

*In*Touch

THE VICTORIA HOSPITALS FOUNDATION | SUMMER 2022

Emerge Stronger Shifts
Focus to Local Care

New West Shore
Gala Raises \$430,000+

#humansfirst

Chantal & Shaun: Respiratory Therapists at
Victoria General Hospital.

Cynthia's Story:
"If I Had to Be Sick,
There's No Place
I'd Rather Be"

You're Invited:
30th Anniversary of
Signature *Visions* Gala

From the Cover:

Introducing: #HumansFirst

They are humans first, who put other humans first.

#HumansFirst is a new social media campaign that aims to share the authentic stories of our local caregivers and hospital staff. These stories remind us that those inside our hospitals also have lives outside of them. They have family and friends, they enjoy hobbies and interests, and they have all lived through their own personal triumphs and heartbreaks. Like all of us, they are human, and they have a story to tell.



#humansfirst

“We only dated for eight months before he proposed, and then we married six months after that. Last year was our 20th wedding anniversary. We’ve worked together those whole 20 years, and we’ve been shift partners for 10 years.”

—Chantal and Shaun,
Respiratory Therapists at VGH

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to read Chantal and Shaun’s story, and other stories from the humans behind our hospitals’ frontlines.

 @VictoriaHF  @ourvichospitals



As the **Marketing & Communications Senior Coordinator**, **Jenny Boychuk** is VHF’s lead storyteller. She uses her passion for writing to share stories from the

patients, caregivers, and donors inside our hospitals to inspire the Foundation’s giving community. She also leads the #HumansFirst campaign.

You Are Making Strides for Local Care



As many of us find relief in the longer and warmer days of summer, I feel profound gratitude for this community who continues to show up for our local hospitals and care teams to provide them relief in return.

In just over six months, more than 2,800 donors like you came together to complete the first \$4 million *Recovery* phase of *Emerge Stronger*, a \$10 million campaign to fund 200+ pieces of priority equipment. This incredible milestone continues to uplift our exhausted caregivers with the knowledge they are valued and supported, and help equip them with more tools and resources they need to provide exceptional care for Vancouver Island patients. **We have surpassed the halfway mark of this momentous campaign, and there is still work to do together.**

Our dream has always been that no Islander needs to travel to the Mainland or elsewhere for care. We imagine a future in which they can be treated right here at home. That’s why the current focus, and the second phase of *Emerge Stronger*, supports local care.

Investing \$3 million in *Local Care* means continuing to fund Island-first equipment that keeps our world-class hospitals on the leading edge, and attracts more specialists and subspecialists. **It also means that new services and specialty procedures can be performed here on the Island, so that patients will not have to be transferred elsewhere for care.**

Every member of our community who receives care has a unique story. I am touched every week when I hear of a patient’s journey directly, or through the eyes of their caregivers. When a patient enters one of our hospitals, they often see different specialists and spend time in multiple units or areas of care during their treatment. Our hospitals and care teams collaborate together for the best possible outcome. In each one of these areas of care our local hospitals offer, there is no question: these patients will touch equipment that donors like you helped fund. You should feel so proud.

I hope you know that your giving truly touches the lives of so many, and I thank you for supporting the local care that serves all of us.

Avery Brohman
CEO, Victoria Hospitals Foundation

P.S. We are **over halfway** to our \$10 million campaign goal. Will you help us complete the second phase of *Emerge Stronger*?





\$10 MILLION GOAL

3 HOSPITALS SUPPORTED

200+ PIECES EQUIPMENT

So far, **donors to *Emerge Stronger* have given over \$5 million**, uplifting our hospitals and care teams throughout the *Recovery* phase, and now funding Island-first equipment during *Local Care*—the campaign’s current phase and top priority.

Every year, Islanders are uprooted from their homes, their familiar surroundings, support networks, and loved ones because the specialized care they need is only available on the Mainland. Together, we can fund the equipment and resources needed to keep more healthcare services here at home. We can keep our families and loved ones together as they navigate some of life’s most difficult challenges.

Local Care Advancements Keeping Patients Close to Home

Dr. James Scott is a neuromuscular neurologist at Royal Jubilee and Victoria General hospitals

When I moved to Victoria a decade ago, my colleagues and I transferred many more neurology patients to Vancouver than we do now. With the help of funding and community support from the Victoria Hospitals Foundation (VHF) and its donors, local care continues to advance.

It is never ideal when someone has to travel for care. The grief of being away from your home and family, and the loss of independence is significant. Often, there is also a financial toll, as well as mental health repercussions.

Advancements in recent years have allowed us to recruit more specialists and subspecialists, thanks largely to the specialized equipment VHF donors have helped fund. However, critical care capacity in our hospitals’ ICUs is always a concern.

The community can make a profound difference by supporting critical care resources and priority equipment, such as new ventilators and video bronchoscopes through the *Local Care* phase of the Foundation’s \$10 million *Emerge Stronger* campaign. This support leads to future advancements that will allow more patients can be treated right here on the Island.



—*Dr. James Scott*

Dr. James Scott
Specialist in Neurology,
Royal Jubilee and
Victoria General hospitals

→ Read Dr. Scott’s full letter:
victoriahf.ca/dr-scott-letter

Island-First Equipment & Opportunities You Can Help Fund Through *Emerge Stronger*:



Critical Care Equipment

\$503,200

Help Victoria General Hospital manage critical care capacity challenges and expand local resources by funding new video bronchoscopes, ventilators, and a continuous renal replacement therapy machine.



O-Arm Imaging System

\$318,000

This Island-first technology benefits patients undergoing spinal, cranial, neurological, or trauma-related surgery. The O-Arm provides detailed, real-time internal imaging, allowing for less invasive surgeries, shortened recovery times, and improved patient outcomes.



Pediatric Cardiac Ultrasounds

\$239,000

These ultrasounds will help expand pediatric cardiac resources on Vancouver Island and are key in diagnosing and monitoring heart defects and other conditions in newborns and children.



Nasopharyngoscope Light Cables

\$114,000

Ear, nose, and throat (ENT) patients will benefit from these thin and flexible instruments. Equipped with a light and camera, these tools allow physicians to clearly observe down the nasal passage into the back of the throat, and identify conditions including cancer, sinusitis, trauma, polyps, vertigo, and allergies.



Indigenous Scholarships

\$80,000

Scholarships and grants to foster leadership development and career growth for Indigenous Island Health employees, helping to build and retain a more representative workforce.



Other Needs

Connect with us to learn more about other equipment and areas of care you can support.

vvhf@islandhealth.ca | 250-519-1750

Recognizing Transformational Giving

Royal Jubilee Concourse Named in Honour of \$5 Million Lai Family Gift

With deep gratitude, the Victoria Hospitals Foundation is thrilled to unveil the **Lai Brothers Concourse**, a new name for the first floor foyer of the Diagnostic & Treatment Centre at Royal Jubilee Hospital, to recognize a transformational \$5 million gift from the Wilson S. C. Lai Trust in support of Royal Jubilee and Victoria General hospitals.

This transformational gift will help fund the High Acuity Unit at Victoria General Hospital, urgent equipment needs across Victoria hospitals, and will supplement the Lai Family Scholarship Fund, which has supported 325 Island Health staff in advancing their education since 2013.

The Intensive Care Unit Visitor's Room has also been renamed to the **Wilson S. C. Lai Critical Care Visitor's Room**, honouring previous giving from the family which had an instrumental role in the *It's Critical* campaign.

"In all that we do as a family, we are driven by our motto, *Derived from Society, Giving Back to Society*," says the Lai family. "We hope others can join us in appreciating our doctors, nurses, and healthcare teams."



Manning Family Recognized for \$2.5 Million Gift Supporting Cognitive Health Initiative



The Neil and Susan Manning Cognitive Health Initiative Executive Committee along with Neil and Fraser Manning unveil the new sign naming the clinic at Royal Jubilee Hospital as the Neil and Susan Manning Seniors Outpatient Clinic.

In 2017, Neil and Susan Manning made a generous \$2.5 million five-year pledge to our Foundation. Their gift inspired Island Health, the University of Victoria, and the University of British Columbia to partner and launch the Neil and Susan Manning Cognitive Health Initiative (CHI). The project integrates leading-edge research and care for patients living with cognitive health issues on Vancouver Island.

To recognize their generosity and celebrate five years of the initiative, the clinic at Royal Jubilee Hospital has been named the **Neil and Susan Manning Seniors Outpatient Clinic**.

Already, the CHI program has:

- Developed a Dementia Guidance System and a mobile app to help diagnose and track cognitive health symptoms
- Opened a Specialist Memory Clinic at the Seniors Outpatient Clinic at RJH
- Expanded the number of clinical trials available in our region
- Created direct linkages with researchers for patients to participate in local studies

"As someone whose family has been impacted by cognitive health issues, it has been a very informative and rewarding experience to learn from local healthcare professionals about their vision for this transformative project. From our initial conversations about what research had already been done, to the areas of cognitive disease that had yet to be explored, we were inspired to help.

It is gratifying to know that our giving has created more awareness of cognitive health issues, advanced research in the area, and most importantly has alleviated stress on Vancouver Island families who have been affected by dementia or other cognitive health diseases. We recognize that there is always more to do, and thank the professionals who have helped our gift make the most impact."

—Neil Manning

- You can help broaden the scope and impact of the Cognitive Health Initiative by making a gift today: victoriahf.ca/research
- Or learn how you can be involved in transforming cognitive health care by reaching out to us at vhf@islandhealth.ca.

“If I Had to Be Sick, There’s No Place I’d Rather Be”

Cynthia lives in Cobble Hill, where she walks her standard poodle named Lena for an hour or more every day.

But one day in February, Cynthia was walking Lena when she suddenly felt very weak.

“It was like I’d been hit in the back of the legs with a heavy object,” she says.

Cynthia first experienced the sensation in 2011, but this year the episodes started occurring more frequently, and worse. Usually, they passed—but this time was different. Her heart was racing. She tried to go about her day and walk Lena as usual, but the symptoms persisted.

Worried she could be having a heart attack, she called a friend and asked him to take her to Royal Jubilee Hospital (RJH)—45 minutes away.

“When you go to the hospital, you want to feel safe and secure,” says Cynthia. “The staff at Royal Jubilee are very good at calming you down and explaining what’s happening.”

In the Emergency Department, Cynthia’s blood pressure and heartrate were elevated to concerning levels—but she was grateful just to be there.

“I was just so relieved that I made it. If I had to be sick, there was no place I’d rather be,” says Cynthia. “I knew that if they could fix it, they would.”

Fortunately, care teams were able to stabilize Cynthia. After twelve hours of monitoring and testing, she was diagnosed with a heart arrhythmia and discharged.

Now, Cynthia is doing well, and her arrhythmia is managed with medication. She’s also back to walking Lena every day.

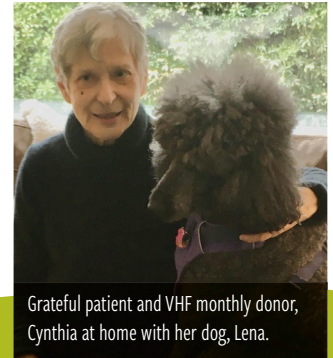
“Since the day I went to the hospital, I haven’t had another symptom. Not one.”

Cynthia was first inspired to become a VHF monthly donor in 2019 after the care she received from ophthalmologist Dr. Murray Erasmus during a retinal laser eye surgery.

“When the day comes that you have to go to the hospital, you’re going to want the best care, and hospitals need funding in order to provide that,” she says. “That foundation has to be there.”

—Cynthia

Grateful patient and monthly donor



Grateful patient and VHF monthly donor, Cynthia at home with her dog, Lena.

Who are our monthly donors? They’re people just like you who care deeply about the health of their community. They know that 40% of the equipment in our hospitals is donor-funded.

As a monthly donor, whether you give \$10, \$25, or \$100 each month, your commitment creates a legacy that honours our care teams and transforms the hospitals that over 860,000 Vancouver Islanders and their families depend on.

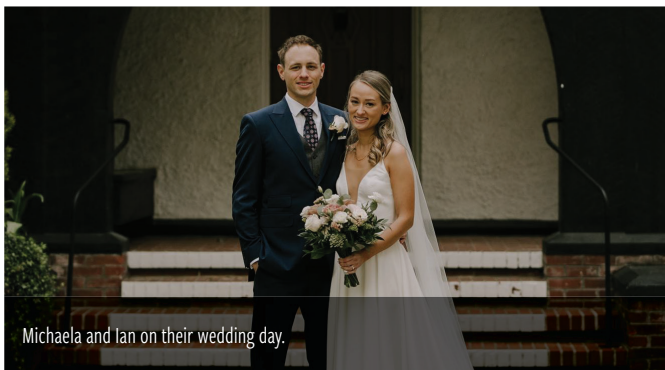
→ Become a monthly donor today: victoriahf.ca/donatemonthly



Rachel Stitt, VHF’s **Philanthropy Coordinator**, works closely with monthly donors in our community to inspire and guide them on their philanthropic journey. “I love connecting with our donors and helping them decide which area of care they connect with most, and how they can support local healthcare in way that is specific to their values,” says Rachel.

A Very Special Occasion Honoured a Father and Past Board Chair

When Michaela and Ian got married this spring, they chose to forgo party favours for their guests—instead making a heartfelt gift to local hospitals in honour of Michaela’s late father, Bruce Dyck.



Michaela and Ian on their wedding day.

Bruce was someone very special to our Foundation as he served on our VHF Board of Directors from 2013 to 2019, including a term from 2017 to 2018 as Chair. A beloved member and leader of the community, championing local hospitals was a cause near and dear to his heart.

The Foundation is grateful to Michaela for this thoughtful and meaningful gift made in memory of Bruce and his legacy, which continues to touch those inside our hospitals.



Create your own fundraiser

Like Michaela, you can fundraise for our hospitals in honour or in-memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special occasion. Set up your own fundraising webpage in minutes and support our hospitals today.

→ Get started: victoriahf.ca/peer-to-peer



Miracle on the MOUNTAIN Gala

West Shore Gala Raises \$430,000+

On Saturday, May 28, 2022, Foundation supporters united at the *Miracle on the Mountain Gala* to elevate hospital care on the West Shore.

Together, **over 280 attendees, donors, and sponsors gave more than \$430,000** by pledging generous gifts, bidding on silent and live auction items, and participating in a bear raffle.

The pledge drive was an especially inspiring part of the night. Thank you to the **Salomon Robinson Family Foundation** and **Woodsmere Holdings Corporation** for each pledging incredible \$50,000 gifts.

Thank you to all donors, sponsors, and volunteers who made this philanthropic evening one to remember.

Presenting Sponsor

“ We were so excited to attend the *Miracle on the Mountain Gala* and contribute to such a great cause. Our hospitals are the places where our children have entered the world, where our sister works tirelessly, where we bring our family members in sickness, and where we have been cared for through the toughest times. We rely on these services. We are proud that we are able to support VHF and their mission to transform healthcare in our community. ”



- *Lewis & Amy Ratcliff*

Engel & Völkers Vancouver Island, Ratcliff Group



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Gala Supports Purchase of O-Arm Imaging System

The exceptional generosity of all attendees will support the purchase of a **\$318,000 O-Arm imaging system** for Victoria General Hospital and other priority needs identified through *Emerge Stronger*.

An O-Arm provides precise, real-time imaging for surgeons operating on patients undergoing spinal, cranial, or neurological trauma-related surgery.



→ Scan to learn how the O-Arm is making a difference for patients like Sharon:





Diamond Sponsor

“ Our hospitals and the heroes working in the healthcare sector help our communities prosper. It was wonderful seeing so many community members come together to support our hospitals. Island Savings offers our deepest gratitude to those in attendance and especially to the many healthcare heroes who enable our communities to stay strong and healthy in the face of many challenges. ”

— Kendall Gross
President, Island Savings

IslandSavings



Platinum Sponsor

Platinum Sponsor



“The team at Bilston Creek Farm would like to thank the Victoria Hospitals Foundation for inviting us to be a part of the recent *Miracle on the Mountain Gala*. The staff were organized and incredible to work with, they created a fun evening for all.

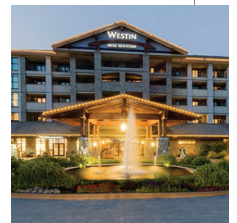
We are proud to help recognize and thank our hardworking hospital staff that have been the face of resilience over the past two years. Congratulations on a successful evening that brought the community together and supported the advancement of our local hospitals.”

—Bilston Creek Farm



“We were privileged to work along with the Victoria Hospitals Foundation and to host the *Miracle on the Mountain Gala*. The evening was an unequivocal success in showcasing the fine work being done by healthcare professionals and the goals of the Foundation to assist in providing much needed equipment for local hospitals. We look forward to many more events like this on the West Shore and supporting the Victoria Hospitals Foundation.”

—Raoul Malak
CEO, Bear Mountain Resort and Spa



Thank you to all our *Miracle on the Mountain Gala* sponsors!



MIKE GERIC CONSTRUCTION | QUALITY FOODS | UNSWORTH VINEYARDS | YAM MAGAZINE

And thank you to 60+ businesses and individuals for their auction and raffle donations, including Bilston Creek Farm, Monk Office, and Stones Jewellery.

As the **Manager of Philanthropy**, Colleen Bronson is passionate about working with our donors to help steward the impact they want to make in our hospitals. She says she has the best job in the world, and we are grateful every day for her inspiring leadership and determination.



Turn over to learn about our upcoming *Visions Gala*!



You're Invited: Visions Gala 30th Anniversary Saturday, November 19, 2022

Visions is the Victoria Hospitals Foundation's signature fundraising event, and one of our most anticipated events of the year.

Over its 29-year history, Visions has raised more than \$9.6 million, funding urgently needed medical equipment at Royal Jubilee, Victoria General, and Gorge Road hospitals.

This year, for its 30th anniversary, the event will be held at the elegant Fairmont Empress Hotel and Victoria Conference Centre in downtown Victoria. The exclusive event will host 500+ guests and feature a five-course gourmet dinner, live entertainment, signature live and silent auctions, and an after-party with live music and dancing.

We hope to see you there!

[Get Tickets: VisionsGala.ca](https://www.victoriahospitals.ca/visionsgala)

Donor-Funded Research Making a Difference



The *Emerge Stronger* campaign's third phase—*Innovation*—includes a \$500,000 investment for research. This will support multiple projects across different areas of care including recent Catalyst Award winners:

Drs. Michael Chen and David Goodlett



Detecting respiratory pathogens in pneumonia patients to accelerate treatment and reduce costs: \$93,000

Drs. Markus Sikkell and Joshua Giles



Developing a converter to switch an implanted defibrillator into a pacemaker: \$79,000

Drs. Paul Winston and Ève Boissonnault



Freezing nerves to improve stroke rehabilitation by reducing shoulder and knee pain: \$88,000

Griffin Russell and Dr. Bruce Wallace



Reducing overdose harm by sharing drug-checking information and community knowledge among people who use drugs: \$92,000

Drs. Michael Berger and John Kramer



Investigating breakthrough pain (experienced when taking pain-relieving medication to enhance quality of life for people with peripheral nerve damage (outside of the brain and spinal cord): \$90,000

→ Help advance research today: victoriahf.ca/research

→ Or for more information, reach out to Alec McKay at alec.mckay@islandhealth.ca or 250-519-1750.



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

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Please note: Our email addresses have changed from @viha.ca to @islandhealth.ca