



VICTORIA HOSPITALS  
FOUNDATION

# *In*Touch

VHF NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2023

*Miracle on the Mountain Gala*  
Inspires \$790,000  
for Priority MRI  
Imaging Needs

You Helped Raise  
\$10 Million to  
Complete the  
*Emerge Stronger*  
Campaign

New Stories:  
#HumansFirst,  
Monthly Donor,  
Corporate Gifts  
and More!



*Dr. Alan Andrew, Radiologist and Medical  
Director, Island Health Medical Imaging*

## From the Cover:

### Dr. Alan Andrew and Priority Imaging Needs

“At the Victoria Hospitals Foundation’s recent *Miracle on the Mountain Gala*, I was so inspired by donor generosity—generosity that is making a big difference for imaging needs inside our hospitals.

Although the gala has come to a close, the needs in our hospitals do not. You can support me and my team by helping fund the upgrade of an existing MRI machine at Victoria General Hospital. **By replacing outdated machinery with new, best-in-class components, we can achieve the benefits of a brand-new system for a third of the cost.** This innovative approach will preserve the durable magnetic core of the system while completely rebuilding the technology, software, and structure around the magnet.”

—Dr. Alan Andrew

Radiologist and Medical Director,  
Island Health Medical Imaging

→ Read more from Dr. Andrew:  
[victoriahf.ca/dr-andrews-letter](https://victoriahf.ca/dr-andrews-letter)



Dr. Andrew speaking at the  
*Miracle on the Mountain Gala*

## An Incredible Milestone, and a New Journey on the Horizon



Last month, we announced with immense gratitude the completion of the \$10 million *Emerge Stronger* campaign. To have 5,800 of you believe in working with us to transform and advance care for Vancouver Islanders means so much. You funded over 200 pieces of priority equipment, research, and education through this campaign—and you made an impact that will reverberate throughout Royal Jubilee, Victoria General, and Gorge Road hospitals for decades.

I also look back on our second annual *Miracle on the Mountain Gala* on May 13, which **raised an incredible \$790,000 to support the upgrade of an MRI at Victoria General Hospital.** We had set a goal of \$500,000, but gala guests, event sponsors, volunteers, and the West Shore community came out determined to make an impact. And that, they certainly did.

The work we continue to do with you supports our caregivers, patients, and hospitals as a whole—they are our *why*. As we look to the future, it is imperative that we ensure we can support our hospitals with their most urgent needs, and impact as many patients as possible. And it is important that our focus also remains on our caregivers, who have given us so much, especially in the last three years.

Right now, our equipment focus is imaging needs—specifically, revolutionizing MRI technology at Victoria General Hospital. We also know that by supporting education and lessening the financial barriers on hospital staff to advance their careers, it can make a big difference with retention. We have brilliant care teams, and we want to help them advance their career goals within Vancouver Island hospitals.

It is my hope that we can continue to be the catalysts that keep our hospitals equipped with the latest technology and recognize the care teams that work within them, for the ultimate betterment of our community.

**Thank you for showing up, again and again,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Averly Brohman".

Avery Brohman  
CEO, Victoria Hospitals Foundation

# Thank You For Raising **\$10 Million** and Completing the **Emerge Stronger Campaign!**

In just 18 months, **more than 5,800 members of our community came together to raise \$10 million**, completing the *Emerge Stronger* campaign!

Donations small and large to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation are making an incredible impact, and will support the funding of over 200 pieces of priority equipment, innovative research, and education. Together, you helped our hospitals adapt to evolving changes, supported our talented care teams, enabled more

patients to access care close to home, and fueled our researchers as they innovated towards a brighter, healthier future.

Thank you to every donor, caregiver, spokesperson, local business, and volunteer that helped achieve this important milestone—your generosity is making a difference for Victoria General and Royal Jubilee hospitals, the referral sites that care for all 860,000+ of us on Vancouver Island.

**\$10 MILLION RAISED**

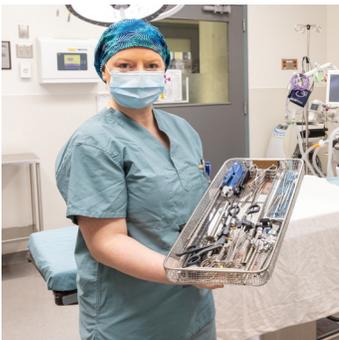
**5,800 GENEROUS DONORS**

**3 HOSPITALS SUPPORTED**

**200+ EQUIPMENT PIECES FUNDED**

**5 INNOVATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS FUNDED**

## Here are just a few of the ways you have made an impact:



Four new gynecological surgical sets. Every year, VGH performs approximately 2,600 gynecological surgeries.



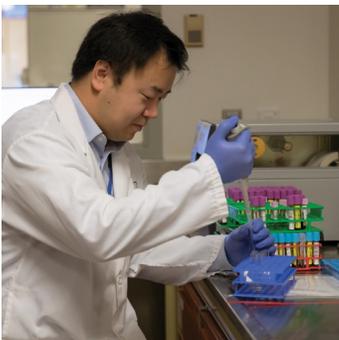
Two new nerve monitoring systems to benefit patients undergoing ENT surgeries and head/neck procedures.



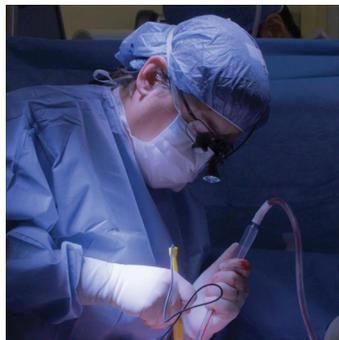
An O-Arm imaging system to advance local neurosurgery and keep brain and spinal surgical patients close to home.



A new Automated Chemistry Line to support the over 3 million annual tests performed within Island Health.



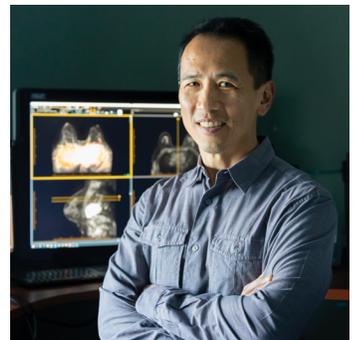
Research to develop a technique to identify respiratory pathogens in pneumonia patients in a single hour.



Mitral valve surgical instruments that will introduce a new, minimally-invasive cardiac surgery option.



A new retinal laser for ophthalmologists to use during repairs to retinal tears and retina detachments.



New breast imaging software to improve detection of breast cancer. Almost 15,000 procedures are performed at VGH yearly.

**Thank you for helping our hospitals emerge stronger!**

# Miracle on the MOUNTAIN Gala

## West Shore Gala Raises \$790,000

On Saturday, May 13, our supporters united at the second annual *Miracle on the Mountain Gala* to elevate hospital care on the West Shore. **Together, 300 guests gave \$790,000 by pledging generous gifts, bidding on auction items, and participating in a raffle.** It was a night to remember.

Funds raised at the gala is supporting the upgrade of an existing MRI machine at Victoria General Hospital. The upgrade involves striping the system down to its durable magnetic core and then completely rebuilding the technology and structure around the magnet. Since Victoria General and Royal Jubilee hospitals perform about 2,000 MRI exams every month on patients of all

ages and areas of care, revolutionizing this machine will significantly advance local healthcare.

We experienced a profound sense of community at the gala—and remarkable generosity. **We recognize Don and Ruth James for pledging an extraordinary \$250,000 to the cause, Clint and Carole Forster for a remarkable \$100,000, and Larry and Estelle Boulet for an exciting \$50,000.** You all inspired the room that night.

Thank you to all donors, caregivers, sponsors, spokespeople, and volunteers who made the event so magical. If you missed the gala, you may join the cause by helping to continue to fund the MRI project.

→ Donate to medical imaging: [victoriahf.ca/imaging](https://victoriahf.ca/imaging)



## Thank You to Our Presenting Sponsor

Engel & Völkers Vancouver Island, Ratcliff Group first led the way for the *Miracle on the Mountain Gala* in 2022, as the presenting sponsor of the inaugural gala—a title they will hold for the next five years. They have pledged an inspiring \$165,000 in support of this West Shore event, and the cause it benefits.

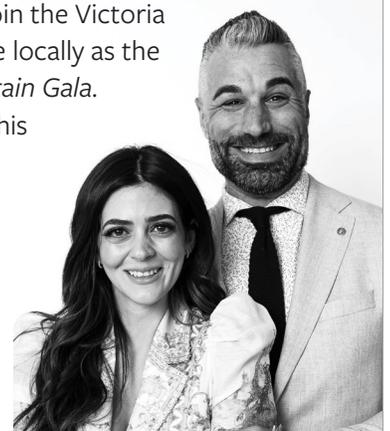


**ENGEL & VÖLKERS**  
RATCLIFF GROUP

“ We are committed to strengthening the communities we call home—this is why we’ve pledged \$165,000 to join the Victoria Hospitals Foundation in transforming healthcare locally as the presenting sponsor of the *Miracle on the Mountain Gala*. The overwhelming support the event received this year is a perfect testament to the generosity of the West Shore. We are proud to be part of supporting and celebrating caregivers and hospital care in Victoria. ”

— Lewis & Amy Ratcliff

Engel & Völkers Vancouver Island, Ratcliff Group



# Gala Impact: Supporting Local Patients & Imaging Needs

“Odette was born in the early hours of October 15, 2021. After a few minutes on my chest, she was taken to the NICU. A geneticist at Victoria General Hospital diagnosed her with achondroplasia dwarfism. **Odette was only a day old when she had her first MRI scan, which marked the beginning of a very long care journey for our family.**”



*Sophie*

Public servant, mother, and pediatric care advocate

→ Scan the QR code or visit [victoriahf.ca/odette](https://victoriahf.ca/odette) to learn how important MRI imaging is for patients like Odette and her family.

## Thank You to All Our *Miracle on the Mountain Gala* Sponsors



“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.” —**Viking Group**



“RBC is proud to partner with the Victoria Hospitals Foundation to elevate care in the region. By supporting events like the *Miracle on the Mountain Gala*, we are investing in the health and well-being of our community, and ensuring that patients receive the highest level of care possible. This partnership is important for the community because it helps to fund vital equipment, facilities, and programs that improve healthcare outcomes for patients in the Victoria area.” —**Martin Thibodeau, Regional President, RBC**



Bilston Creek Farm | Colonial Countertops | French Kiss Events | Global Health Management | Maxxam Insurance  
Roll Focus | Sheringham Distillery | Trend Décor | Unsworth Vineyards | Victory Media | VitaminLab

**And thank you to 60+ businesses and individuals for their auction and raffle donations.**

# EMERGENCY

## #HumansFirst: Molly's Story



Growing up, I didn't know much about nursing. But when I saw the pediatric intensive care nurses taking care of my ten-year-old brother Bruce after he was in an ATV accident, I was just blown away by how intelligent and capable they were, and I thought maybe this was something I would like doing. A year after the accident, I decided to apply to nursing school.

**I think being human is acting like my mom and dad and caring for people and treating others well**—and that's why I love being a nurse. Growing up with parents who are doctors and seeing them give their long-time

patients compassionate care—I don't know if I could be fulfilled by another job where I'm not interacting with and helping people. I think I was just meant to work in healthcare. Even if I won the lottery, I don't think I would be able to stop doing this.

—*Molly Constantine*

Registered Nurse, Emergency Department, Victoria General Hospital; bookworm, optimist, sister, daughter, wife, mother, human

→ Read more of Molly's story: [victoriahf.ca/molly-hf](http://victoriahf.ca/molly-hf)

## #humansfirst

#HumansFirst is a social media campaign that shares the authentic stories of our local caregivers and hospital staff. These stories remind us that those inside our hospitals also have full lives outside of them. They are humans first, who put other humans first—and, like all of us, they have a story to tell.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to read more #HumansFirst stories:

 @VictoriaHF

 @ourvichospitals

## One Monthly Donor's Inspiring Drive to Make a Positive Impact

VHF monthly donor and Victoria resident Edward was born in Victoria. As an adult, he served in several post-World War II peacekeeping missions around the world with his wife, who was a nurse. When the couple eventually returned to Victoria, his wife took on a position as a public health nurse, and cared for patients at Eric Martin Pavilion at Royal Jubilee Hospital for a number of years.

**"I realize how important the hospitals are and the work they do.** It has very much been a part of my life to make sure I understand the need here, and the Island population is growing like a weed. I like to know what's going on in the world, and where I can support and help make a difference—and Victoria means a lot to me," says Edward.

Though his wife passed away nine years ago, Edward

continues his philanthropy in honour of her generous and compassionate spirit.

"It's all about the importance of giving back. We have a responsibility to each other, and it should be a pleasure to be able to give back if we are in a good position to do so," says Edward. "There needs to be compassion, understanding, and generosity in the world right now, and the knowledge that, often, there is something we can do to help."



Monthly donors are people just like you who care deeply about the health of our community. Whether you give \$10, \$25, or \$100 each month, your commitment as a monthly donor supports the greatest needs in our hospitals, and creates a lasting legacy for healthcare.

→ Become a monthly donor: [victoriahf.ca/monthly-donation](http://victoriahf.ca/monthly-donation)

## Remembering a Loving Husband: Carol Navickas's Story

Carol and her husband Ed grew their careers and put down their roots in Calgary. When they retired, they were looking for a change of pace, and made the move to Vancouver Island, where they fell in love with Victoria.

"I've never seen Ed as happy as he was living here in Victoria," says Carol. "He golfed any day of the week he wanted. We made friends and those friends have introduced us to even more friends—it's been so great."

Ed was diagnosed with valvular heart disease in 2003. In 2020, it became clear that a previous surgical repair to Ed's mitral valve was failing and that it would need to be replaced with a mechanical valve. This was a very delicate surgery, and although it was initially successful, Ed sadly passed away three weeks later due to complications.

In Ed's memory, Carol has committed to making significant contributions to cardiac care in our Victoria hospitals.

**"Ed and I had talked about the legacy we wanted to leave," Carol says. "Heart disease also runs in my family. Both my mom and my dad had heart issues in their later years, so it just seemed to be a cause that spoke to us both."**

Royal Jubilee Hospital is the referral centre for cardiac care on Vancouver Island, facilitating over 6,300 cardiac procedures every year. Carol is pleased to be giving back in a way that will benefit so many lives in our community.

"Calgary is my roots, but Victoria is home. Ed and I strongly believe in supporting the community that has supported us, and we have been fortunate enough

to have the means to do so," she says. "Our hope was that we could really make an impact, and I believe that by contributing to our hospitals, we are doing just that."



→ Make a gift in memory of a loved one:  
[victoriahf.ca/memorial-donation](https://victoriahf.ca/memorial-donation)

## Generations of Giving: Eric & Julie Findlay's Story

In 1984, Mr. Will Sheret donated \$250 to Victoria General Hospital on behalf of Andrew Sheret Limited, marking the beginning of what is now a 40-year relationship between the plumbing and heating supply company and the Victoria Hospitals Foundation.



As a medical student prior to joining Andrew Sheret Limited, Will knew the importance of supporting healthcare in our local community. This is a value his grandchildren, Eric and Julie Findlay—now fourth generation family operators of the company—carry with them to this day.

"Since we are a family business, it makes a lot of sense to give back to the communities that we participate in," says Eric. "It's those communities that have allowed us to run a successful business and have this longevity."

As they sought out ways to give back, Eric and Julie continued to support Victoria hospitals through the Foundation because of their wide-reaching impact.

"Our hospitals serve so many, and likely everyone will need them at some point," says Eric. "It's a tangible cause, and one that's ongoing. Giving back helps strengthen the community, and we want to contribute to something that benefits everyone in an ongoing way."

Since 1984, Andrew Sheret Limited has donated repeatedly to our local hospitals. **Eric and Julie recognize how a gift can inspire others, and want to encourage other businesses to join them in strengthening the communities that help make their success possible.**

"It's impactful when a local business gives back. I think we all understand that businesses go through both positive and difficult times—but in those positive times, that's when we can make a difference."



## Cultivating Caregiver Education

In all that we do lately, there is not a day that goes by when we don't think of our care teams.

**Inspiring donors have come forward to fuel an exciting new scholarship for Island Health staff, the Heather Simpson Scholarship Fund.** This scholarship aims to financially support care team members and hospital staff who are committed to advancing their careers in the healthcare industry by funding 50% of their annual tuition.

We invite our community to support further educational opportunities for our hospital caregivers and professionals. Through your giving, you will touch the lives of our care teams—and the patients they serve.



→ Make a gift to caregiver education:  
[victoriahf.ca/education](http://victoriahf.ca/education)

## Thank You 50/50 Raffle Players and Sponsors!

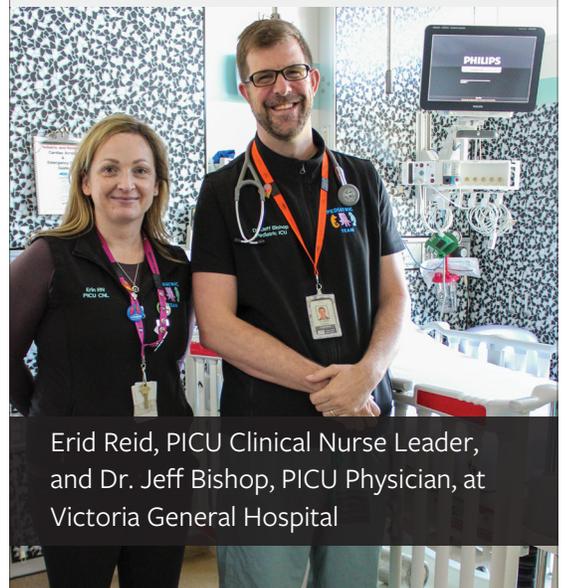
Thank you to all players of our recent *Pediatrics 50/50 Raffle*. Your support has propelled the funding of new specialized pediatric equipment to advance the work of our talented local care teams.

Thank you to Abstract Developments for making this raffle possible.

Presenting Sponsor:



→ Jackpot and winner details:  
[VHFLottery.ca](http://VHFLottery.ca)



Erid Reid, PICU Clinical Nurse Leader, and Dr. Jeff Bishop, PICU Physician, at Victoria General Hospital



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### Victoria Hospitals Foundation

Wilson Block | 1952 Bay St  
 Victoria BC V8R 1J8  
[victoriahf.ca](http://victoriahf.ca) | [vhf@islandhealth.ca](mailto:vhf@islandhealth.ca)

📞 250-519-1750 | 📠 250-519-1751

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