

TB VETS HELPS ISLAND PATIENTS IN CRISIS BREATHE EASIER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Victoria - The TB Vets have donated \$25,500 to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation to purchase a highly specialized ventilator for the Respiratory Therapy Department at Victoria General Hospital. The V60 ventilator allows respiratory therapists like Dana Dennison to get patients through medical emergencies with greater comfort.

"We use the new V60 non-invasive ventilator throughout the hospital, but we keep it in the Emergency Department," says Dennison. "When a patient is admitted to the ER in respiratory failure the V60 is one of the first things we use to ease the patient's breathing. By using a face mask, the V60 often prevents more invasive procedures like intubation from being necessary."

The ventilator allows medical teams to deliver 100% oxygen levels to adult and pediatric patients using non-invasive technology, improving patient comfort and reducing costs. It can also be used for ventilatory support during patient transport from the Emergency Department to medical imaging and other diagnostic areas in the hospital.

"I know the respiratory staff greatly appreciates the V60 ventilator," says Lance Abercrombie, Board Chair of the Victoria Hospitals Foundation. "We are so thankful to the TB Vets for it, and for their long-term support of the Victoria Hospitals Foundation. Over the past 30 years, they have donated an inspiring \$1,336,000 to help patients fighting respiratory disease."

TB Vets Charitable Foundation serves all of BC by funding respiratory equipment, research and support. The organization is able to provide these funds because of generous donations made to the TB Vets KeyTag Campaign and other fundraising initiatives.

"We are so pleased to hear first-hand from respiratory therapists that because of this new ventilator, they are able to do their best work while greatly improving patient comfort," says Neil Mackie, Executive Director of TB Vets. "We look forward to many more years of working with the Victoria Hospitals Foundation to make sure our donors' generosity makes a real difference to those needing respiratory support."

About the TB Vets:

For over 65 years, TB Vets has been helping BC breathe. Founded in 1946 by members of the Tuberculosis and Chest Disabled Veterans Association, TB Vets Charitable Foundation introduced a key return service to British Columbians, which provided work for themselves and other World War II Veterans who returned from overseas service suffering from tuberculosis and other respiratory ailments. Founding veterans started the TB Vets KeyTag Program as a means to create jobs for themselves and others with disabilities so they could support their families with dignity. As they grew more successful, they began to fund hospital equipment, education, and research to fight respiratory distress in BC. Thanks to the generosity of donors, TB Vets has provided vital respiratory equipment to every hospital in BC over the past 20 years, totalling over \$11 million. TB Vets also continues to employ people with disabilities. Visit www.tbvets.org.

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 a record \$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.

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