



VICTORIA HOSPITALS
FOUNDATION

*In*Touch

THE VICTORIA HOSPITALS FOUNDATION

FALL 2022

*Dr. Roy Cheung: Head and Neck
Surgical Oncologist, Otolaryngology
at Victoria General Hospital*

Emerge Stronger
**Campaign Supported
by More Than
3,500 Donors**

Keith's Story:
**"I knew if the
ventilator stopped,
I was going to die"**

**Our Hospitals'
Wish List of Urgent
Equipment Needs**



From the Cover

“ A standard of care, and one of the most vital pieces of equipment required in head and neck surgeries, is the Nerve Monitoring System. This system locates and monitors cranial, spinal, peripheral motor, and mixed motor-sensory nerves, and registers muscle response during surgery. It also improves quality of care and patient safety by increasing operative efficiency and precision, reducing the risk of nerve damage, and helping surgeons find the site of any nerve injury, which helps inform surgical decisions.

Thankfully, with the help of generous donors to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation, I can reassure patients that the community is funding the leading-edge equipment my team needs to ensure we can provide the most innovative care. Gifts from our community allow priority hospital equipment like the Nerve Monitoring System to be purchased faster—and updated more frequently—than through government funding alone.

Your gift means more Islanders can access specialized procedures and local, world-class care. Thank you for this investment in our vital work.”

Dr. Roy Cheung

Dr. Roy Cheung, Head and Neck Surgical Oncologist, Otolaryngology



Follow us on social media to hear more perspectives from our hospitals' frontlines, patient stories, and other Foundation updates.

 @VictoriaHF  @ourvichospitals

Support Local Hospitals This Holiday Season

This holiday season, I am reminded of the incredible power of giving that our Foundation has witnessed over the last few years. Though the healthcare landscape continues to challenge our hospitals, one thing remains true: our donors are making a difference. Every day, I hear firsthand from caregivers how community-funded equipment and resources change what is possible, and how your generosity advances their vital work. Thank you.



In these pages, you'll find there are so many meaningful ways to support our hospitals this season—from a holiday wish list featuring priority equipment pieces requested by our care teams themselves, to at-the-till campaigns at local Canadian Tire stores in support of cardiac care. Giving Tuesday is also quickly approaching on November 29, and our community will have an opportunity to fund much-needed ICU monitors for Victoria General Hospital. The current monitors are over 15 years old, and need to be replaced with better and more innovative technology.

And, as this issue of our newsletter lands in your mailbox, the Foundation is preparing to host our 30th anniversary *Visions* Gala. In anticipation of what I know will be a transformational evening for our hospitals, I want to offer my gratitude to our sponsors, donors, volunteers, attendees, and everyone who has come together to champion philanthropy and celebrate our incredible care teams. I look forward to updating you on the impact of this inspiring event.

The holiday season is a special time of year when we see profound generosity from our community in support of our hospitals. After two incredibly impactful years, I hope we can provide that same level of support this year. Our hospitals are stronger when we all work together.

Wishing you and yours a healthy holiday season,

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

Our hospitals will always be here to serve us. And they will always need our support. In just one year, nearly 3,500 community donors have come together to help raise \$5.4 million in support of urgent equipment needs for our local hospitals—exceeding the halfway mark of our *Emerge Stronger* campaign. There has never been a more impactful time to make a difference through hospital philanthropy. Donations to the *Emerge Stronger* campaign support every single area of care—from newborn care to seniors’ health.

Turning Standard of Care into State-of-the-Art Care

Through the *Emerge Stronger* campaign, donors to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation can help raise \$292,000 for Mitral Valve Minimally-Invasive Surgical instruments for the Heart Health program and Surgical Services Department at Royal Jubilee Hospital.

The mitral valve prevents blood from leaking back into the lungs when the heart contracts. Two per cent of the population is affected by a common disorder called degenerative mitral valve disease.

When a valve fails, the impact is serious. Patients with this condition suffer from extreme fatigue and shortness of breath. Without corrective surgery, they go into congestive heart failure and will die within a few short years. They need surgery to save their lives.

Certain mitral valve patients my colleagues and I treat are eligible for a minimally-invasive surgical option, which is not yet available on Vancouver Island. A minimally-invasive approach means that surgeons do not have to perform a sternotomy (which involves cutting the breastbone). Instead, the procedure is performed through a small space between the ribs, and the incision is only 6 - 8 centimeters, rather than the standard 20 centimeters.

As surgeons, any time we can use advanced equipment, we can provide better care. Philanthropy goes a long way towards making our communities healthier places. This new equipment will allow us to take what is currently a standard of care and turn it into state-of-the-art care.

There is a step-by-step process of improvement that is always occurring within our cardiac program, and funding this advanced equipment is truly the next step in maintaining that excellence.

—Dr. Lynn Fedoruk

Medical Lead, Division of Cardiac Surgery,
Royal Jubilee Hospital



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



Critical Care Equipment

\$477,540

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



Nerve Monitoring Systems

\$134,000

These systems help surgeons locate and confirm the integrity of nerves during surgical procedures, enhancing patient safety to help reduce the risk of damage to facial and laryngeal nerves.



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.



Chemistry Line

\$2,174,000

A new, automated chemistry line, will replace 20-year-old equipment to provide safe, reliable, and standardized chemistry testing for the RJH Core Lab.

As VHF’s Data Entry Specialist,

Matt McLean says every gift is unique. “Part of my role is to ensure a donor’s gift is attributed to the right piece of equipment, and that we are recognizing the donor in the right way. I process all gifts and enter them into our database.” Matt says his favourite part of working at VHF is the genuine caring attitude of everyone in the office: “They all want the best for me, and they support me personally and professionally.”



“I Knew if the Ventilator Stopped, I Was Going to Die.”



Jack and Keith pictured outside Victoria General Hospital.

Keith, and his partner Jack, have spent an active 37 years in the Victoria community. But their world changed on April 13, 2022, when Keith started to experience lower back pain.

“By that evening I was in excruciating pain. And that’s when both my hands and feet went numb,” says Keith.

Jack—a retired registered nurse (RN)—knew something was wrong and drove Keith to Victoria General Hospital (VGH). After receiving multiple tests in the Emergency Department, Keith was told he needed surgery on his neck due to a potential narrowing that was affecting his nerves.

But days later, after his surgery, the symptoms got worse.

“The numbness spread throughout my body, I was unable to swallow—and then, I was unable to breathe. At that point, I was rushed down to the Intensive Care Unit and placed on a ventilator.”

Keith was diagnosed with a rare condition called Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), in which the body’s immune system attacks its nerves. As a result, Keith experienced muscle weakness and paralyzation from the neck down, and was now solely relying on the help of the ventilator to keep him alive.

“It was a terrifying time. I knew if the ventilator stopped, I was going to die.”

Mechanical ventilators are complex machines that are adjusted to meet the unique needs of each patient. They assist care teams in monitoring key vital signs, improving comfort levels, and ensuring proper oxygen levels in the blood. Recently, the TB Vets Charitable Foundation made a generous \$53,000 donation to fund a new Servo-U Ventilator Unit—vital equipment that our hospitals rely on.

For patients like Keith, this equipment is life-saving.

After spending time in the Neurological Rehabilitation Unit, Keith walked again for the first time. And after four months, he was discharged from the hospital. Following his stay, Keith and Jack returned to thank all the staff for their excellent care.

“I get quite emotional to this day because those are such dedicated people,” says Keith. “It was unbelievable how much care they gave me, and I was so appreciative.”

Today, Keith is home and doing well, walking up to half a mile each day and continuing to get stronger.

“Keeping the equipment up-to-date, modern, and functioning properly is so important, especially for people who may not realize they need it until they actually do,” says Keith. “It saves lives.”

Since 1982, TB Vets Charitable Foundation has funded an outstanding \$1.5 million of urgently needed respiratory equipment at Royal Jubilee and Victoria General hospitals, helping countless patients—from newborns to seniors—receive state-of-the-art respiratory care.

Stroke Recovery Inspires Decision to Give

In 2017, Cameron experienced a life-altering event. He was driving a car across Canada for his daughter in Toronto when he suffered a stroke in Brandon, Manitoba.

After five days in the hospital, he returned to Victoria, where he was referred to the Outpatient Neuro Rehabilitation program at Victoria General Hospital.

Cameron spent months regaining his strength and balance, driven by a number of goals. He wanted to get his driver's license back, which had been revoked, and he wanted to be able to climb the stairs of his home. He also hoped to take a long-planned golf trip in 2018, and attend his daughter's wedding.

"I was fortunate to have terrific physiotherapists and other professionals dealing with me," says Cameron. "That made a big difference in terms of my recovery. I'm over ninety percent recovered because of the springboard that I got from the program. Everything I did later to recover stems from that solid base. Now I'm feeling back on track."



Heather and Cameron at their Victoria home.

Cameron made the decision to become a monthly donor after his stroke rehabilitation experience in 2018.

He says part of his reason for giving was motivated by learning how donations from community members allow priority hospital equipment to be purchased faster—and updated more frequently—than through government funding alone.

"If we want to have good hospital systems with the most advanced tools in our communities, I think it's important for people in those communities to step up," says Cameron. "I come from a family that views giving as part of the deal. Anything we can do in our community to help provide better and more advanced healthcare opportunities is a good thing."

Join Our Family of Monthly Donors

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/monthly-donation

Nicole LeBlanc is VHF's Senior Philanthropy Coordinator. Her role includes providing administrative support for the philanthropy team, project management, leading recognition events, and so much more! Her favourite part of her job is seeing the real impact of our community's giving in our hospitals, and knowing that our patients are benefitting from the best equipment—including her dad, who recently underwent open-heart surgery.



Salomon-Robinson Family Recognized for their Generous Support of Critical Care

With deep gratitude, the Victoria Hospitals Foundation is honoured to celebrate the generosity of the Salomon-Robinson family.

The Salomon-Robinson Family Foundation supported critical care when it mattered most, funding new equipment for the interim High Acuity Unit (HAU) at Royal Jubilee Hospital. This generous family inspired our community with a matching gift during the height of the pandemic, helping our hospitals expand critical care resources and sending a profound message to our care teams: we are behind you.

This summer, Charlotte, Chris, and their daughters, Bree and Jenna, were invited into the HAU to unveil The Salomon-Robinson Family Charting and Observation Centre—named in recognition of this family's heartfelt generosity and desire



Salomon-Robinson family pictured in the interim HAU.

to recognize the resilient caregivers who show up each day for the health of our community, even in times of great stress.

We continue to be inspired by the support of community leaders such as the Salomon-Robinson family—whose generosity continues to keep our local hospitals and care teams at the forefront of world-class care.

“You have the power to make change happen now.”

On Thanksgiving Sunday in 2016, retired Victoria couple John and Marg never anticipated urgently rushing to the Emergency Department instead of enjoying a holiday meal with friends.

That morning, John was cleaning the windows on the roof of their home. Before he realized something was wrong, John fell off the roof and into their garden below.

Luckily, Marg found John shortly after and called 911. Having struck his head open on the rocks below, John would not have survived without the immediate help of the Oak Bay Fire Department, who resuscitated him with three to four minutes to live.

After rushing to Victoria General Hospital, John underwent seven hours of surgery on his head and legs before finally stabilizing in the Intensive Care Unit. Following several more weeks spent in the neurological ward, **the couple realized that, at the age of 75, John would have to rebuild how he lives and functions.**

After months of recovery and relearning how to walk, John started to gain his life back. “John had a great attitude to get better—whenever he’s told he can’t do this or that, he’s set on proving you wrong,” says Marg.

During John and Marg’s working lives and in retirement, they spent much attention, discipline, and effort on financial conservation and growth, ensuring to make diligent plans to provide for their family.

Just like John and Marg, you can support our local hospitals with a gift in your will. Your decision to include VHF as a beneficiary makes a lasting impact on the care provided on Vancouver Island—ensuring that you, your loved ones, and your community will benefit from life-saving hospital care, for generations to come.

Leave a Legacy for Generations to Come



In the pursuit of continuously advancing healthcare for over 860,000 Islanders, the Victoria Hospitals Foundation is proud to be a partner of Will Power—a national movement to educate Canadians about the power they have to make change through their wills. Planning a gift to your local hospitals in the form of a bequest in your will, gifting annuities, or real estate, is one of the most impactful acts of generosity you can choose to make.

Many donors believe that they can’t support both their loved ones and their community. However, even just a



John and Marg Bowron, VHF supporters.

As they sat down to prepare their estate plans, their desire to care not only for their family, but also for our hospitals, became increasingly clear. They were driven by one thought: **“Our hospitals need to be here.”** Because truthfully if they weren’t, John wouldn’t be with us today.

Not only have the couple personally thanked the caregivers who helped John, but they have also made the generous decision to make a gift in their will to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation.

“I would adamantly suggest that anyone do what we did to support our hospitals. You have the power to make change happen now. It allows people like me the chance to survive,” stated John.

—John and Marg Bowron
Grateful patient and VHF donors

small percentage of your estate left to VHF has a significant impact on local hospitals, while still leaving a majority to your loved ones. Your willingness to give not only provides local caregivers with the tools they need to support the community today, but for generations to come.

You don’t need to be wealthy to give through your will—just the willingness to plan. Start your plan today and be a part of this powerful movement for change.

Learn more about Will Power and planned giving at victoriahf.ca/will-power.



VICTORIA HOSPITALS
FOUNDATION

OUR VICTORIA HOSPITALS' Wish List

Just some of the priority equipment needs our caregivers at Royal Jubilee and Victoria General hospitals are wishing for this holiday season.



Vital Signs Monitors

→ USED DAILY IN ALL HOSPITALS.

These important monitors provide up-to-date information on a patient's vital signs (heart rate, blood pressure, blood oxygen saturation, and temperature). With these monitors, caregivers can easily interpret a patient's status and make key diagnostic decisions.



50 VITAL SIGNS MONITORS NEEDED @ \$5,000 EACH

Pediatric Stretcher Cribs

→ USED DAILY IN PEDIATRICS AT VICTORIA GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Not only do these cribs lead to the safety and comfort of over 800 pediatric patients under five years old who undergo tests, treatments, and surgeries, but every child who has an outpatient surgery will be safer when they awake from anesthesia as the cribs provide high sides for protection.



5 PEDIATRIC STRETCHER CRIBS NEEDED @ \$9,000 EACH

Critical Care Beds for the Coronary Care Unit (CCU)

→ USED DAILY IN THE CCU.

These state-of-the-art beds provide comfortable support for patients while preventing bedsores and alerting caregivers to significant changes in position. The advanced technology also provides the ability to speak to patients in multiple different languages.



10 CCU BEDS NEEDED @ \$35,000 EACH

Minimally-Invasive Mitral Valve Surgical Instruments

→ USED IN ROYAL JUBILEE AND VICTORIA GENERAL OPERATING ROOMS.

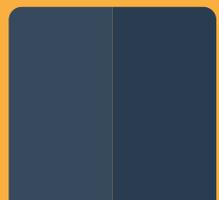
These innovative tools will allow cardiac surgeons to perform the first minimally-invasive mitral valve replacement procedures on the Island—a service that is not currently available.



1 SET NEEDED @ \$292,000

You can fund a part or all of each of these important pieces with your gift today.

Please give today!
victoriaf.ca/wish-list | 250-519-1750



You can make a critical difference on
GIVING TUESDAY
 November 29, 2022

Help us upgrade the ICU monitoring system at Victoria General Hospital!



It's More than Just a Monitor

This year, we need our giving community to help us fund a new patient monitoring system for the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Victoria General Hospital (VGH). The current system is 17 years old and is in much need of replacement.

From blood pressure, to blood oxygen levels, to heart activity, the monitoring system provides real-time up-to-date information on each patient's status whether it's at the bedside, from a nurse's station, or another part of the hospital.

Every day, critically ill patients from all over Vancouver Island rely on the specialized care teams at VGH. Let's ensure they have the most up-to-date tools so they can provide the best possible care.

→ Donate today: victoriahf.ca/givingtuesday



As we mark the 30th anniversary of our beloved **Visions Gala** on **November 19**, we are delighted to gather as a community for the first time since 2019. Our local care teams

have been a shining light over the past two years, and it is an honour to celebrate and support their vital work at *Visions* each year as they guide us and our communities towards a healthier tomorrow.

Darlene Hollstein
 VHF Supporter & *Visions* Gala Chair



Miracle on the **MOUNTAIN Gala**

Save the Date: May 13, 2023

This year, the Victoria Hospitals Foundation's premiere West Shore gala raised more than \$430,000 in support of Victoria General Hospital. We are delighted to announce the return of this event in 2023. Visit MountainGala.ca and mark your calendars for Saturday, May 13. We hope you'll join us for an evening of elegance, community, and philanthropy that will transform Island care.

Amy Ratcliff

VHF Supporter & *Miracle on the Mountain* Gala Chair

Thank you for supporting local Canadian Tire stores' annual **FIX-A-HEART** campaign, Nov. 24th – Dec. 24th



VICTORIA HOSPITALS
 FOUNDATION

Giving makes us all better

Victoria Hospitals Foundation

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