

**Victoria Hospitals Foundation's *Visions* gala raises
\$458,000 for the Royal Jubilee Hospital Patient Care Centre**

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For Immediate Release

Victoria - Last night at the Fairmont Empress, the Victoria Hospitals Foundation's 23rd annual *Visions* gala raised an amazing \$458,000 for healthcare on Vancouver Island. The black-tie event raised funds through ticket sales, a live and silent auction, a bear raffle, cash donations, and community sponsorships.

Visions is a major component of the Victoria Hospitals Foundation's Fall Campaign, which this year aims to raise the final \$4 million to fund the remaining leading-edge medical equipment for the Patient Care Centre. Some of the equipment needed includes vital signs monitors, Smart Beds, a wireless telemetry system and wireless nurse-to-patient communications devices called Voceras.

Chaired by Dr. Adele Harrison, a Neonatologist and Medical Director of Quality and Patient Safety for Island Health, *Visions* is one of Victoria's longest running gala fundraisers. Including this year's results, the event has raised more than \$4.9 million since its inception. Auctioneer Kevin Tink, Senior Vice President of Ritchie Brothers presided over an exciting live auction.

Some highlights of the evening included:

- A Live Auction that raised \$50,000 and featured 11 lots including a Viking River Cruise on rivers through Europe, a picturesque dinner party at The Beach House for 16 people, a luxury getaway to Hawaii, and a cedar mask carved by Tony Hunt Jr.
- A Silent Auction that featured fine art, travel getaways, spa packages and unique cultural experiences added \$33,000 to the night's total
- The popular Bear Raffle that contributed over \$13,000
- A pledge drive that raised over \$21,500

Dr. Amy Spink, a hospitalist in the Patient Care Centre who will use the new equipment to help her patients, remarked on the overwhelming community support shown at *Visions*. "You can imagine the difference in the healthcare I can deliver when my patients are rested, their families are close by, and I have the best tools possible to do my job. This leading-edge equipment makes a big difference to my patients' recovery."

Currently, all donations to the Patient Care Centre are being matched by business Leader Jim Pattison through the Foundation's *Community Matching Gift Challenge*. Matching proceeds for this event will be determined by the Foundation over the next few weeks.

There are many ways to donate to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation including by mail, telephone or online. You can reach the Victoria Hospitals Foundation at 250-519-1750 or online at www.victoriahf.ca/visions.

About the Victoria Hospitals Foundation:

The Victoria Hospitals Foundation raises funds for priority medical equipment and special projects at Royal Jubilee Hospital and Victoria General Hospital – Vancouver Island's largest and most comprehensive health care facilities. The generosity of our donors helps us contribute to better patient care, faster diagnosis and more efficient treatment for the more than 765,000 residents these hospitals serve. Every year, Victoria Hospitals Foundation purchases hundreds of important pieces of diagnostic and treatment equipment that make a real difference in every patient's daily life and quality of care. The Victoria Hospitals Foundation is the leading healthcare charity on Vancouver Island. Together with our community, we have raised nearly \$97 million for our hospitals since 1989. For more information about how giving makes us all better, visit www.victoriahf.ca.

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