

Share in Our Story - A monthly feature from The Groves Foundation

IT WAS MY BELOVED HUSBAND'S *life's work*



Joan Bismillah (87),
at her downtown
Toronto condominium.



Every day, people at Groves Memorial Community Hospital make a difference. But just as important as our health care providers are to our hospital, as are the people who support it.

Last week, Groves Hospital Foundation received a \$250,000 donation. The generous gift came from Joan Bismillah in honour of her late husband Dr. Abdul.H Bismillah who was a former Chief of Staff and practiced medicine at Groves for over thirty-six years (1965 – 2001).

The \$250,000 gift is directed towards the New Groves Hospital Campaign and will name the front atrium of the new facility - a fitting tribute to a physician who opened the way for so many doctors to come to Groves.

"We lived more than half of our lives here", said Bismillah who arrived to Fergus from London, England in 1965.

"The hospital meant a great deal to my husband and we always felt there was tremendous potential for the hospital to serve our community".

With a background in fine arts, Joan also recognized the importance of esthetics

within certain spaces of the hospital. "People always need to come first", she said. "And they need to feel comfortable".

The recently renovated A.H Bismillah Palliative Care Lounge at Groves and the design concept of the front atrium in the new facility are just two examples of how Joan Bismillah is designing spaces that look and feel more like a home than a hospital. Her attention to detail provides patients and their families a safe, warm and calming environment during difficult times.

Joan Bismillah's **\$250,000 gift** has given our community the launch pad to build a new and better Groves Hospital, acquire cutting-edge technology, and plan for a future of exceptional care for the people in our community who depend on us.

"This hospital means a great deal. It was my beloved husband's life's work. My children grew up here. My grand daughter Amina was born here", Joan said. "And I want to ensure the best health care possible for the next generation."

The New GROVES
Close to home. Far from Ordinary.

