

Gone but Never Forgotten

This holiday season and will mark the second Christmas that the Ungers have spent without their matriarch, Marcie Unger, by their sides. Marcie fought a courageous battle against pancreatic cancer, succumbing to the disease in June 2020 after a very short five-month struggle. Left behind to share in her memory is her soulmate Randy, her loving mother Sheila and sister Sandy, and her beautiful children, Sarah, Spencer, and Naomi Unger.

“Although shattered, our hearts remain filled with fond memories of her. Especially as we prepare for what was once a favourite time of year as a family — Christmas,” Randy says.

“We never imagined that our Mom would have been ever diagnosed with cancer,” Spencer says. “With her 24-year career in the Medical Imaging Department at Peace Arch Hospital, we know it was heartbreaking for her to receive her own diagnosis that fateful day. She has always put others first, and by the time she underwent her own ultrasound, it was already too late.”

Marcie’s commitment and passion for patient care made her terminal diagnosis that much more painful. “Dr. Marcie,” as she was lovingly referred, was a valuable member of the medical imaging team and worked tirelessly for her patients and colleagues. She would often stay late, work extra shifts, and go out of her way to ensure that vulnerable patients received life-saving diagnostic scans and related care. She would even stay up late to bring home-made pizzas into work to share with her colleagues, boosting morale and ensuring everyone had the sustenance needed to make it through their long and busy shifts at the hospital.

“Since her passing, hospital staff, patients, and others have consistently come forward to share heartwarming stories about Marcie and the positive impact that she had on our community,” says Shonna Breslaw, Legacy Giving Officer at Peace Arch Hospital Foundation. “She never truly knew how valuable she was,” Randy adds. “But her zest for life was beyond compare.”

“Though our mother has passed away, her spirit lives on in our hearts forever,” Sarah Unger says. “We do our best to match her unwavering strength, love, loyalty, and care.” Right now, the Unger family is working on carrying forward Marcie’s legacy of helping others by working with Peace Arch Hospital Foundation to fund new, state-of-the-art medical imaging equipment.

Key pieces of medical imaging equipment our doctors and nurses rely on at Peace Arch Hospital are becoming old and outdated. Wait lists can also be long, and that means many patients need to transfer to other hospitals for important scans. We know that this is difficult for any patient, and difficult on the families who support them.

Much of the current equipment is slow and unreliable, losing valuable minutes — and sometimes even days — which can greatly affect patient outcomes. “Every single second of a loved one’s life counts,” Randy says. Right now, the most critical need is a new portable ultrasound machine.

“Cancer stole our mother away from us too soon, but it also inspired us to somehow make an impact. Our hospital needs the very best medical imaging equipment to do so,” Naomi says. “We want to honour our mother and make her proud by equipping Peace Arch Hospital with the necessary tools to continue to treat patients locally. Think of it as the legacy of our loved one, completing a circle of care in our community.”

“Mom taught us that the holidays are about sharing, caring, and spreading joy — not just for your own family, but for every family in our community, too,” Spencer says.

“We are very thankful and proud that Marcie’s legacy may live on,” Randy says. “She may be gone, but she will never be forgotten.”

This holiday, honour Marcie's legacy with a gift.



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