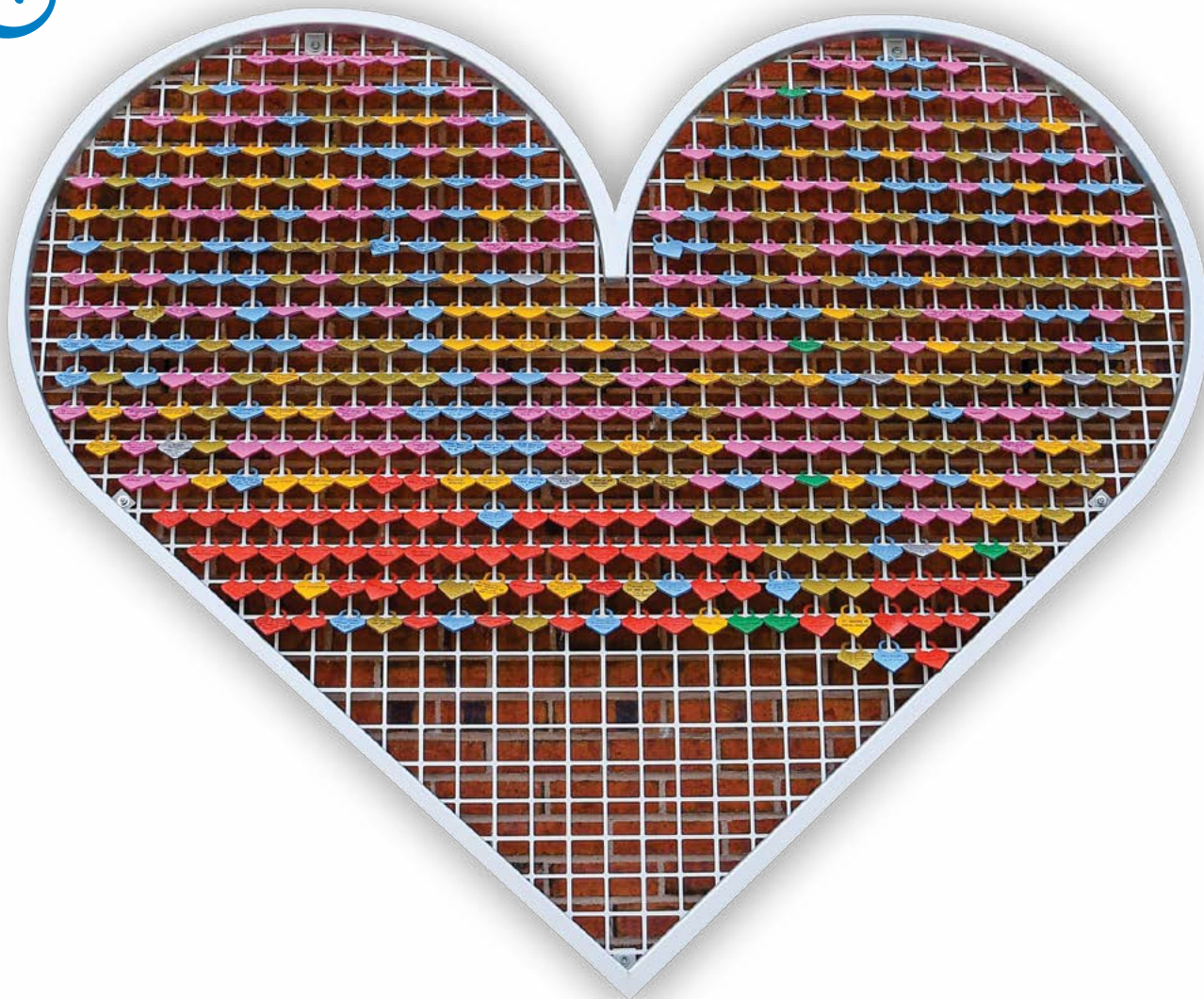


Hope COMES IN ALL *Colors*



Recognizing Excellence
Vol X



FONDATION
HÔPITAL
MONT-SINAI | MOUNT SINAI
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Message from the Chair

Mount Sinai is a small hospital interested in big outcomes. Covid-19 transformed the lives of our patients as much as it amplified the Foundation’s determination to have the back of every hospital employee. Look around any of the hospital’s floors and you will find colleagues whose connections to the hospital run deep.

When Mount Sinai was first established, it was created to address challenges of another era. Pulmonary diseases such as Tuberculosis were common, and patients were sent to the hospital’s residential campus in the Laurentians to benefit from the country air.

In September 2020, I took on the mandate of Chair in the middle of the pandemic. Amidst an unprecedented battle surrounded by staff giving it everything

they had, I bore witness to stories and scenes that inspire and embolden. The donors profiled on the following pages chose to share the purpose and impact that the Hospital has imparted on them.

Mount Sinai is a unique facility with a mixed mission. We administer pulmonary rehabilitation, post-acute and palliative care with the support of professional and lay teams that always stand shoulder to shoulder. Our commitment sets us apart and an insurmountable team spirit permeates everything we do.

Thank you for being part of us.

Louise Hébert-Lalonde
Chair, Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation

“Mount Sinai is a small hospital interested in big outcomes.”

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When the Foundation decided to support local businesses and hungry staff at the same time, lunches appeared along with a fridge to keep them fresh and soups that became post-shift suppers in homes across the city. An upgraded WIFI network to connect patients and families was enhanced with donated iPads. Equipment that we purchased helped navigate the new Covid protocols. Instead of cancelling in person events, Foundation staff adjusted to life by developing innovative and fun on-line events. Donors spoke not of uncertain times but of a steadfast commitment to doing whatever it took to maintain Mount Sinai’s culture of caring.

Many believe that the pandemic has forever changed the world of philanthropy. I disagree. It reminds me that the Hospital is exactly what I knew it to be; a family that values teamwork and commitment regardless of rank; a donor base that rolls with the punches and grows stronger; and a permanent home for the everyday miracles spurred by impact and compassion.

Wendy Corn,
CEO, Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation

They Say That Every Memory Has Its Moment

It was the morning of March 12, 2020. The day had begun like any other, albeit with televisions ablaze on a mysterious new virus. A few minutes before noon, a colleague called to say that stores were sold out of anti-bacterial gel. Glancing back at the news on my computer screen, I saw pictures of store lineups and empty shelves. A few moments later, journalists confirmed that a global pandemic was underway. My heart skipped a beat thinking about the implications and by noon, I closed the office advising staff to work from home.

Supporting a sub-acute care center like Mount Sinai is about valuing the relationships with those who make it thrive. The early days of Covid-19 raised new questions: could these crucial relationships be maintained at a distance? Would staff accustomed to finishing each other’s sentences and sharing the same space be able to nurture the bonds that had them operate as one? As time wore on and fresh challenges revealed themselves, a new certainty came to light: the Foundation was ready.

Within hours, the Foundation’s pre-pandemic efforts to accommodate staff working from home bore fruit. Questions surrounding the funding of ongoing mid- and long-term programs was met by donors who refused to waiver and employees ready for sacrifice.

“A strange and unfamiliar feeling descended upon the hospital.”

The Power of Partnerships

Greatness is never completely housed in any one person or thing. It's something that happens when people take a step outside of themselves. It's about knowing when to reach out instead of reaching in. And it's understanding how far you can move when you recognize the power of partnerships.

Since the advent of Covid-19, the Foundation's relationships took on a new dimension. Witnessing the vulnerability that suddenly cut across the core of our community, donors were called to action by the experiences of health care workers walking head-first into a terrifying unknown.

The partners listed below all share a common understanding that doing what you can always begins with a step forward. They are successful at what they do because they went for it. And this year they had our back.

Small hospitals need big friends. **Delmar** and **The Elina & Giuseppe Borsellino Family Foundation** said "I love you" by supporting our Love Sinai initiative. **Kelson Financial** helped make sure that we had the financing we needed for meals. Made up of 180 volunteers from all walks of life, **Souper Heroes** are still delivering frozen soups for hospital staff to bring home. **Shiri's Bakers** is a group of likeminded women dedicated to using their pastry talents to make life a bit sweeter. When **Soia & Kyo (Mackage)** started selling masks, they let us know that for each one they sold, they'd send another one our way for free. When **Something Neon** realized that it was something they could do too, they went all out. **Trend Savvy** came on board and donated proceeds from a special shopping initiative. **The Front Steps Project** went from vision to reality as local photographer **Ryan Blau** captured one-time family moments in exchange for a donation to the hospital. Food writer and blogger **Heidi Small** decided to go big by bringing the city's greatest chefs to Mount Sinai through lockdown lunches; because of her, we got fed by **Lucille's**, **Arthur's Nosh Bar**, and **Gentile**. **Metro Stores** made us lunches, while **La Marguerite**, **Java U**, **Danny St. Pierre**, and **Kim Lallouz** all pitched in to make sure no one went hungry.



Pleasure for the Palette

Growing up around food and family in New York, Jake Cohen quickly understood that the differences between a determined cook and a terrible chef were few. All it took to move from one to the other was the willingness to try, the openness to learn, and the confidence to get better.

On February 18, 2021, Mount Sinai held its virtual baking event chaired by Robert Matarasso and Sheryl Rosen and hosted by Montreal radio personality Shaun McMahon. Together, 125 hospital supporters joined Jake live from his kitchen in Long Island, NY, where he lives with his husband Alex. And his mother. And his sister. And his sister's fiancée. All in the same building. Too close for comfort for some, but for Jake and Alex, life couldn't be better. Making rugelach, Jake took us step-by-step through a baking style which he firmly labels as one with no rules which worked for all, since many were broken!

Jake's love for food is really just an extension of his love for people.

Jake's love for food is really just an extension of his love for people. Open and engaging, his ability to connect with cooks ranging from the novice to the novel reflect his belief that food – no matter how it's cooked – ties us all to love and to family. Baking, he says, is as much about pastry as it is about life. The result may not always come out the way you planned, or look the way you wanted, but it's the effort that went into it that far outshines anything else.

Committee

- Sheryl Rosen Adler
- Robert Matarasso
- Rona Rosen Malus
- Jessica Choueke
- Lawrence Frankel



Art & Food are Love

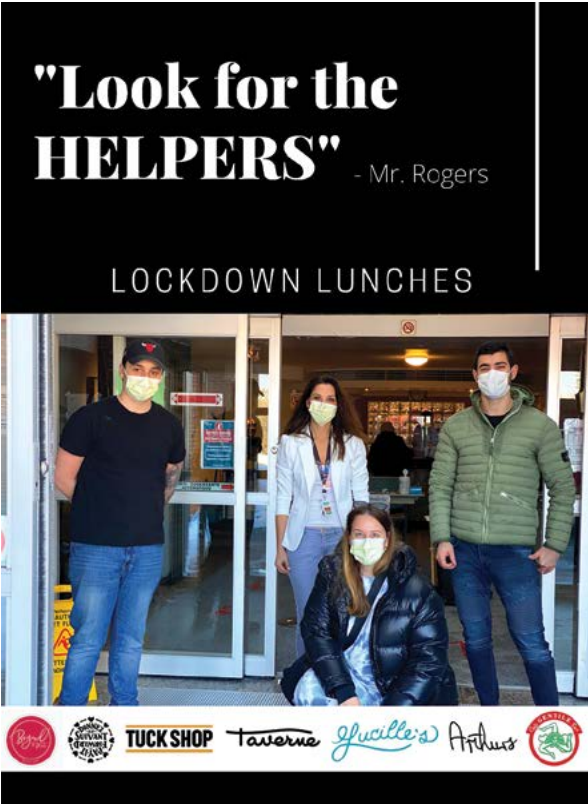
The fear and unknown that characterized the beginning of the pandemic mobilized donors in new and innovative ways. Knowing that the way forward would be marked by our ability to support our patients and staff, the Foundation launched a series of tangible programs built on the belief that everyone deserves love.

This is how Love Sinai was born. Employees, patients, friends, and families bought locks to encourage us to open our hearts. Harnessing and leveraging the power of social media, the outpouring of support for Love Sinai allowed us to design and sustain initiatives that made sure no team member was left behind.

When curfews were imposed, Lockdown Lunches were designed to alleviate the additional burden that staff faced to feed themselves and their families. We knew that regardless of language or culture, food was a universal expression of love. Where words fell short, actions prevailed and made sure that no one felt forgotten.

Love Sinai Committee

- Sheryl Rosen Adler
- Jessica Choueke
- Ashley Brasgold Cola
- Shari Gordon
- Taryn Blumer Nehemia
- Sara Rosenblatt
- Dayna Rotenberg
- Dawn Shaheen



Simple Greatness

Malcolm has been working as a PAB at Mount Sinai since 1992. A quiet, humble, and gentle man, Malcolm has led a life of service to others.

With 30 years of experience in the provincial health system, Malcom's career is filled with lessons learned, milestones met, and expectations surpassed. Though he began working in the private sector, he joined the public system for the community involvement it offered. Malcolm works at Mount Sinai because here he can serve both the patient and the community at the same time. His commitment as a staff person is matched only by his devotion as a donor, a touching and very special commitment that he has renewed annually from his earliest days at Mount Sinai.

Son of a nurse, father of three, grandfather of two, Malcolm has chosen to stay at Mount Sinai because of all the things that simply don't happen anywhere else. Growing up in a small town, he loves the energy of the Foundation's events, the spirit of Mount Sinai's hundreds of volunteers, and the love in everything that the Foundation has done to support him and his colleagues. Inspired by the miracles of medicine and the lengths to which Foundation staff go to impact the lives of patients and staff, Malcolm is determined to always do his part.

The ways in which the Foundation supports people like Malcolm have inspired him and his colleagues to give their all to the patients under their care. The secret? Family.

Growing up in a small town, he loves the energy of the Foundation's events, the spirit of Mount Sinai's hundreds of volunteers, and the love in everything that the Foundation has done to support him and his colleagues.



Administering Kindness



It doesn't take long to understand that Judith Marchessault doesn't mince her words. Head Nurse of Palliative Care at Mount Sinai, Judith helped found the department in 2001. But 2020 was one of her most demanding ever. Keeping a staff of 50 and patient families (often situated remotely) informed of fast-changing developments means she often lacks the luxury of time.

A nurse for almost 35 years, Judith has never been short on care. She has dedicated her life to the well-being of others, often when facing the hardships of terminal disease and end-of-life decisions. She has accompanied thousands of families as they navigate some of the most difficult times of their lives. More than most, she recognizes the power of the smallest gesture.

Judith describes the groundswell of support that she and her staff received from the Foundation as the cushion that got everyone through the transformative pandemic experience. Visible and present at every turn, the Foundation nurtured the remarkable resilience and resolve of her staff, many of whom called on the Foundation's support for the first time. Nurses and PABs found themselves with the protective gear before she even had a chance to request it. The toughest days were often ended with a surprise meal, often personalized to a staff member's taste, offering a moment of tenderness to those tasked with giving the same.



As Head Nurse of Mount Sinai's Second Floor Pulmonary Rehab Unit, meeting Ryan Bisessar for the first time is like meeting an old friend. Maybe that's because he first set out in life convinced that he would be a lawyer. In his early 20s, after gaining experience in several different industries, someone suggested he channel his ease with people into nursing. Now aged 42 with three young kids, he never looked back.

Joining Mount Sinai in 2018, the first people he met were the Foundation team -- Wendy, Ashley, Linda, and Kara. They welcomed him like family and immediately set to work to help him improve conditions on his floor. When the pandemic began, gourmet lunches appeared along with masks and socks; but long-term needs like new beds were not forgotten. Amazed by the role that a



Foundation and its donors can play in healthcare, he comes to work every day to a place that is not just about medicine -- but about collaboration.

Working with a population of pulmonary rehabilitation patients, Ryan still comes across those, who every now and then -- even when healed -- do not want to leave. That, Ryan believes, speaks to a standard of care that he has never witnessed anywhere else in his career. In anything you do, he says, it is about the culture, about a user experience so special that it cannot happen without the culture of a team, of a facility, and of a whole building.



Giving Changes Everything

Asked to describe the role of collectors of fine art, Irwin Browns describes himself and his wife as temporary custodians of a history and beauty common to all.

When Foundation CEO Wendy Corn first contacted Irwin and Freda to discuss a new focal point for Mount Sinai's outdoor Garden, she sought Irwin's advice on how to complement its marvelous koi pond. The garden needed a central focus that could withstand the rigors of a harsh climate while comforting those facing pain and suffering. A bronze sculpture that had figured prominently in his den brought back memories of his first encounter with its creator, the celebrated Milanese artist Domenico Colanzi, a close family friend and mentor. Procured in the early 90s, the 200-pound sculpture produced using traditional wax-based methods had been shipped to the Irwin's home by air from Italy.

Known simply as The Ballerina, the sculpture was donated and installed by the Browns. After applying an exterior coating to protect against weather, The Ballerina was placed on a base of polished black granite affixed with stainless steel rods to a poured underground concrete base resting on a Styrofoam cushion (all of which was directly organized and financed by the Browns). Capturing the lines and motion of a ballerina in movement, the sculpture echoes possibility, strength, and hope.

Today, Irwin and Freda's collection of over 250 pieces are found in art museums across the country, with special emphasis on small and regional centres where members of the public can tap into the same sense of joy and meaning that art infused into the lives of its donors. Irwin and Freda have extended their generosity to the often-sterile walls of healthcare institutions. As they themselves have said, "institutional yellow or green do not healthy minds and bodies make." Their donations help revolutionize how we treat the surroundings of people who are ill, undergoing treatment, or receiving palliative care.

“The sculpture echoes possibility, strength, and hope.”





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*Deceased



A Planned Gift

Sheila's Legacy to Mount Sinai

A conversation with Sheila Linden is like stepping into a forgotten world. Her sophisticated continental accent woven with her love of beauty conjures images of bygone days of pre-WWII Europe.

Like so many of her generation, war shattered the future that Sheila and her family had hoped for themselves. With Europe's political landscape forever altered, Sheila and her husband Michael boarded a boat to Canada, armed with medical degrees and a desire to take on an entirely new world.

Arriving in Montreal in 1949 surrounded by thousands of new immigrants, Sheila overcame the challenges of a new city, country, and language by embracing all that was different. Shortly after her arrival, she and her husband were offered an opportunity to join the staff of Mount Sinai Hospital, then located in Prefontaine, QC. They travelled up north in an egg truck and, as Sheila likes to say it, never quite left.

Though distant from the grand opera houses of her youth, Sheila's commitment to those things that made life more beautiful – art, music, literature, and science – helped her and Michael build a broad and cosmopolitan group of lifelong friends first made at Mount Sinai. Then, like now, Mount Sinai was more than a healthcare facility: whether you were a patient or a patron, it was an institution that was valued as much for being a home as it was for being a hospital.

The late Joseph Rothbart (former Executive Director of Mount Sinai Hospital) saw in Sheila a distinguished future and encouraged her to realize her potential. With his friendship and mentorship, Sheila excelled. It was a commitment and investment that Sheila never forgot.

In 1953, Sheila returned to Montreal with her only child Ronald in tow. After completing her Canadian residency and medical fellowship, Sheila joined the staff of the Montreal General Hospital (MGH), where she led the Département de santé Communautaire and married for a second time to noted architect David Linden. She remained at the MGH until shortly before her retirement from medicine.

David's final days were spent surrounded by family and friends in Mount Sinai's palliative care department. Sheila took comfort knowing that Mount Sinai would extend to David the same compassion that she found so compelling on her first visit so many years ago.

Sheila has chosen to permanently recognize all that Mount Sinai has given her with a bequest in her will. For Sheila, beauty is also about ensuring that future generations will be able to benefit as much from Mount Sinai as she has.

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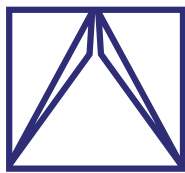
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