



VICTORIA HOSPITALS  
FOUNDATION

*Giving makes us all better*

# InTouch

THE LATEST NEWS FROM VHF | FALL 2011



*Dr. Daniel Wong,  
Medical Director of Heart Health,  
Vancouver Island Health Authority*

*Photo: VIHA Multimedia Services*

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## Our 2011 Fall Campaign: Vital Signs Monitors for the Patient Care Centre

We all know the importance of a steady pulse, normal blood pressure, or healthy respiratory rate. For patients recovering from heart conditions or surgery, keeping vital signs balanced is key to regaining good health.

This October, the Victoria Hospitals Foundation launched its Fall Campaign with a goal to raise \$595,000 to support the purchase of 94 specialized vital signs monitors for the Heart Health and General Surgery units at Royal Jubilee's Patient Care Centre. In addition to blood pressure, pulse, respiratory rate, blood oxygen saturation, and temperature, this leading-edge equipment also displays a patient's electrocardiogram, which is a wave-form graphic of his or her heart activity.

Portable vital signs monitors used to be shared between patient rooms, as they became available, with a central monitor at the nursing care hub. In the new Patient Care Centre, these monitors are at every patient's bedside in the Heart Health and General Surgery units. Whether it's the increased pulse rate of the man with a heart condition, or the troubled breathing of the woman who just had surgery, this technology ensures patients' vital signs are tracked day and night. Connected to a wireless network, the monitors speak to hands-free communications devices worn by caregivers, sounding an alarm if a patient is in distress.

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## Our 2011 Fall Campaign: Vital Signs Monitors *continued*

“This equipment is an excellent addition to patient care, almost another member of our medical team,” says Dr. Daniel Wong, Medical Director of Heart Health for the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA).

“Because the vital signs monitors are now permanent fixtures in each room, I can adjust temporary pacemaker settings while viewing a patient’s heart rate or blood pressure, or administer medication while speaking to him and watching his response to treatment.”

According to Cathy Clackson, Manager of Post Surgical Services, “The new Patient Care Centre has some of the best medical equipment in Canada. Making sure our patients receive top-quality care is our goal, and having specialized vital signs monitors at the bedside of every cardiac and surgical patient really helps us do that.”

Dr. Wong adds, “For patients, this means continuous tracking of how their bodies are healing after surgery or a heart attack. For families, this means there is security and comfort when saying goodnight to a loved one, knowing medical teams will be alerted should their condition change.”

For more information, or to support specialized vital signs monitors for the Patient Care Centre, please call 250-519-1750 or visit our website at [www.victoriahf.ca](http://www.victoriahf.ca).



*Fire fighters share a special moment with a former patient*

## Local Fire Fighters Pledge \$250,000 to Help Smallest Patients

When we think of courage, fire fighters are often near the top of our list. But one group of local fire fighters feels the true heroes in our community are children who spend time in the hospital overcoming serious illnesses, and they want to help them.

In August, the Professional Fire Fighters of Greater Victoria Charitable Foundation — made up of the charitable foundations of the Saanich, Victoria, Oak Bay, and Esquimalt fire departments — pledged \$250,000 towards pediatric care at Victoria General Hospital (VGH).

“Everyone was excited to make this happen and eager to make a difference,” said Jared Barker, Charitable Director of the Saanich Fire Fighters Charitable Foundation. “As individual departments, it gives us a chance to work together on a critical project that benefits the children of our community.”

Over the next 10 years, the fire fighters will meet this commitment through a variety of fundraising activities, such as their annual Magic ‘N Miracles show. “It’s really wonderful to receive a gift like this from our region’s fire fighters,” said Dr. Cherrie Tan-Dy, a neonatologist at VGH. “Every day they put their lives on the line, and now they are giving even further of themselves.”

## Vital Signs Monitor Stands Vigil at Patient’s Bedside

Last spring, 69-year-old retired professor, Bob Modrow, found himself in the emergency department at the Royal Jubilee. He was having a heart attack, and his only option was cardiac surgery.

In the days that followed, a bedside specialized vital signs monitor ensured Bob’s medical team was aware of even the slightest changes to his heart’s activities, and could respond immediately to any signs of distress.

“When you’re in this kind of situation, when you’re helpless and can’t speak, you must trust the people and the technology taking care of you. This monitor was my voice when I couldn’t tell anyone what was going on in my body,” says Bob.

Now well on the road to recovery, Bob feels his surgeon, Dr. Daniel Wong, and his dedicated team of caregivers saved his life. “I’m grateful they were all so talented and so well-equipped.”

Bob has no doubts about supporting the Foundation’s 2011 Fall Campaign. “If we want high-quality patient-centred care, then we must make sure we give these people the right tools to do their jobs.”

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is great way to keep up with our latest news, events, and campaign activities.



## Patient Care Centre Inspires Caregivers

As our *Building Care Together* campaign continues we've had the pleasure of speaking with some of the talented and dedicated men and women who work in the new Patient Care Centre. Their compelling stories of pride and enthusiasm are a clear indication of our new hospital's success.



Pat Liesch, Clinical Nurse Educator, says "Our fantastic new hospital has made me appreciate our health care system and has put the word 'dignity' back into patient care. The mainly private rooms offer a quiet environment that promotes healing and the patient-focused care means I can spend more time with my patients. I believe this has made the difference in the level and quality of care we can deliver, and reaffirms that the future of health care is right here in Victoria."

## Building Care Together Campaign Update

To date, the *Building Care Together* campaign has received pledges totaling \$11.2 million! This includes an incredible \$900,000 raised for mental health needs at the Patient Care Centre during the Courtnall Celebrity Classic held in July.

To learn more about the *Building Care Together* campaign, visit [www.buildingcare.ca](http://www.buildingcare.ca).

## Ensuring the Best for Neurosurgery

Our 2011 Spring Campaign supported the purchase of a new neuronavigation system for Victoria General Hospital. We're pleased to let you know that our campaign was a success and a new state-of-the-art system will be purchased to serve patients across the Vancouver Island Health Authority. Thank you to all our generous donors for helping us raise funds towards the purchase of this important piece of equipment.

## Thank You to Our Caring Spirits

Grateful patients and their families can give thanks for exceptional care they receive in our hospitals by nominating an individual or a medical team for a *Caring Spirit* award. Donating through the Victoria Hospitals Foundation, you can honour a caregiver who has helped you or a loved one with a *Caring Spirit* nomination and donation. Donations to the *Caring Spirit* program help to purchase priority medical equipment and staff education at the Royal Jubilee and Victoria General Hospitals.

One *Caring Spirit* nominee told us, "My nomination restored my love for the profession and inspired a personal goal for continued education within my specialty."

Thank you to all our *Caring Spirit* nominees for delivering excellent care. To nominate your Caring Spirit please phone 250-519-1750 or visit [www.victoriahf.ca/caringspirit](http://www.victoriahf.ca/caringspirit)

## We're New in the Neighbourhood

On August 25, we moved from our downtown office on View Street to the Wilson Block on the Royal Jubilee Hospital campus. Our new office is sunny, bright, and closer to the patients, families, and medical teams we support. Thanks to everyone who helped us with our move!



Bob Modrow and his wife, Sarah in the Heritage Gardens at the Patient Care Centre

**Did you know?** If you wish, you can choose to receive our newsletter via email. Sending electronic versions of the newsletter reduces our environmental impact and also lowers our administrative costs. This means more high-quality equipment for our hospitals. To sign up, send us an email at [vhf@viha.ca](mailto:vhf@viha.ca) or call our office at 250-519-1750.

# Events on Our Behalf

Thank you to everyone who organized and participated in the following events on our behalf:

## MURRAY HATFIELD MAGIC, ILLUSION, AND COMEDY SHOW

In June, this popular family show sponsored by the Sidney Shrine Club raised \$15,000 for pediatric care at Victoria General Hospital. Since 2006, this event has raised \$67,020 for our hospitals.

## KIDSRUN VICTORIA

In June, the second annual KidsRun Victoria raised \$15,545 for pediatric oncology at Victoria General Hospital.

## COURTNALL CELEBRITY CLASSIC

In July, the 3rd CourtNall Celebrity Classic raised \$900,000 for mental health equipment in the new Patient Care Centre at Royal Jubilee Hospital. To date, this event has raised well over \$2 million for mental health care in our hospitals.

## THE DAVEY DERBY

In July, the 11th annual Davey Derby in Port Renfrew raised \$1,686 for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Victoria General Hospital. To date, this event has raised \$8,686 for our hospitals.

## VOLLEYPALOOZA

In August, the South Island Volleyball Association raised \$1,898 for pediatric care at Victoria General Hospital. Since 2007, this event has raised \$11,851 for our hospitals.

For more information, please visit [www.victoriahf.ca](http://www.victoriahf.ca) or call 250-519-1750.

## Upcoming Events



### VISIONS

**November 19**

Held annually by the Victoria Hospitals Foundation in support of the Royal Jubilee and Victoria General Hospitals, *Visions* is Victoria's premiere gala event. Taking place at The Fairmont Empress, this black-tie evening includes an elegant five-course dinner, live entertainment, and silent and live auctions. For more information or to purchase tickets, please phone 250-519-1750, email [visions@viha.ca](mailto:visions@viha.ca), or visit [www.victoriahf.ca/visions](http://www.victoriahf.ca/visions)

### LONDON DRUGS AT THE TILL PROMOTION

**November 1 to December 31**

Throughout November and December, customers can support our *Building Care Together* campaign by making a \$2 donation at the till at any of the nine London Drugs locations on Vancouver Island. For more information, visit [www.londondrugs.com](http://www.londondrugs.com).

### CANADIAN TIRE FIX-A-HEART CAMPAIGN

**November 25 to December 24**

In the month before Christmas, customers can make a donation at the till towards the Heart Health program at Royal Jubilee Hospital at these Canadian Tire locations: View Royal, Douglas Street, Royal Oak, and Gordon Head. For more information, visit [www.canadiantire.ca](http://www.canadiantire.ca).

We are committed to protecting your privacy. In accordance with the *BC Personal Information Protection Act*, we only retain information regarding your gift history and relationship with us. For complete information on our privacy policy, visit [www.victoriahf.ca](http://www.victoriahf.ca) or call 250-519-1750. The Foundation does not sell, trade, or rent its donor information. Thank you once again for your contribution to our hospitals.



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## Newsletter

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