



## Media Release

### Victoria Hospitals Foundation's Visions Raises \$372,000 for Intensive Care Department at Royal Jubilee and Victoria General Hospitals

November 15, 2009

For Immediate Release

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Victoria, BC - The community contributed near-record dollars to health care in Victoria last night, raising more than \$372,000 at the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Visions gala. The sold-out, 300-person, black-tie event held at the Fairmont Empress raised funds through ticket sales, live and silent auctions, a bear raffle, cash gifts and in-kind sponsorship.

Chaired for the first time by Walt Nicholson, Visions is Victoria's premiere gala fundraiser. B.C. Auctioneers Hall of Fame inductee Wild Bill Henke entertained as he presided over the live auction, which included a selection of unusual dinner party packages, diamonds, international and local travel getaways, and a luxury concert package, and contributed \$37,200 to the total amount raised.

The silent auction featuring artwork, clothing, golf packages, jewellery, food, wine and adventure experiences, added \$33,272 to the evening's total. Auction chair Deanna Young was delighted with the results. Last year, Visions raised \$390,000.

Visions is a major component of the Victoria Hospitals Foundation's fall campaign, which this year supports the purchase of ventilators for the intensive care units at Victoria General and Royal Jubilee Hospitals.

Dr. Gordon Wood, site chief for intensive care medicine at the Vancouver Island Health Authority, was thrilled with the support and said, "The entire team in the intensive care unit is very grateful to have been embraced so warmly by the community."

**The Cause: Ventilators for the Intensive Care Units at Victoria General and Royal Jubilee Hospitals**

A ventilator is life-saving medical equipment that assists with or provides all of the breathing for people who cannot breathe on their own. In the Intensive Care Unit, ventilators are frequently needed and provide life-saving intervention. The newest ventilators are lightweight, extremely sensitive, and designed to minimize adverse effects while maximizing patient comfort.

The goal of the Victoria Hospitals Foundation's 2009 fall campaign is to fund six new ventilators that cost a total of \$375,000. Funds are raised through a variety of activities including mail, events, the Visions gala and online gifts.

Other Ways to Support the Victoria Hospitals Foundation's Fall Campaign:

While Visions is a one-night affair, there are many ways to donate to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation including by mail, telephone, online, gifts of stock and either hospital's patient billing office. You can reach the Victoria Hospitals Foundation at 250-414-6688 or online at [www.victoriahf.ca/visions](http://www.victoriahf.ca/visions).

**About the Victoria Hospitals Foundation:**

The Victoria Hospitals Foundation works in partnership with the Vancouver Island Health Authority to enable donations to Vancouver Island's two largest and most comprehensive hospitals: the Royal Jubilee and the Victoria General. Every year we fund 40 per cent of capital equipment purchases for these hospitals, and last year this amounted to more than \$6 million for urgently needed medical equipment and special projects that help these two hospitals provide care to all 752,000 residents of Vancouver Island. Since 1989, the Victoria Hospitals Foundation has raised more than \$70 million to benefit our hospitals.

For more information, call the Foundation at 250-414-6688 or go to [www.victoriahf.ca](http://www.victoriahf.ca).

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