

InTouch

THE VICTORIA HOSPITALS FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER SPRING 2022

Emerge Stronger
Nears Milestone

A \$5 Million Gift
Shows “Philanthropy
in its Purest Form”

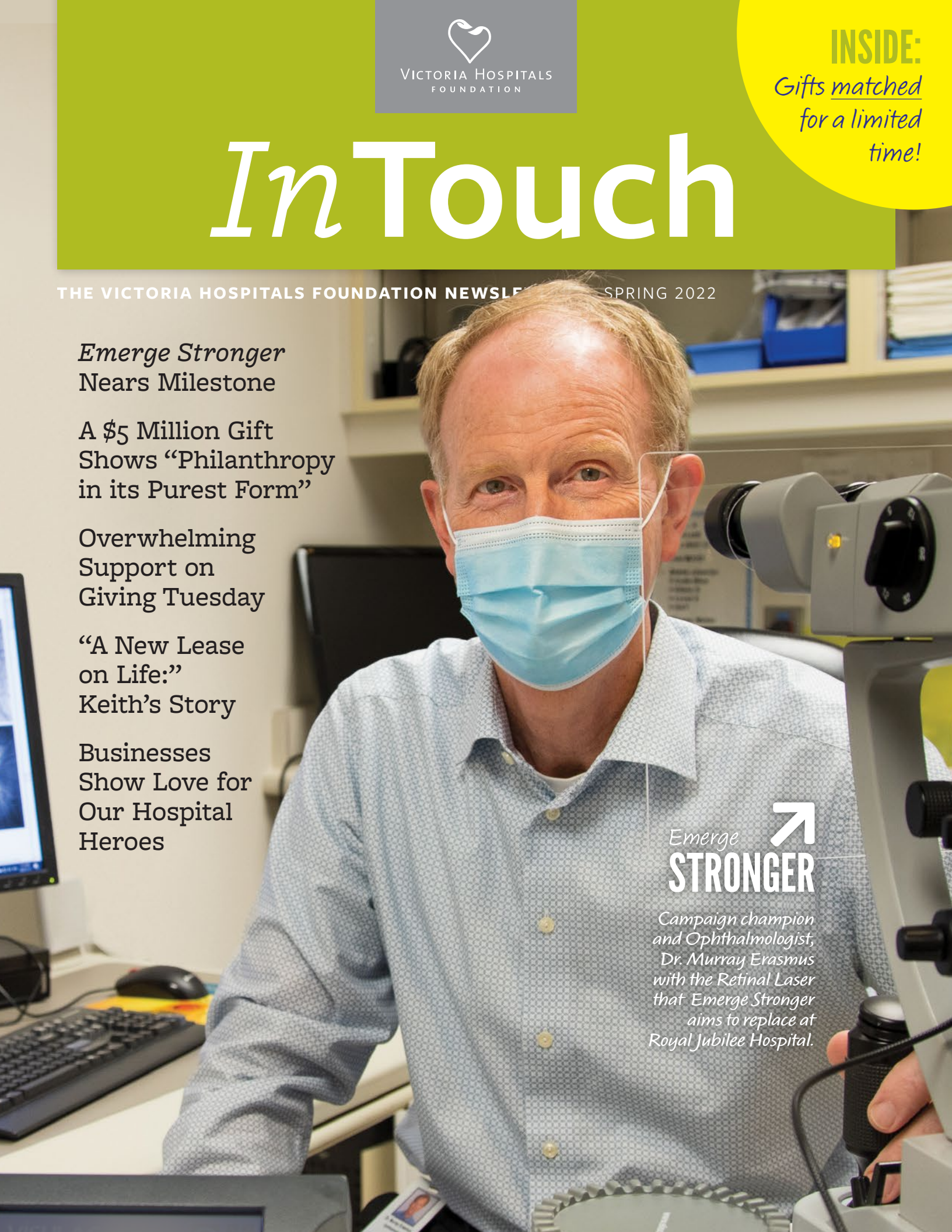
Overwhelming
Support on
Giving Tuesday

“A New Lease
on Life:”
Keith’s Story

Businesses
Show Love for
Our Hospital
Heroes

Emerge 
STRONGER

*Campaign champion
and Ophthalmologist,
Dr. Murray Erasmus
with the Retinal Laser
that *Emerge Stronger*
aims to replace at
Royal Jubilee Hospital.*



Grateful patients share how *EMERGE STRONGER* will help community members just like them:



“Your donation today will do more than buy this new equipment. You never know when you could need it yourself. The better the equipment is, the better our system becomes—and the more people we can save.”

—Lionel



“I just want donors to know my appreciation. When you give, it allows patients like me to go through a positive change, and it gives us the strength to give back as well.”

—Meghan

→ Find these stories and more: victoriahf.ca/stronger

From the Cover

Ophthalmologist Dr. Murray Erasmus recently shared the importance of the Retinal Laser that *EMERGE STRONGER* will fund: “A retinal tear—which may have few or no symptoms—can progress into a retinal detachment within hours. This can permanently damage a patient’s vision. I use a Retinal Laser to repair tears and help reattach the retina in some cases where it has detached.”



We Can’t Do This Work Without You.

As we enter spring and the Foundation embarks on a new fiscal year, I find great inspiration thinking of the ways our community came together to support our hospitals in the last year. Truly, this winter was a difficult one, as we saw hospitalizations rise to their highest point since the onset of the pandemic.



But, as our caregivers worked tirelessly to keep us safe, you let them know you were there for them—and their patients. Thank you.

I am pleased to let you know that, since its launch last fall, **over 2,500 donors have come together to support the *EMERGE STRONGER* campaign.** In just over five months, you have helped raise more than \$3.5 million to put priority equipment where it belongs: in the hands of our care teams. Recently, we have shared many powerful stories of local patients whose lives were changed by the care that you are impacting through *EMERGE STRONGER*. They are all deeply grateful.

As we look to the future, it is clear that Island Health will rely on your support more than ever before. *EMERGE STRONGER*’s 200+ pieces of equipment are just the beginning—building more capacity in core areas of our hospitals like Emergency Departments and Child & Youth Mental Health are increasing priorities. As is the critical need to attract and retain excellent caregivers and staff. Your gifts strengthen our hospitals as their needs continue to increase.

There has never been a better time to give generously. To help reach our first major campaign milestone and close the *RECOVERY* phase of *EMERGE STRONGER*, a local couple have pledged to match donations. The Foundation is deeply grateful to Mike and Ethel Marley for their generosity and initiative to inspire our community’s support.

So, as we leave the darkness of winter behind for the light of spring, please accept my gratitude for the hope that your continued support brings to our care teams and local patients. Thank you for always thinking of our hospitals.

Avery Brohman
Executive Director, Victoria Hospitals Foundation





Hoping to Inspire Gifts, Grateful Couple Launch Donation-Matching Effort

You may remember meeting **Mike and Ethel Marley** late last year when they shared Mike's cardiac care journey in support of *Emerge Stronger*.

The couple was so inspired by the care Mike received that they have pledged to **match all campaign donations** to the completion of *Emerge Stronger's* \$4 million *Recovery* phase. Double your impact with a matched gift today!



Give today and **have your gift matched!**

→ Read Mike's story: victoriahf.ca/mikes-story

Emerge Stronger Equipment Spotlight

MRI Software Helps Find Hard-to-Detect Breast Cancers, Saves Lives

Dr. Brent Lee is a radiologist and the Clinical Section Head of Breast Imaging at Victoria General Hospital.

We use many different tests when we're trying to detect breast cancer, such as mammograms, ultrasounds, and MRIs. For each patient, we begin with a mammogram, and then an ultrasound. Between the two, we catch approximately 98-99% of cancers. But, for the other 1-2%, we need the help of an MRI.

Computer-aided detection (CAD) software is designed to help us see the breast in detail through an MRI scan, as it can be difficult to differentiate between normal and abnormal breast tissue. Without the CAD software, we can make guesses, but we can never be as confident as we are with this specialized technology.

This is especially important because 10-15% of patients diagnosed with breast cancer will also have cancer in the other breast. **An MRI with CAD software helps us find other very small cancerous spots that we would not see in a mammogram or ultrasound.** Locating all of the cancer at once prevents women from having to repeat their treatment years later.

Right now, our breast imaging CAD software at Victoria General Hospital is outdated and needs to be replaced.

CANCER CARE



Breast Imaging Software
1 needed, \$99,000

- Improves breast cancer detection with MRI technology.
- Helps high-risk patients and challenging diagnostic cases.
- Almost 15,000 breast imaging procedures at VGH yearly.
- **Just one of Emerge Stronger's 200+ pieces of equipment.**



Through the *Emerge Stronger* campaign, donors can help fund a new \$99,000 breast imaging CAD software package, which will profoundly impact women's health on Vancouver Island.

The work we do in breast imaging allows us to change the course of someone's life through early detection. Our patients deserve state-of-the-art care, and the only way to provide that care is by keeping up with the advanced technology.

By donating to our hospitals, it allows people the chance to give back—and, it allows the next patient to benefit from everything the latest and greatest technology has to offer.

Dr. Brent Lee

Medical Leader, Breast Imaging, Island Health



"If we hadn't caught this, it could have been life-threatening"

→ Read Carolyn's powerful story: victoriahf.ca/carolyns-story



Members of the Lai Family (centre), with Island Health and VHF staff and board members, at Royal Jubilee Hospital in December 2021

“Philanthropy in its Purest Form”

Celebrating a \$5 Million Gift to Recognize Care Teams and Transform Care in Our Hospitals

With deep gratitude and humility, we are thrilled to announce a groundbreaking and transformative \$5 million gift from the Wilson S.C. Lai Trust in support of Royal Jubilee (RJH) and Victoria General (VGH) hospitals.

“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. “This donation is just that: a gift back to the community and to thank our care teams for all they do in support of our community, and to continue to establish strong hospitals on the Island. We hope others can join us in appreciating our doctors, nurses, and healthcare teams.”

This significant investment is an important step towards advancing critical care, including supporting the opening of VGH’s first High Acuity Unit (HAU), which will provide an intermediate level of care between the Intensive Care Unit and Acute Care units. Island Health was the only health authority without an HAU until donors, including the Lai family, joined together to raise over \$7 million toward a new, permanent unit for Royal Jubilee Hospital through the *It’s Critical* campaign.

The remainder of this historic gift will support advanced equipment needs earmarked as priority pieces by Island Health, and will supplement the Lai Family Scholarship Fund, which has supported 325 Island Health employees in advancing their education since 2013.

With this \$5 million gift, the Lai family builds on their strong history of supporting the Victoria Hospitals Foundation—the largest donor in its history—and, to date, has given more than \$8 million, including:

- ▶ \$250,000 to *Equipped to Heal*, VHF’s mental health campaign in 2021
- ▶ \$590,000 to *It’s Critical*, supporting the Royal Jubilee Hospital HAU in 2020-21
- ▶ \$1 million to advance surgical services, with upgrades to the Medical Device Reprocessing Departments, at RJH and VGH in 2019
- ▶ \$500,000 to establish the Lai Brothers Lecture Theatre and Lai Family Scholarship Fund in 2012

“Thanks to the outstanding generosity of the Lai family, we’re able to see real benefits to Victoria-area hospitals; a gift of life-saving care so thoughtfully shared with the community,” said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. “This donation will make a big impact in the region, supporting the purchase of even more much-needed hospital equipment to help make our hospitals the best they can be.”

“This generous gift comes at a time when it will make such a difference in our hospitals, not only for patient care, but as a reminder to our Island Health family that the community deeply values their tireless efforts. We are sincerely grateful to the Wilson S.C. Lai Trust for this incredible gift,” says Leah Hollins, Board Chair, Island Health.

“The Lai family has become part of our family at VHF, and it deeply resonates that this gift is helping many, many other families in our community through a gift that is so far-reaching. Future patients will benefit for years from expanded services and equipment that this family has given us, and care teams will feel the gratitude and recognition they so deserve,” says Avery Brohman, VHF Executive Director.

The Lai family hopes their donation creates momentum through VHF’s *Emerge Stronger* campaign and encourages others to give back to the hospitals and care teams that have been relentless in the pursuit of providing the best local care possible.



Alec McKay, VHF’s Associate Director, Development and Fundraising Operations, leads the Foundation’s events, lotteries, and other community giving programs.

He also works closely with our partners at Island Health to implement fundraising campaigns and initiatives. Alec has the honour of showing donors like the Lai Family the impact they are making for patients and care teams within our hospitals.

Thank You for Supporting Royal Jubilee Hospital

Donors Help Raise Over \$139,000 for Emergency Beds on Giving Tuesday

When we began November 30 with a \$24,000 goal to fund two new beds for Royal Jubilee Hospital's Emergency Department, we were confident our giving community would help us get there. But we weren't prepared for the overwhelming support we received on Giving Tuesday.



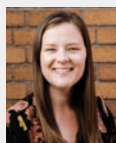
Giving Tuesday match donors, Murray and Lynda Farmer



Thanks to donors, over \$139,000 was raised to fund over 11 hospital beds for the *It's More than Just a Bed* initiative. We were so inspired by the generosity of our community. We are also very grateful to Lynda and Murray Farmer who helped kick off the initiative by personally matching donations up to a total of \$12,000. We couldn't be more proud of the way they championed this initiative and united our donors.

Thank you for helping our hospitals and for embodying the season of giving. You have made a difference. Because truly, a hospital bed is so much more than just a bed. It's the place where healing happens.

As the Foundation's **Marketing & Communications Officer**, **Kelsey Moore** expresses her creativity in a meaningful way that unites our community and helps make local healthcare stronger. Her work plays an important role in initiatives like Giving Tuesday. She says her favourite part of her job is "working with an incredibly passionate and intelligent team!"



A New Lease on Life



Grateful patient and VHF monthly donor, Keith Bateman at his home near Sidney

Keith moved to Victoria with his wife Jean in 1982 to take on the position of Director of Science and Technology at Camosun College. He had originally come to Canada from England in 1957 as an aeronautical engineer to work on the Avro Arrow fighter plane in Toronto.

"When I retired from Camosun College, my dream was to become a flying instructor. But arthritis had set in to my knees, and I gave up flying. I still miss it terribly," says Keith.

His arthritis had started to worsen in 1999, and became more painful as the years passed.

In 2019, his family doctor referred him to a specialist who told him, "Your body may be 85, but you are still a young man inside. You are a perfect candidate for knee replacement surgery. It will give you a new lease on life."

Keith was determined to prove her right. He underwent his first knee replacement in October 2020, and the second in July 2021—both at Royal Jubilee Hospital.

"The care was outstanding. The recovery period is fairly long, but it's gone like a dream. And it certainly has given me a new lease on life," says Keith. "I'm not having any pain at all. I can go up and down stairs. I don't use a cane anymore. I can ride my bicycle as much as I like."

In 2019, **Keith chose to become a VHF monthly donor** because he wanted to ensure he was giving a consistent amount each month that hospitals could count on. He wants others in the community to know that a monthly donation of any size can make a difference for local hospitals and care teams.

"There are such wonderful people working in the hospitals, but it's also incredibly important to make sure that the most advanced technology is available to them and their patients," he says. "It's always about quality of life, isn't it? And trying to provide the highest quality of life possible."

—Keith

Who are our monthly donors? They're people just like you who care deeply about the health of their community. They know that everyone has a connection to our hospitals.

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 850,000 Vancouver Islanders and their families depend on.

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

Celebrating HOSPITAL HEROES WEEK

When the pandemic forced the postponement of our signature *Visions* gala, our loyal sponsors made sure that the impact for our hospitals was maintained. Going even further, they championed **Hospital Heroes Week** in November to acknowledge and support the dedicated care teams at Royal Jubilee, Victoria General, and Gorge Road hospitals.

Read the excerpts below and be inspired by the kind and passionate business community members who stepped up to help show love for those on the front lines. We thank them very much!



Care teams from VGH were treated to a delicious meal from the Greek on the Street food truck last November, all thanks to Coast Capital.

“Coast Capital was delighted to support *Hospital Heroes Week*. We wish to give a virtual standing ovation, with loud shouts of cheers, to the frontline hospital care teams for their dedication and perseverance. The care shown our families, neighbours, co-workers and community is truly a gift not to be taken for granted. Thank you for all the work, care, comfort, attention, cheer, relief, and reassurance you have provided the community, especially through these unprecedented times. While this is a simple thanks, it is given with

genuine appreciation for all the work and time dedicated to keeping us safe.



We are honored for this opportunity to support the Victoria hospitals as part of our community initiatives. Again, as it cannot be said enough, THANK YOU! ”

—Coast Capital



Staff at RJH enjoyed a delicious DeadBeetz burger dinner thanks to Thrifty Foods.



“Thrifty Foods has long been a supporter of the Victoria Hospitals Foundation. We couldn’t ask for a better partner in supporting the health of our customers, teammates, and communities. We have always appreciated our local hospitals and the hospital heroes who provide such excellent care, and these challenging times have served as a reminder of just how critical our healthcare heroes are to the well-being of our communities.

We know that, unfortunately, we and those we love may someday need to rely on frontline hospital care teams. Our hospitals support our children, our most vulnerable, our neighbours, our teammates, and their families. We are honoured to play our small part in supporting the work our Victoria hospitals do day in and day out and we thank our hospital heroes for the amazing care they provide each and every day. ”

—Thrifty Foods





Brown Bros.’ Shannon Kowalko shares the love with R/JH caregivers with a coffee and a treat.

“Through the past 20 months, and always, we have recognized and are so proud of the tremendous work our Hospital Heroes provide 24/7. We truly believe that giving today will mean the future of hospital care is brighter and a little less strained.

From the Brown Bros. family, THANK YOU to all HOSPITAL HEROES. We see you.”

—Brown Bros.



Celebrating HOSPITAL HEROES WEEK



“Cerner is excited to journey into the future together with Island Health, as we connect patients, physicians, and other care team members using new tools and technologies through VIHA’s IHealth program to deliver the vision of one person, one record, one plan for health and care.”

—Cerner



“Coastal Community Credit Union would like to say ‘Thank you!’ to all of our healthcare workers. You’ve been working so hard and given up so much, showing up day after day to help save lives and keep us safe. We really appreciate all of the sacrifices you continue to make, from family time to a good night’s sleep.”



Coastal Community’s Paula Blazina helps recognize R/JH staff & care teams.

—Coastal Community Credit Union

“On behalf of many kind and generous people at the heart of our Maximus Canada team, we share our deepest thanks and appreciation. We’re proud to support *Hospital Heroes Week* and celebrate our sincere gratitude for the incredible work that our local doctors, nurses, and caregivers continue to provide—every day.



Maximus Canada’s Michael MacDougall rewards VGH staff with a voucher for coffee.

Congratulations, Hospital Heroes!™

—Maximus Canada



Thank You to All of Our Hospital Heroes Week Sponsors!

April Dorey Hartwig



As VHF’s Development Coordinator, Jasmere Dhillon works closely with individual (peer-to-peer) fundraisers and community event organizers to create successful and inspiring fundraising initiatives. Through her passion for inspiring philanthropy in our community, she also supports the Island Health employee Payday Lotto program, as well as annual galas like *Visions*, and connects with donors to help recognize the amazing work of our hospital staff through Caring Spirit and tribute donations.

→ Find out how your business can help support the work of our Hospital Heroes: victoriahf.ca/create-your-own-fundraiser/



And to 40+ Local Businesses for Their Donations of Gifts & Services for Our Care Teams!

Foundation Looks to the West Shore, Launches Premiere Healthcare Gala

Engaging a growing community and embracing a return to in-person events is at the heart of VHF's most recent endeavour: a new gala event on the West Shore. The *Miracle on the Mountain* gala, to be held at the newly-renovated Westin Bear Mountain hotel, will celebrate the impact of our hospitals on the greater Victoria and Vancouver Island communities.

Benefitting VGH, the nearest hospital to the growing West Shore, and featuring a cocktail reception, gourmet

four-course dinner, live entertainment, and spectacular silent and live auction packages, *Miracle on the Mountain* promises excitement and glamour. Local care teams and grateful patients will also share their powerful stories from our hospitals' front lines. We hope to see you there!



Miracle on the Mountain Gala

Saturday, May 28th, 2022
Westin Bear Mountain

→ Info & tickets:
mountaingala.ca



Expanding Your Impact Through Research



Thanks to the generosity of donors, VHF has made strategic investments in research, healthcare evaluation, and quality improvement projects across many areas of care at Island Health this year. Highlights include:



Pilot funding through the TD Bank Group to establish the first Vascular Risk & Prevention Clinic at RJH. This multidisciplinary clinic opened in July 2021 under Dr. Christopher Franco's leadership and focuses on advanced cardiovascular prevention. This is the first targeted investment by the Foundation on a health prevention project.



Greatest Need funding allowed a contribution to advance the innovative Hospital at Home project. VHF is funding real-time program evaluation work of this new program that is allowing patients to receive hospital care in the comfort of their home. To date 100% of patients participating in this program have given it positive reviews and would recommend the model which has received international distinction.



The recent *Equipped to Heal* campaign for Mental Health & Substance Use (MHSU) funded two research projects: one developing a program of patient oriented research for acute mental healthcare to improve hospital psychiatric services, and a second project to establish a Research Nurse Coordinator to support clinical trials within MHSU programs.



The *Emerge Stronger* campaign's Innovation phase includes a \$500,000 investment for research. This will support multiple projects across different areas of care including Cardiac Care, Neuroscience & Rehabilitation, and Laboratory Medicine.

→ Help advance research today: victoriahf.ca/research



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

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