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### COMING UP

# Pharmacy keeps cooking for hospital foundation

BY ALI RAZA  
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Helping the Markham Stouffville Hospital helps the community as a whole.

That's the belief that drives Stouffville Pharmasave owner/pharmacist Nayan Patel to hold his annual charity barbecue that raises money for the MSH Foundation. This year's event takes place Saturday, Sept. 10.

"Basically, it's just giving back to the community," Patel said. "We serve a lot of patients from the hospital so it's easy for our customers to get on board in supporting the hospital."

Pharmasave's annual charity barbecue has run for nine years, the last seven of which were fundraisers for the MSH Foundation.

The cause is close to Patel's heart. As a pharmacist he helps dozens of the hospital's patients, but as a father he remembers the time both his children were born at MSH.

But above all, Patel believes helping the community is paramount.

"Any money we raise to make the hospital better, in the end it makes the community better," he said.

The fundraiser has managed to raise \$10,000 over seven years for the hospital. Patel says the goal this year is to raise \$3,000. Last year's unfortunate weather makes him

hopeful that more people will attend this year's event.

Patel expects 300 to 400 people to attend if the weather cooperates.

The all-ages event features activities for children as well as a silent auction. Local businesses nearby will have tables set up to engage the community and promote their stores.

*'Any money we raise to make the hospital better, in the end it makes the community better.'*

The Pharmasave barbecue will also be the site of one of many Raffle of Hope events, part of a series of contest events held by the MSH Foundation. Participants may purchase raffle tickets and be entered in a contest to win a 2016 MINI Cooper Convertible. Money collected from ticket purchase goes directly to the foundation to support cancer care.

Raffle tickets are \$20 each, three for \$50 or seven for \$100.

Stouffville Pharmasave is at 6601 Main St. The barbecue will run from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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