your own!

"Over the years I have witnessed this heart wrenching scenario unfold on many occasions. In the past patients in respiratory distress sometimes needed to be put to sleep, have a tube put down their throat and placed on a ventilator. Thankfully, with the development of BiPAP machines (Bi-level Positive Airway Pressure) we now have the option of a less invasive way of helping patients. People that come into the hospital with breathing difficulties perhaps because of heart failure, pneumonia, or COPD could potentially benefit from this machine", says Jill Cushing, respiratory therapist with South West Health.

The BiPAP is a breathing machine designed to help patients breathe easier. It helps by pushing air into the lungs and it also helps to get more oxygen in the lungs by holding them open. This can be done by simply putting a mask over your face and attaching it to the machine. The patient remains awake and, when stabilized, is able to take the mask off to eat and speak to family and care givers when needed.

Currently the Yarmouth Regional Hospital has only one BiPAP machine. Over the past couple years, since getting the BiPAP, the respiratory department has seen positive outcomes and are now using it more than ever. Just in the past 2 months nine patients have benefited from the BiPAP. Some require it for just a few hours, others require it anywhere from 1-5 days.

Knowing how patients benefit from this wonderful technology, I ask you to generously support the efforts of the Yarmouth Hospital Foundation to ensure that the respiratory department will be equipped with an additional BiPAP machine to better serve its patients. The cost of a machine is \$25,000. The satisfaction of giving can't be measured. Can we count on your financial support?

What better gift to give this holiday season than the breath of life!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Muise".

Mark Muise, Board Chair, Yarmouth Hospital Foundation

