

**Visions 20th Anniversary Raises \$441,205
for Smart Beds for the New Patient Care Centre**

November 21, 2010

For Immediate Release

Victoria, BC - The community contributed a record amount of money to health care in Victoria last night, raising \$441,205 at the 20th Anniversary *Visions* gala hosted by the Victoria Hospitals Foundation. This is greatest amount ever raised at Visions in the event's 20-year history. 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 Dr. Dorothy "Sam" Williams, Vice-Chief of Geriatric Medicine for the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA), Chief of Staff for the VIHA South Island region, and acting Chief of Staff for Vancouver Island, Visions is Victoria's premiere gala fundraiser. Multiple Ford Golden Gavel Award winner Greg Rollo presided over the popular live auction, which included a selection of international and local travel getaways, art collections, and a pub crawl for 30 people, and contributed \$38,400 to the total amount raised.

The silent auction featuring artwork, rare sports memorabilia, airline tickets, and spa packages, added \$29,055 to the evening's total. Auction chair Deanna Young was delighted with the results. Last year, Visions raised more than \$372,000.

Visions is a major component of the Victoria Hospitals Foundation's Fall Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$715,000 to purchase 65 of the \$11,000 Smart Beds for the new Patient Care Centre at Royal Jubilee Hospital.

Smart Beds are sophisticated patient beds designed with advanced technology to enable quality care and better patient outcomes. Caregivers will also benefit from Smart Bed features designed to prevent injury.

Dr. Marilyn Bater, Medical Director, Seniors Health and Department Head, Geriatrics for VIHA, was extremely happy with the support shown to the cause at Saturday night's event and said, "Smart Beds are really going to impact the quality of care we're able to provide at the new Patient Care Centre, and our whole team is grateful to have such tremendous support from the community."

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 (#602 - 620 View Street, Victoria, V8W, 1J6), telephone (250-414-6688), or online (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 the Foundation funds 40 per cent of capital medical equipment purchases for these hospitals, and last year this amounted to just under \$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 \$76 million to benefit the Royal Jubilee and Victoria General Hospitals. For more information, please call 250-414-6688 or go to www.victoriahf.ca

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