

Victoria Hospitals Foundation's *Visions* gala raises \$553,000 For Medical Imaging at Royal Jubilee and Victoria General Hospitals

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Victoria- Last night at the Fairmont Empress, the Victoria Hospitals Foundation's 25th annual *Visions* gala raised a record-breaking \$553,000 for healthcare on Vancouver Island. The black-tie event raised funds through ticket sales, live and silent auctions, a teddy bear raffle, cash donations and community sponsorships.

The celebratory evening was made special with an extraordinary performance by Juno award-winner jazz and soul singer, Sean Jones and his five piece band. And, in honour of the event's silver anniversary a \$25,000 gift to begin the pledge drive was made by donors James Darke and Anna Tieman.

Visions is a major component of the Victoria Hospitals Foundation's Fall Campaign, which this year aims to raise \$1.5 million for two new Interventional Angiography Systems - one each for Royal Jubilee and Victoria General hospitals.

"Every day, my colleagues and I use this sophisticated medical imaging equipment to guide us as we perform a multitude of minimally invasive procedures on a wide variety of patients," said Dr. Paul Sobkin, Clinical Section Head of Angiography/Interventional Radiology for Island Health Medical Imaging. "We're so excited for this new technology and what it's going to be able to do for the people of the Island."

Visions is one of Victoria's longest running gala fundraisers. Since the Victoria Hospitals Foundation's inaugural *Visions* gala back in 1991, this event has helped fund hundreds of pieces of essential leading-edge medical equipment.

"It is remarkable to reflect on the positive, longstanding impact this enchanting evening has had on our community," said *Visions* Steering Committee Chair Daniela Cubelic. "Because of the thousands of guests, volunteers, donors and sponsors who have supported this gala over the past 25 years, *Visions* has raised more than \$5.5 million for urgently needed medical equipment in our hospitals."

Some highlights of the evening included:

- An exciting live auction that included a limousine-guided pub crawl around Victoria, a vacation in the Bahamas, a Vancouver Island winery tour, and some beautiful West Coast artwork. Officiated by Kevin Tink of Ritchie Bros, the live auction raised \$41,000.
- A silent auction that raised \$37,000, with prizes ranging from fine art and travel getaways to home improvements and spa packages.
- A teddy bear raffle that contributed over \$16,000.
- A pledge drive that raised over \$72,000.

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. Every contribution made to VHF's Fall Campaign, up to \$750,000, will be matched by a generous anonymous donor.

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About the Victoria Hospitals Foundation:

The Victoria Hospitals Foundation works in partnership with Island Health to enable donations to Vancouver Island's two largest and most comprehensive hospitals: the Royal Jubilee and the Victoria General. Last year, we raised nearly \$7 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 \$114.5 million to benefit our hospitals. For more information, call the Foundation at 250-519-1750 or visit www.victoriahf.ca.

Media Contact:

Susan Gee
Director of Development
Victoria Hospitals Foundation
Office: 250-519-1750
Cell: 250-893-1823
Email: susan.gee@viha.ca