

InTouch

THE VICTORIA HOSPITALS FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2020

How to Help *Today*

Making a difference in a very different time

Inspired by the giving heart of our community

How to help today—it is on the top of everyone's mind. We are always looking for ways to translate that desire into tangible impact in healthcare. When we see your commitment to our hospitals, patients, caregivers, and staff grow in the way that it has recently, it inspires us. You are rising to a great challenge.

With this outpouring of community support, the Foundation strives to make that impact even greater. In this edition of *InTouch*, you can learn more about the important campaigns and initiatives that are helping us



transform healthcare together. You will also read about donation-matching challenges initiated by community leaders like the Wilson Lai (2016) Trust, and by Charlotte Salomon and Chris Robinson. I have seen the powerful influence of matching campaigns to inspire support. I hope they inspire you too.

At a time like now, and with opportunities like these to double your impact, you can truly help us respond to the challenges that COVID-19 has presented. You will make a difference today, and transform care for tomorrow.



Avery Brohman

Avery Brohman
Executive Director, Victoria Hospitals Foundation

Double your donation in memory of Wilson S. C. Lai

At a critical time for healthcare in our community, you can make a profound impact. Honouring a community leader, the Wilson Lai (2016) Trust is generously **matching all donations to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation up to \$100,000**. Until September 15th, your donation to any of our current campaigns will be doubled.

As an immigrant to Canada, the late Mr. Lai was a successful businessman who left his estate to advance charitable causes. His family's motto, translated to "Received from Society, Giving Back to Society," guided Mr. Lai's life, including his support of healthcare in Victoria for over 15 years.

➔ **You can join Mr. Lai's legacy of giving.** Please return your donation via the enclosed envelope, donate at victoriahf.ca/double, or call 250-519-1750.

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Left and right: The Lai family motto,
"Received from Society, Giving Back to Society."
Centre: Wilson S.C. Lai

Expanding Critical Care at a Critical Time

The time is now to build Island Health's first permanent High Acuity Unit. And you can help.



It's Critical is a \$7 million campaign to expand critical care capacity at Royal Jubilee Hospital



Equipment today.

\$1 million funds urgently needed critical care equipment in response to COVID-19

Capacity for tomorrow.

\$6 million builds a new, permanent 8-bed High Acuity Unit at RJH

It's Critical in April 2020. *It's Critical* is a \$7 million campaign to increase critical care capacity for Vancouver Islanders and build Island Health's first permanent High Acuity Unit (HAU), right here in Victoria at Royal Jubilee Hospital.

You can help nearly double the critical care capacity at Royal Jubilee Hospital.

Today—more than ever—our hospitals need you. If you ask our frontline care teams to name the greatest need in our hospitals, the answer is simple: **critical care expansion.**

Your Victoria hospitals are critical care referral centres for over 850,000 patients from across Vancouver Island. Your neighbours, friends, and families depend on them for help they can't get at home. Royal Jubilee (RJH) and Victoria General hospitals (VGH) admit more than 1,300 critical care patients to their Intensive Care Units (ICUs) each year—the very sickest of the sick. Those who are most vulnerable.

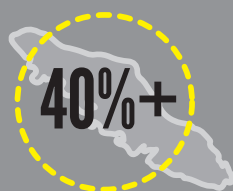
We all know our Island population is growing and aging. With that comes increased strain on our hospitals and care teams. In the last ten years, **RJH has seen an 83% increase in admissions to the ICU, and only a**

38% increase in bed capacity—our hospitals need more resources.

Greater critical care capacity was needed before the pandemic. COVID-19 has only highlighted the urgency—and accelerated the response. To best assist our Island Health colleagues in the face of this challenge, your Foundation launched

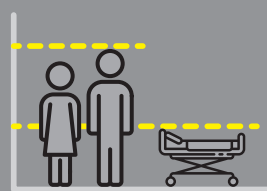
Today, when you give, you're helping those recovering from high-risk heart, cancer, or vascular surgery. Those struggling to breathe. Those with stroke or multi-organ failure. Those whose blood pressure drops unexpectedly. Those with complex infectious diseases like COVID-19.

Caring for the Whole Island



Over **40%** of patients receiving care at RJH come from outside of Greater Victoria

An Increasing Need



The last 10 years saw an **83%** increase in RJH ICU admissions with only a **38%** increase in critical care beds

A Growing & Aging Population



In the next 10 years, Island Health's service area population is expected to grow by **9%**, with those 75 and older growing by **66%**

? What is a High Acuity Unit (HAU)?

- HAUs are an intermediary step between Intensive Care and Acute Care wards
- HAUs relieve stress on ICUs, inpatient units, and Emergency Departments
- HAUs provide a high level of nursing attention for patients from all areas of care: surgery, cardiac, cancer, respiratory, and vascular patients
- HAUs add additional critical care capacity to help our hospitals manage admissions surges such as during influenza season or in response to COVID-19

You can increase the number of critical care beds at Royal Jubilee Hospital by 73%.

You can help our frontline care teams respond to today's critical care challenges, and tomorrow's emergencies. Help put urgently needed life-saving equipment into their hands. You can give RJH eight new beds, vital signs monitors, a central monitoring system, an ultrasound, and other advanced equipment.

When you give, you also help fund construction and equipment for Vancouver Island's first permanent High Acuity Unit—something every other health authority in BC already has.

"My colleagues and I have wanted an HAU for years. The time is now... but we can only do it with your help," says Dr. Omar Ahmad, Department Head, Emergency & Critical Care Medicine for Island Health.

This is the highest priority need in our hospitals right now. You can preserve and protect the care that we all depend on, right here at home.



"I've been here for 20 years and for much of my time, we've **wanted to establish a High Acuity Unit.** As time's gone on, there are more people living in Victoria and people are sicker when they come into hospital. We need an intermediary level of care."

— *Dr. Gordon Wood, ICU Quality & Research Lead*

Please watch & share

Hear it from the front lines:

Real, local caregivers discuss how an HAU will help them address the challenges our hospitals face today and build critical capacity for the future.

victoriahf.ca/hau-video



It's Critical Progress Report:

Thanks to generous support from our community, equipment has already begun to arrive for the interim HAU, slated to open in October of 2020.



Above: A new critical care bed, ultrasound and carts purchased with *It's Critical* donations

\$1M

\$2M

\$3M

\$4M

\$5M

\$6M

\$7M



Please give today—all gifts are being matched up to \$100,000



victoriahf.ca/double

Bringing the Big Picture Into Focus:

A community coming together to raise \$4 million for high-tech, high-impact imaging equipment in our hospitals

→ You can help complete the picture

In the fall of 2019—before COVID-19—we launched The Big Picture to fund priority imaging equipment. At that time, it was our most ambitious annual campaign. Thanks to your generosity, our goal is in sight.

When more than half of all healthcare encounters at our Victoria hospitals require medical imaging, it's no wonder these tools are sometimes referred to as "the modern stethoscope."

Imaging allows our care teams to see what's happening, this instant, inside your body. Images help them understand sources of pain, discomfort, or uncertainty. Images help perform less invasive, life-changing treatments. Images help us map out the big picture.

But to do it, our care teams need

powerful equipment. Clear, detailed, high-resolution images. Because every picture tells a story. Because everyone deserves reassurance.

How do you fit in *The Big Picture*? **You can help fund the high-tech, high-impact equipment that makes these images possible.**

We are deeply inspired by our donors. Because of you, *The Big Picture* has found success in only eight months. You've contributed over

If it wasn't for the scope, my throat would probably be closed up by now... And we still wouldn't know what was going on.

—Makenna, age 12
Grateful patient



\$4M

Only \$712,000 to go!

\$3M

\$2M

\$1M

\$3.2 million—including a transformative gift of \$600,000 from Townline Homes.

Did you know you can support important equipment like ultrasounds through this campaign? With sound waves, ultrasounds create images that show clinicians what's happening inside a patient's body. Helps them observe symptoms including pain, blood clots, and abnormal growths. That saves patients from other time-consuming diagnostic tests—even surgery. Ultrasounds

the big
PICTURE



are your doctor's modern stethoscope, their high-tech compass.

These images guide a surgeon's hand to remove a tumour lodged between a woman's stomach and pancreas. They chart a mother's high-risk pregnancy, so she and her doctor can see the baby in real time. They help a young man, paralyzed from the neck down,

regain movement in his arms and upper body. They help a nurse find the vein of a woman getting IV therapy twice a week, protecting her veins from injury.


Our care teams need powerful new equipment that creates clear, detailed, high-resolution images. Donors like you can make that picture sharper and clearer.

Through *The Big Picture*, you can support surgical care. Imaging is required before, during, or after most surgeries. Over 33,000 surgeries have been performed at RJH and VGH each year.

Our care teams have extensive experience and training. Every day, they make quick, informed decisions.

Donors like you can equip them with newer tools so they can make accurate decisions, faster.

Right now, you can support Vancouver Island patients. These are your friends, neighbours, and family. You can ensure everyone has access to the best treatment and recovery possible. So they can live to their full potential.

Your generosity will make a difference for patients, from newborns to seniors, in need of local hospital care. You can make their diagnosis faster and more accurate, their treatment less invasive, and their recovery easier. 




"In 2017, I was an active 32-year-old. I had a heart full of dreams and a world of plans ahead of me. I had no idea I'd become fully paralyzed that summer... Thanks to pictures provided by ultrasound, I've started to get my life back. Viewing these images helped me better understand my diagnosis, my recovery... Now, I can move and strengthen my upper body... If it wasn't for ultrasound technology in our hospitals and our talented caregivers, my life would be much greyer."

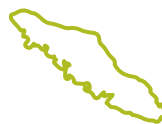
— Peter, Victoria
Grateful patient

The Big Picture of your hospitals:

Royal Jubilee & Victoria General



200,000+ of your family members, friends & neighbours are assessed annually at RJH & VGH. 




850,000+ Vancouver Island & Gulf Islanders rely on RJH & VGH as referral centres for advanced care.



50%+

of all healthcare encounters require imaging.

275,000+

medical imaging procedures performed each year in Victoria. 




victoriahf.ca/double Please give today—all gifts are being matched up to \$100,000



Celebrating Hospital Heroes



Giving thanks to the 6,500+ caregivers and staff working around the clock at our Victoria hospitals 

We all want to help. Our caregivers, facilities, and equipment are being put to the test like never before. **This is our time to be there for our hospital heroes.**

You've ensured that when we all need it, we have access to world-class care. You've put life-saving tools in the hands of professionals. Equipped hospital wings and towers. Helped change and save thousands of lives on Vancouver Island.

The Victoria Hospitals Foundation is proud to support our local Hospital Heroes, today and since 1989. Forty percent of the equipment they rely on is funded by donations from community heroes just like you.

Our medical professionals and hospital staff may do their work locally, but their impact is felt far and wide. Royal Jubilee and Victoria General hospitals are the Island's two largest hospitals—referral centres for specialty, advanced, and critical care. Over 850,000 Vancouver Islanders rely on our Victoria Hospital Heroes.



When you support the Victoria Hospitals Foundation, you're ensuring the best care for your neighbours—near & far, across the Island.

When your life is interrupted by trauma or illness. When you need answers and relief from chronic pain. When you're wheeled into the operating room, or recovering in bed. Now and always, the 6,500+ staff and physicians at our Victoria hospitals are here for you. Around the clock and by your side.

Shine a light on our Hospital Heroes of Victoria—visit victoriahf.ca/hospitalheroes to send a message of support. Make a donation to support our Hospital Heroes by filling out the attached form or visiting victoriahf.ca/double.

Recognize your Hospital Heroes today — all donations are being matched up to \$100,000!



victoriahf.ca/double

Peninsula Co-op Matched \$150,000 for Island Hospitals

We're grateful for local partners—our community leaders—who have united up and down the Island to support our hospital heroes in response to COVID-19.

These matched donations created double the impact for our Greatest Need Fund—dedicated to supporting our frontline heroes. This fund helps Island Health's most critical needs at any given time, right away.



Moving ahead, by giving back.

Rooted in Generosity

Lynne's Legacy Story

A community changed by tragedy and empowered by social conscience. Memories of 1960s Wales. A beloved aunt's generosity. These inspire local couple Lynne and John to name the Victoria Hospitals Foundation in their wills.

A Welsh Childhood

Lynne Thomas, 71, grew up in a small farming community in the South Wales coal mining valleys near Merthyr Tydfil.

In October 1966, disaster struck the nearby village of Aberfan. Above the village, a pile of coal waste on a mountain slope collapsed. It engulfed the local school and 19 other buildings, killing 116 children and 28 adults.

“When you see miners crying and pawing at the slurry and debris, getting nowhere, it's harrowing,” Lynne says. “You don't forget those moments.”

Lynne's two aunts, May and Olga Davis, enrolled in a London training hospital for nurses. Upon graduation, they returned to south Wales to work at Merthyr Tydfil Hospital.

“It was a hard struggle in Wales: there was poverty and lack of opportunity,” says Lynne. “But my aunts' first priority was to get home and help the people of the valleys.”

When Aunt May died, she left £1 million to her alma mater, the training hospital for nurses. “Aunt May always wanted to help and I knew her thinking:

let's help the nurses with their training and expenses.”

A New Start in Canada

At 25, Lynne left Wales for British Columbia. In 1982, she

met the man who would become her husband, John Henderson, in a Vancouver amateur theatre group.

John started his own business and later retired in the 1990s—or so he thought. An old friend invited him to apply for a job at the BC Renal Agency. He then worked there for nine years.

Planning for the Future

After John retired again in 2005, Lynne and John left Vancouver for Victoria. Recently, in 2017, Lynne had hip

replacement surgery at Royal Jubilee Hospital. **“The care I received was extraordinary. I am so thankful.”**

Lynne remembers when she and John first talked about their legacy.

“We didn't have a will,” recalls Lynne. So they discussed the future of their estates, their core values, and what has inspired them in their lives. “We knew we wanted to support charities in healthcare and also wanted to support the arts.”

“I said—why don't we give to our local hospitals through the Victoria Hospitals Foundation?” Lynne says, recalling the decision. “It's an effective way to make a difference in people's lives—when they're at their most vulnerable.”

For Lynne, it all comes back to the generosity that binds a tight-knit village. Her motivation to give is about family and place. It's also a legacy that will help everyone on Vancouver Island, no matter their circumstances.

“Not everyone is wealthy and not everyone has the opportunities we have,” says Lynne. “Aunt May was my role model and inspired me to give back to my community through our local hospitals.”



Legacy donor Lynne Thomas

Your Role in the Future of Healthcare

Remembering our hospitals with a gift in your will can help transform healthcare on Vancouver Island for generations to come.

A legacy gift to our hospitals, including a gift of annuities or real estate, is **one of the greatest acts of generosity you can make.** Estate gifts have a powerful impact. No great wealth is required to give, just the willingness to plan.

For more information, you or your financial adviser may reach our Manager of Leadership & Legacy Giving, Beth Cairns, by email: beth.cairns@viha.ca or by phone at 250-519-1750. Visit our website to learn more:



victoriahf.ca/legacy

Visions

Community Leaders Keeping Us Healthy

Impact of Signature Visions Gala Preserved by Family's Commitment

Thanks to hundreds of generous community leaders, VHF's *Visions* fundraising gala has been supporting our Victoria hospitals for 29 years.

2019's sold-out *Visions* gala raised a record-breaking \$1 million for leading-edge imaging equipment, and launched the \$4 million *Big Picture* campaign—now nearly complete.

It's with a very heavy heart that we have decided to postpone the 30th-anniversary of the *Visions* gala until November 2021. The decision was made out of respect for those on the front lines, and for the health of our community. We will not celebrate until they can do so with us.

We're incredibly grateful to long-time supporters of *Visions*, **Charlotte Salomon and Chris Robinson**, who have stepped up with a challenge to



The Salomon Robinson family

the community in lieu of the 2020 event. **The Salomon Robinson Family Foundation will match donations made in lieu of *Visions* to *It's Critical* to a total of \$200,000.** Donations can be made online at victoriahf.ca/visions or by calling 250-519-1750.



victoriahf.ca/visions

Front Lines United: Island Save-On-Foods Stores Raise \$49,598 To Support Critical Care Equipment

Save-On-Foods' *Front Lines United* at-the-till fundraising campaign recently raised \$49,598 for *It's Critical*. To the many customers and store teams up and down the Island who came together for our hospitals, thank you!



Just like Save-On-Foods, **your business, organization, or network can help support our hospitals** and make an impact in our community. We can help you engage your customers to help put life-saving equipment into the hands of our caregivers. Make a difference today—please contact Denise Grant, Philanthropy Officer by email at denise.grant@viha.ca.

We are committed to protecting your privacy. In accordance with the *BC Personal Information Protection Act*, we only retain information regarding your gift history and relationship with us. For complete information on our privacy policy, visit victoriahf.ca/privacy-policy or call 250-519-1750. The foundation does not sell, trade, or rent its donor information. Thank you once again for your contribution to our hospitals.

Help us reduce our newsletter costs! Sign up for our digital newsletter at victoriahf.ca



VICTORIA HOSPITALS
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Thank You!

Have feedback? Know anyone who would like to read this newsletter?
We'd love to hear it.
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