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MEDIA RELEASE

VolleyPalooza Serves Up Fun in the Sun to Support Victoria General Hospital's Pediatric Department

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For Immediate Release

Victoria, BC – Children in hospital will benefit from some fun and games next weekend when the third annual VolleyPalooza tournament gets underway.

VolleyPalooza is an outdoor volleyball tournament open to players of all ages and skill levels. While the players compete and enjoy themselves, the underlying purpose is raising funds for the Victoria Hospitals Foundation in support of the Pediatric Department at Victoria General Hospital and also to increase community awareness about the specialized hospital care provided here for sick and injured children from all over Vancouver Island.

VolleyPalooza 2009 kicks off at 10:00 am on Saturday, August 15 at Reynolds Park (located at the corner of Reynolds and La Salle). Participants include Victoria's burgeoning volleyball community, local businesses, staff from the Victoria General Hospital and many others.

"We want people to know that the majority of Vancouver Island children who need hospital care are being treated here in Victoria," says Eckardt. "And we feel that it is important to help the Victoria General Hospital Pediatric Department in their efforts to heal kids here at home."

In 2007, event founder Roz Eckardt collaborated with the Victoria Hospitals Foundation to develop an initiative that would combine her passion for volleyball with an opportunity to support Vancouver Island children in need. Since then, VolleyPalooza tournaments have raised more than \$7,500 and helped purchase much-needed medical equipment for pediatrics at Victoria General Hospital including sleeper beds and ergo chairs.

This year's tournament will help raise funds for vital signs monitors -- medical devices that measure blood pressure, pulse rate, oxygen saturation and temperature, and provide readings with minimal disruption to resting patients. The monitors provide a non-invasive and continuous method of assessing a patient's condition and allow quick intervention when necessary.

Along with rallying all three of Victoria's volleyball leagues to get behind the cause, Eckardt's team of volunteers has already garnered a number of local sponsors including Investor's Group, Thrifty Foods, Plan B, Spank It Sports, and HTO Keg Summer Volleyball Circuit. They are actively looking for additional community support.

Player registration for VolleyPalooza is \$30. Anyone with pledges totalling \$50 or more receives free registration. All proceeds will go to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation to support the Pediatric Department at Victoria General Hospital.

Ways to Support VolleyPalooza

- Participate as a player or a team; full registration and event details are available online at www.volleypalooza.ca
- Pledge your support to a player or a team
- Attend the tournament on Saturday, August 15 and donate at the event
- Call the Victoria Hospitals Foundation at 250-414-6688 or donate online at www.victoriahf.ca

For more information, please contact:

Roz Eckardt, Volleypalooza
Phone: 250-589-9966
email: roz@volleypalooza.ca
www.volleypalooza.ca

Carla Higgins, Senior Manager,
Communications & Recognition,
Victoria Hospitals Foundation
Phone: 250-414-6688
email: carla.higgins@viha.ca
www.victoriahf.ca