

Cardiovascular Unit at Royal Jubilee Hospital Named in Honour of Vinnie Gill

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For immediate release

Victoria – In the spirit of giving during the holidays, the Gill family gathered this morning in the Patient Care Centre at Royal Jubilee Hospital to honour the memory of their beloved son, Vinnie Gill. Mr. Amarjeet and Mrs. Suman Gill made a significant leadership gift to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation’s *Building Care Together* campaign as a tribute to their son who passed away at Royal Jubilee Hospital in May 2012 at the age of 35 from complications during heart surgery.

The Gill’s memorial gift will be matched by BC businessman Jim Pattison as part of the *Community Matching Gift Challenge*, bringing the campaign total to \$21,150,000.

Leslee Farrell, Co-Chair of the *Building Care Together* campaign, expressed her gratitude for the generous memorial gift. “We’re so grateful that the Gill family chose to honour their son Vinnie’s memory with a gift to our hospital. It’s a fitting tribute for a man who was so deeply cherished by his family, friends and community. The legacy left in Vinnie’s honour will help others receive the best health care possible for years to come.”

Alan Lowe, Chair of the Victoria Hospitals Foundation Board, thanked the Gill family for their gift. “We are honoured and deeply touched by your generosity. Not only have you created a beautiful and heartfelt tribute to your son, thousands of patients will receive state-of-the-art cardiac care at Royal Jubilee Hospital because of your gift.”

“We hope this gift, in Vinnie’s memory, will help build a stronger community and a healthier future that everyone can benefit from,” said Amarjeet Gill. “The Royal Jubilee holds a special place in our hearts as our son Vinnie was born and passed away here. In this hospital Vinnie received the best medical care, provided by dedicated doctors, nurses and staff. This memorial gives us a lot of comfort and provides an opportunity for Vinnie’s friends and family to reflect on his memory.”

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The Gill's gift will support the purchase of leading-edge equipment and technology for cardiac care at Royal Jubilee Hospital. The cardiovascular unit and waiting room in the hospital's Diagnostic and Treatment Centre, where Vinnie received final care, will be named in honour of their son. On December 24, 2001, at the age of 24, Vinnie received his first cardiac surgery at Royal Jubilee Hospital, making this a special day for this tribute.

Vinnie Gill was born at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in 1977. Growing up, he attended St. Michael's University School, graduating in 1995. He later followed in his father's footsteps when he achieved his Real Estate Broker accreditation and became a successful real estate agent. Vinnie worked at Re/Max Camosun in Victoria alongside his father. He was ambitious and serious about his work, but possessed an easygoing personality. Active in a number of charitable organizations in the community, he was involved in the Heart and Stroke Foundation as a resource in a campaign addressing hypertension and nutrition and also regularly gave to the BC Children's Hospital.

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About the Victoria Hospitals Foundation and the *Building Care Together* campaign: 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. Since 1989, the Victoria Hospitals Foundation has raised nearly \$97 million to benefit our hospitals. *Building Care Together* is the third and most ambitious campaign in the Foundation's history. Co-chaired by the Honourable Ted Hughes and Ms. Leslee Farrell, the campaign is raising funds to support the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment for the new Patient Care Centre at Royal Jubilee Hospital. For more information, please call the Foundation at 250-519-1750 or visit www.buildingcare.ca.

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