



Variety – the Children’s Charity makes \$123,000 donation to Victoria General Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

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For Immediate Release

The Victoria Hospitals Foundation announced today that Variety – the Children’s Charity donated \$123,000 to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Victoria General Hospital.

The generous gift funded two Open Care Units, for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) – sophisticated infant warmers used to care for premature infants. This leading-edge technology helps to regulate body temperature and allows doctors and nurses easy access to care for the baby with minimal disruption.

The specialized NICU at Victoria General provides high-level care to about 500 premature or critically ill newborn babies every year from all over BC, and is one of only four Level 3 NICUs in the province, providing the widest range of advanced care to the tiniest and sickest infants.

“Everyone hopes for a healthy, full-term pregnancy, and no family expects their baby to end up in the NICU,” says Dr. Adele Harrison, a neonatologist at Victoria General Hospital. “But when plans change, it is extremely comforting to know that because of Variety’s generosity, critically ill babies who require high-level care can be treated right here at home, close to their families and support networks.”

Bernice Scholten, Executive Director for Variety – the Children’s Charity, spoke about the organization’s long history with Victoria General. “Since 1996, Variety – the Children’s Charity has donated more than \$1 million to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation to support Vancouver Island’s youngest, most fragile patients. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were able to provide a grant to purchase the Open Care Units that will help many tiny babies receive the specialized care they need to flourish and grow.”

Lance Abercrombie, Board Chair for the Victoria Hospitals Foundation, expressed his gratitude for Variety’s most recent gift and their long-term support. “Variety – the Children’s Charity has been instrumental in equipping Victoria General Hospital with the best available technology to care for the youngest members of our community, and their support has helped thousands of children grow up to be healthy and strong.”

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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 approximately 40 per cent of capital equipment purchases for these hospitals. Last year we raised \$8.4 million for urgently needed medical equipment and special projects that help these two hospitals provide care to all 765,000 residents of Vancouver Island. Since 1989, the Victoria Hospitals Foundation has raised nearly \$90 million to benefit our hospitals. For more information, call the Foundation at 250-519-1750 or visit www.victoriahf.ca.

Variety – the Children’s Charity:

Variety - The Children’s Charity is a non-profit organization that raises funds and distributes grants throughout British Columbia to inspire hope, enrich lives and build a better future for children who have special needs. Since 1965, Variety - The Children’s Charity has raised more than \$170 million for families and organizations around BC. Every year, Variety receives over 1,300 requests for financial assistance for therapies, specialized equipment, drug prescriptions and out-of-town accommodation and travel costs. Variety also provides grants to children’s organizations and hospitals for construction, renovation and equipment costs. For more information on Variety - The Children’s Charity, visit www.variety.bc.ca

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