



For Immediate Release
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MEDIA RELEASE

Galt Family Foundation Offers Matching Gift to Help Local Senior Reach \$100,000 Fundraising Goal

Newmarket ON – Southlake Foundation is pleased to announce a matching gift from the Galt Family Foundation, supporting a third party fundraising initiative in support of Southlake’s COVID-19 Action Fund.

With this fundraising boost, local senior and Southlake patient, George Markow is getting closer to his \$100,000 fundraising goal – now moving *two* steps at a time. Determined to do something to give back in the face of this pandemic, the 99-year-young WWII veteran set a personal mission to raise funds and awareness by walking 100 kilometres and raising funds to support the response to COVID-19 before his 100th birthday next spring. Funds raised will be shared between Southlake Regional Health Centre – George’s local hospital – in support of the COVID-19 Action Fund, and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

Following a path that circles the courtyard gardens of his Newmarket retirement home, where 15 laps equals 1 km, George has already completed 95 km of his 100 km goal – though he is determined to continue until he reaches his full fundraising goal. To date, he has raised \$35,721 through his GoFundMe page. With the Galt Family Foundation now generously matching gifts dollar for dollar up to a total of \$100,000, he is closer than ever!

"We were touched to learn of Mr. Markow's story, the challenges he's overcome and most of all his will to give back to those who helped him," said John Galt. "We are privileged to be a small part of what he's trying to accomplish."

"I am beyond proud, and just overwhelmed at his perseverance, determination, and drive," said George’s daughter, Sylvia Perkins. "My dad is so grateful to everyone who has supported him already, and this matching gift from the Galt Family Foundation is definitely an inspiration for him to keep going."

To follow George’s progress or to support his fundraiser, visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/99-yr-old-walking-100-km-for-medical-research>.

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[Photo caption: Newmarket resident and Southlake Regional Health Centre patient, 99-year-old WWII veteran George Markow gets closer to his goal of walking 100 km to raise \$100,000.]

About Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation

Since the inception of Southlake Foundation in 1980, more than \$160 million dollars has been raised in support of Southlake Regional Health Centre. Working with members of the community, hundreds of volunteers, the Southlake Family and our incredible donors, Southlake Foundation will continue to support life-saving medical equipment, infrastructure upgrades and expansions, patient programs and staff education, all for the goal of providing leading edge care for patients and families, close to home. For more information visit: www.southlakefoundation.ca

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