

**Victoria Hospitals Foundation's Visions Gala
Raises \$468,000 for Cardiac Care**

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For Immediate Release

Victoria — Last night at the Fairmont Empress, the Victoria Hospitals Foundation's 24th annual Visions gala raised an amazing \$468,000 for healthcare on Vancouver Island. The black-tie event raised funds through ticket sales, a live and silent auction, a 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 \$725,000 to fund the purchase of three cardiac ultra-sound machines that provide 3D high-definition, full-colour images of the heart. Called Transesophageal Echocardiogram Machines, this state-of-the-art equipment is used to diagnose heart disease and defects and guide crucial repairs during cardiac surgery.

Chaired by Dr. Adele Harrison, a Neonatologist and Acting Executive 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 \$5 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 \$56,400 and featured 12 lots including:
 - a precious stone heart pendant set with rubies, diamond and emeralds
 - A custom spa and golf get-away to Scottsdale, Arizona
 - A dinner for 26 at the Victoria Public Market with music by the lead singer of 54/40, Neil Osborne
 - A fine art acrylic entitled "Fields of Orange and Blue" by Steven Armstrong
- A Silent Auction that featured fine art, travel getaways, spa packages and unique cultural experiences added \$37,000 to the night's total.
- A raffle that raised over \$13,500 and provided guests with one-of-a-kind hand blown glass Xmas ornaments with each ticket purchased. The ornaments were made exclusively for Visions by Vancouver Island artist Robert Held. After winning one of three raffle prizes a generous guest donated his prize of a specialized home theatre system to be auctioned off, further increasing the evening's total.

Dr. Brent Caton, a cardiac Anesthesiologist who will use the new equipment to help his cardiac patients remarked on the overwhelming community support shown at Visions this year, "Every single one of our cardiac surgery patients — three to five of our community

members every day – benefits from these specialized ultrasound machines. The generosity shown by the community this evening will greatly assist the Foundation’s Fall Campaign to purchase this equipment.”

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To donate to the Fall Campaign for Cardiac Care

The community can contribute to equipment for cardiac care at Royal Jubilee Hospital by calling 250-519-1750, mailing to Wilson Block, 1952 Bay Street, Victoria BC V8R 1J8, or donating online at www.victoriahf.ca.

Media Contact

Susan Gee, Director of Development
Victoria Hospitals Foundation
250-519-1750 (office)
250-893-1823 (cell)
susan.gee@viha.ca

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. Last year we raised more than \$10 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 \$107 million to benefit our hospitals. For more information, call the Foundation at 250-519-1750 or visit www.victoriahf.ca.