



NEWS RELEASE

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An Awarding Winning Partnership: Mackenzie Health and Vaughan Public Libraries

VAUGHAN, ONTARIO – Mackenzie Health was one of ten recipients at the *2025 I Partner With My Library* award ceremony. This initiative celebrates organizations who have collaborated closely with local libraries to deliver innovation to their community.

The judges recognized Mackenzie Health's ongoing commitment to their patients, visitors, hospital community, and local neighbourhoods, through joint projects and expanding library services across clinical units and programs. These initiatives include:

- Inclusion of library services in corporate orientation, and via a specially designed microlearning module for their MyLearning training platform. This gives hospital staff the opportunity to learn about what the library can offer, as well as the support provided by the library's Health Literacy Specialist.
- Embedding the library into the care and recovery process through patient referral, visits, and the provision of supporting resources and services. Examples of this include collaboration with the Sorbara Integrated Stroke Unit, and connecting patients with Cognitive Care Kits, as well as visits by patients in the Gucciardi Family Pediatric Inpatient Unit to provide alternative environments to relax and play.
- Volunteer-led book carts are welcomed on all hospital floors, delivering books to patients during evening hours.
- The Woman and Child Program promotes early literacy to families through the distribution of more than 4,000 Welcome Baby kits each year. These packages contain a library card, board book and resources on reading to your child.

By partnering with the library, Mackenzie Health has been able to help the mental wellbeing of patients during their stay, as well as provide a welcoming space for friends and family of all ages. The resources available at the library empower staff, and also provide them and the local community with collections, programs and services for information and relaxation.

The award ceremony was held virtually, with an official presentation and celebration held at the Mackenzie Health Vaughan Library in December.

QUOTES

“When we heard of the existence of the *I Partner With My Public Library Award* we knew we had to nominate Mackenzie Health as there was no stronger partnership. They have demonstrated vision by incorporating library services into multiple aspects of care, and their holistic view to treatment and recovery shows a profound commitment to wellbeing. We are delighted to celebrate this relationship and the value it brings to this city.”

- Margie Singleton, Chief Executive Officer, Vaughan Public Libraries

“This award highlights the power of collaboration in building stronger communities. Our innovative partnership with Vaughan Public Libraries brings comfort, learning and connection into the hospital setting, helping patients, families and staff feel supported beyond the care they receive. By fostering lifelong learning and health literacy, we’re empowering people with tools that strengthen wellbeing while creating an environment that heals both body and mind.”

- Stav D’Andrea, Vice President, People Services and Chief Human Resources Officer, Mackenzie Health

LEARN MORE

- [Mackenzie Health webpage](#)
- [Vaughan Public Libraries webpage](#)
- [Mackenzie Health Vaughan Library](#)

-30-

About Vaughan Public Libraries

Vaughan Public Libraries is a leading community-centred library system dedicated to educate, excite and empower the community. With over three million visitors annually and 500,000 resources, advanced technology, and diverse programming, we offer lifelong learning opportunities. Our firm commitment to excellence, diversity, equity, and inclusion fosters a welcoming environment where all can thrive.

The initial partnership discussions between Mackenzie Health and Vaughan Public Libraries began in 2017, culminating in the opening of an onsite library at Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital in August 2021.

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