

***I only had a ten percent chance of survival. It is truly a miracle that I am still alive.***

I could hear myself slurring my words as I talked to Mom on the phone. Something wasn't right. As I hung up and sat down on the couch, everything familiar was gone. There was a burst of colour, and then, nothing.

When I woke up, desperately gasping for air, my immediate thought was to phone my wife, Brenda. It took several attempts. I had lost most of the use of my arms and hands and my vision was blurred. She called the ambulance, and I was rushed to Haldimand War Memorial Hospital. I had had a stroke.

What happened next is the reason I can write this letter to you today.



I believe without a doubt that emergency room physician Dr. Jeffrey Remington was instrumental in saving my life that day. He took one look at me when I arrived at HWMH and acted quickly. Satisfied that I had been stabilized, he transferred me to the regional stroke centre in Hamilton where they were briefed and waiting for me.

**There are many reasons to live in our beautiful community, and access to life-saving care at HWMH is certainly one of them.** They are our front-line workers and our advocates, and we're so lucky to have them. It is because of the unwavering support from our community that our hospital is equipped with the best possible medical equipment.

It is the generosity of people like you who ensure our doctors and nurses have the equipment and training to make life and death decisions every single day.

It has been over two years since I had my massive stroke. I was recovering at home when the magnitude of what happened hit me. **I understand now that there could have been an entirely different outcome if we didn't have our amazing hospital right here.**

One person's struggle is never just one person's struggle. My stroke affected my whole family. I have a wife, two sons, a daughter and 4 grandchildren. Because of the skill of the doctors and nurses at HWMH that day, they still have a Husband, a Dad, and a "Pop" around to the celebrate life every day.

I am so grateful for our community hospital. It was one of many pieces to the puzzle that saved my life that day. I am thankful to the members of our community whose support has made the care I received at HWMH possible.

**If you want to help HWMH continue to save lives this year, please consider a gift of \$50, \$100 or \$250 or any amount you are comfortable giving.** Every gift will help us to keep exceptional care right here in Dunnville.

Sincerely,

David Dawson  
Grateful Patient