Toronto students working to bring vital medical equipment to Michael Garron Hospital

Michael Garron Hospital, with support from the Moez & Marissa Kassam Equity Fund, is engaging local high school students to bring awareness to the need for critical medical equipment.

TORONTO (FEBRUARY 19, 2026) – Working alongside leading clinicians, students from Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute are helping to highlight the hospital's urgent equipment needs – from safer births with wireless fetal monitors and newborn warmers to advanced cardiac monitors and life-saving surgical tools.

Students were randomly assigned one of eight projects, each including one or more pieces of equipment. With guidance from physicians, they presented the case for funding in 90-second videos explaining how the equipment saves lives. Now, they're calling on the community to vote for their projects and help bring these vital technologies to the hospital, ensuring high-quality care for every patient.

As part of a generous commitment of $3.5 million from the Moez & Marissa Kassam Equity Fund, projects with the most votes will receive immediate funding.

"The Kassams have created a platform that allows clinicians to come forward and advocate for equipment that elevates the care that we provide to a well-deserving community," says Dr. Carmine Simone, Executive Vice President, Medical, Clinical Infrastructure and Partnerships at Michael Garron Hospital. "Having the students from Mark Garneau Collegiate Institute participate highlights our commitment to inspiring the next generation to serve their community in a way that supports health and well-being."

To watch the students' videos and cast your vote, visit mghf.ca/vote. Voting closes on March 4, and results will be shared at an event on March 5 at the hospital, with students, clinicians and the Kassams coming together to celebrate the achievements of the campaign and thank everyone for their efforts.

"The Vital Venture Fund is participatory philanthropy in action," says Moez Kassam, Co-Founder and Director, Moez & Marissa Kassam Equity Fund. "It connects the incredible potential of Marc Garneau students directly to the life-saving work of Michael Garron Hospital. Then, by inviting the East Toronto community to vote, we are ensuring the hospital gets the life-saving equipment it needs."

“Participating students share interests in science and healthcare, so it’s been meaningful for them to connect with the doctors at Michael Garron Hospital,” says Gillian Evans, Principal of Marc Garneau. “We invite everyone, far and wide, to vote for the projects. While our students are excited to find out which equipment will receive funding, each of their projects have an important role in showcasing what’s needed to save and change lives in our communities.”

About Michael Garron Hospital

Nestled in the heart of East Toronto, Michael Garron Hospital (MGH) is a vibrant community teaching hospital serving more than 400,000 people in 22 distinct neighbourhoods. For more than 90 years, MGH has delivered high-quality, patient-centred healthcare services to families along the continuum of care, from welcoming a new life to facing end-of-life. MGH is a full-service hospital with strong community and research partners, including the University of Toronto. MGH is a proud member of East Toronto Health Partners, the Ontario Health Team serving East Toronto.

About the Moez & Marissa Kassam Equity Fund

The Moez & Marissa Kassam Equity Fund represents a new wave of data-driven, direct philanthropy designed to dismantle systemic barriers across Canada. Rooted in the belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to thrive, the Fund invests its Equity in equity—leveling the playing field so that talent is the only limit to success. This commitment bridges the gap between ambition and achievement: from partnering with the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS) to ensure students have the nutrition required to focus and excel in the classroom, to funding medical tuition for future doctors at TMU and propelling underfunded athletes to the Olympic podium. Across its four priority pillars—food security, healthcare, education, and sport—the Fund maximizes a Return on Equity—measured not in dollars, but in social progress and human potential.

-30-

Media contact:
media@tehn.ca
416-469-6580 ext. 6459