

VICTORIA HOSPITALS FOUNDATION'S *VISIONS* GALA RAISES RECORD TOTAL FOR CARDIAC CARE

November 19, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Victoria, B.C. – The Victoria Hospitals Foundation *Visions* gala set a record total last night, raising \$698,000 towards the purchase of 34 pieces of leading-edge equipment for cardiac care at Royal Jubilee Hospital. Held at the Fairmont Empress Hotel, the event hosted more than 300 of Victoria's community and healthcare leaders, raising funds through ticket sales, significant community sponsorships, a Bear Raffle, Live and Silent Auction items from over 200 businesses, and a Pledge Drive.

“Every year *Visions* makes a substantial contribution to healthcare on Vancouver Island and it's heartwarming to see so many generous people come together for a great cause,” said Darlene Hollstein, Chair of the *Visions* Steering Committee. “Our whole community benefits from the outstanding impact of this event. As Victoria's longest-running charity fundraiser gala, *Visions* has raised \$7.8 million for leading-edge equipment for our hospitals over the past 27 years. This is a remarkable testament to the generosity of the community we live in.”

Some highlights of the evening include:

- A riveting Live Auction that included a high-end nature expedition to circumnavigate Newfoundland, a luxury Hawaiian getaway, Arizona golf vacation, groceries for a year, and a sought-after sculpture by local artist Birgit Piskor. Officiated by John MacDonald from Adesa Richmond Public Auction in Vancouver, the Live Auction raised \$73,000.
- A Silent Auction with original artwork, travel getaways, gourmet dining and spa packages that raised \$61,000 and a Bear Raffle that contributed \$16,000.
- A spirited pledge drive with 45 donations that raised \$75,000. Of note was an anonymous pledge of over \$21,000.

Bruce Dyck, Victoria Hospitals Foundation Board Chair, spoke about the impact of fundraising on local healthcare. “For the past 30 years Royal Jubilee Hospital has been a national leader in cardiac care and home to Vancouver Island's Heart Health Centre of Excellence. The equipment that will be purchased through our campaign will ensure our cardiac teams have the best tools possible so they can quickly provide precise diagnosis and life-saving care. We are so grateful for the immense generosity of this community and all the businesses and individuals who supported this event.”

Dr. Manjeet Mann, Heart Health Executive Medical Director at Island Health, explained the importance of the new equipment. “These leading-edge tools will help us care for patients throughout their healthcare journey from prevention to diagnosis, then from treatment to recovery. Our team works every day for breakthroughs that continually elevate the standards of care in our community. Throughout all areas of care our goal is to provide our medical teams with the best equipment possible. This campaign and our generous community will help make that a reality.”

Visions is a major component of the Victoria Hospitals Foundation's Campaign for Cardiac Care, which aims to raise \$3.2 million for 34 pieces of leading-edge equipment in 7 areas of cardiac care including electro diagnostics, echocardiography, the heart catheterization laboratory, the cardiac short stay unit, cardiac surgery and the pace maker clinic.

The Campaign for Cardiac Care, called *In a Heartbeat: Everyday Miracles*, will continue through to February 2018 with the Foundation telling the stories of the cardiac team and the patients they serve.

Contributions can be made by donating online at www.victoriahf.ca, calling 250-519-1750 or mailing a donation to Wilson Block, 1952 Bay Street, Victoria BC, V8R 1J8.

To learn more about the campaign and read stories from former patients please visit:
www.victoriahf/inaheartbeat

-30-

Media Contact:

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

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 more than \$7 million for urgently needed medical equipment and special projects that help these two hospitals provide care to all 785,000 residents of Vancouver Island. Since 1989, the Victoria Hospitals Foundation has raised more than \$128 million to benefit our hospitals. For more information, call the Foundation at 250-519-1750 or visit www.victoriahf.ca.