



VICTORIA HOSPITALS
FOUNDATION

*In*Touch

VHF NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2024

**Inside: How champions
in care are in, and all
around, our hospitals**



**Imaging campaign
in the final stretch:
just over \$1 million
left to go!**

—Dr. Ashwin Hegde, Radiologist,
Royal Jubilee and Victoria General hospitals

Your Hospitals, Your Foundation

Dear champions in care,

This edition of our newsletter lands on the heels of our third annual *Miracle on the Mountain* gala—a spectacular night during which history was made, and incredible philanthropy was observed (pages 6-7). Over the course of the weekend, 300+ community members like you joined forces with caregivers, sponsors, auction donors, and volunteers to raise an incredible **\$1 million for our *Imaging is Power* campaign**, propelling the initiative to near the \$10 million of its \$11 million goal (page 3).

It was an extra special night in that it was at the 2023 *Miracle on the Mountain* gala that we first revealed our intentions to transform imaging at Royal Jubilee (RJH) and Victoria General (VGH) hospitals. As our team witnessed the spirit of generosity infuse the room and the Westshore rallying together, we were reminded of how much good our community has done in the past year. The celebration of the campaign, once complete, will be a celebration of our caregivers and donors coming together to elevate imaging in our hospitals, and consequently every patient journey.

This greater good is one we see every day in our hospitals. VGH Auxiliary volunteers who raise funds through their gift shop, and pour it back into the hospital (page 3). Patients who come back to acknowledge the care they received—and the donor-funded equipment that played such a key part in their journeys (page 4). Patients, too, who unassumingly become our greatest allies by leaving their legacy to us—in honour of the caregivers who took such wonderful care of them (page 5). Caregivers who give of their time above the call of duty to bring voice and momentum to a cause that elevates healthcare in our community.

All together, we really can—and do—do so much. **Over the next few months, we look forward to completing *Imaging is Power*, and launching our next initiative that will redefine what's possible in many areas of care.** We will transform the way we provide healthcare right here on the Island. Together.

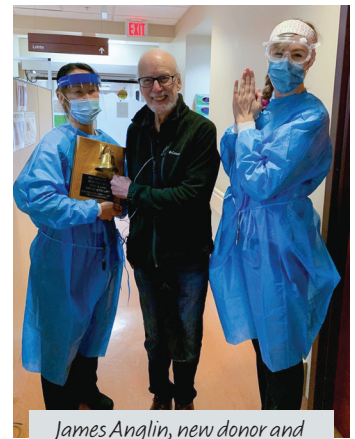


Thank you for being our champions in care.

With sincere gratitude,

Avery Brohman

CEO, Victoria Hospitals Foundation



James Anglin, new donor and campaign spokesperson



Dr. Della Siega, CHEK's Ed Bain, and Foundation CEO Avery Brohman



Dr. McAuley, Urologist and campaign spokesperson

\$1M \$2M \$3M \$4M \$5M \$6M \$7M \$8M \$9M **\$10M** \$11M

Our imaging campaign is in the final stretch: a little over \$1 million left to go!

→ Donate now: victoriahf.ca/imaging

Your **SUPPORT** of Imaging A Powerful Movement of Good

Over the last year, **5,600 of you** (and counting!) have fueled a powerful movement of philanthropy. With almost **\$10 million raised** of the *Imaging is Power's* \$11 million goal, we are so close to revolutionizing imaging for Islanders. Together we are bringing the following new equipment to our hospitals:



MRI installation in progress at RJH



3 MRI machines transformed
→ Update:
installation in progress



1 cardiac C-arm replaced
→ Update:
installation in fall 2024



1 CT scanner replaced
→ Update:
installation in summer 2024



1 net new SPECT/CT scanner
→ this is a powerful tool for cancer patients



Alex Miller with photo of his late wife, Betty

Sincere gratitude to Alex Miller for a touching gift of \$1 million, in memory of his late wife

“Since Betty was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2017, and passed away from the disease in 2021, myself and other loved ones have increasingly recognized the critical importance of medical imaging in early disease detection. This gift is a continuation of Betty’s commitment to serving others; I know that it will make a difference to people’s lives and will help many for years to come.”

– Alex Miller, Oak Bay Resident
victoriahf.ca/miller

Thank you to the Victoria General Hospital Auxiliary for a generous \$250,000 pledge

“This pledge is a true gift from the community: our volunteers who give of their time of course, but also every visitor that has supported our gift shop. The teddy bear you bought may have just helped fund new MRI technology for VGH—thank you.”

– Cindy McInnes, President of the Victoria General Hospital Auxiliary
victoriahf.ca/auxiliary



Cindy McInnes, VGH Auxiliary President with Shirley Holmes, Auxiliary volunteer



Andrea and Satnam Lalli, CHEK segment matching donors

Cheers to 728 donors who raised \$108,000+ for cardiac care alongside the CHEK Upside Guys

“Thank you for tuning in and supporting our work time and time again. A special thank you to Andrea and Satnam Lalli from Pharmasave Broadmead for inspiring donations with a \$50,000 gift.”

– Dr. Anthony Della Siega, Section Head, Interventional Cardiology

YourIMPACT

Donor-Funded Equipment Saves Local Grandfather

What began as a hunting trip on a picturesque November day in 2022, turned out to be a life-defining event for John Burkard and his grandson Carter.

The two were travelling in an all-terrain vehicle along an isolated logging road at Lake Cowichan. While they

were maneuvering through a turn along the narrow road, the quad's throttle jammed at high speed in reverse, sending them backwards down an embankment.

Carter managed to get out of the vehicle, but John ended up trapped underneath with severe injuries. The 13-year-old rescued



John with his partner, Kim

his grandfather from under the quad and helped him up the embankment before signalling for help through a GPS tracking service.

As the two waited for help, John's breathing became restricted. "I was badly hurt and didn't know how it was going to end. I had a discussion with Carter that whatever happened, it wasn't his fault."

When paramedics arrived, John was immediately placed on a transport ventilator to sustain his breathing—an equipment tool funded by donors to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation.

Paramedics swiftly transported John to a waiting air ambulance, which flew him to VGH, the referral centre for trauma patients on the Island. Upon arrival, John's condition was critical. He had suffered a fractured jaw, a broken back, several broken ribs, and extensive facial lacerations, including a punctured eye.

"They took him straight into the trauma centre," says Kim Farndon, John's partner. "We got to see him after a few hours, but then he had to be transferred to RJH for facial reconstruction surgery." Unfortunately, the severity of his injuries resulted in John losing his right eye.

Over the next 31 days, John would endure multiple surgeries, five transfers between hospitals, and two weeks in a state of unconsciousness. Each step of his journey was thoughtfully guided by compassionate hospital

care teams, caring family members, and a community of dedicated donors who generously ensure our hospitals are equipped with leading-edge tools for our skilled care teams. **In cases like John's, the transport ventilator plays an essential role in ensuring patients are safely transferred between hospitals and within various areas of care at each hospital.**

Throughout his lengthy stay in the intensive care unit at RJH, John remained positive. "The care there was so fantastic, I was never really worried about my condition. I couldn't write for a while and my jaw was wired shut for six weeks, so I couldn't really talk. But everybody in the hospital understood exactly what was going on, and I felt confident and reassured that I was going to be out of there."

Last year, the family celebrated Carter receiving a Good Samaritan Award from B.C. Emergency Health Services for his courageous actions to save his grandfather. Now, 18 months after the accident, John, who will be turning 70 this year, is back to doing most things he enjoys in life.

Reflecting on his journey, John has nothing but praise for the team involved in his rescue and recovery—from his courageous grandson to the staff at the call centres, the emergency responders, and the hospital care teams.



Demonstration of the transport ventilator in ambulance

"It was very impressive how everything came together. It's a well-organized, amazing system. When you are hurt and there's an emergency, you are number one, and that is truly amazing."

John also acknowledges the support of the unseen heroes along the journey—the donors in our community who fund 40% of equipment in each area of care at our hospitals.

"It's important to recognize that this equipment is needed desperately in situations like I was in. I wouldn't have survived without it. I am eternally grateful."

→ Read more stories like John's:
victoriahf.ca/your-stories

Honouring CHAMPIONS in Care

The Foundation is surrounded by thousands of champions in care: donors, volunteers, and caregivers. Every champion has a story, and we are grateful to be a part of them.



Grateful patient gives back everything

Elmer Kramczan loved photography, Bernese Mountain dogs, and woodworking—just like his father who had been a carpenter. He was proud to live in Victoria, down the street from RJH.

The Foundation got to know Elmer well this winter. In his final days of a hard-fought fight against cancer, Elmer shared his immense gratitude for the hospital care he and his father had received over the last fifty years in their respective fights against cancer. He was complimentary of every caregiver in his journey, sharing, “Every time I have walked out of Royal Jubilee Hospital, I have left with new friends.” Two of these very good friends were Dr. Iain McAuley and Dr. Mike Metcalfe.

Elmer passed away on Monday, April 22, 2024, after being baptized at the hospital. He made the altruistic decision to gift his estate—everything he had—in honour of the care he received. His legacy will live on at RJH.



Caregiver gives back in a profound way

As a medical speech pathologist in the outpatient program at RJH, Meara Brown specializes in voice restoration for laryngectomies. The ability to communicate is vitally important to a person’s quality of life. Meara shares, “The best part of my job is when I can get a person who is struggling to communicate

following surgery, to have a voice once more; it’s beautiful.”

Recently, Meara has been thinking about the future, and has decided to include the Foundation in her estate planning. “Charitable giving is really important to me, and I want to leave funds with an organization that has patient care at its heart. The Victoria Hospitals Foundation focuses time and time again on what works for our community; it always comes back to the patient-centred, person-centred perspective.”

→ Learn more about estate giving:
victoriahf.ca/will-and-estates/



Donor gives back in more ways than one

Bette French and her late husband, Jack, have been donors to the Foundation for a number of years. After Jack’s passing, Bette joined the Foundation as an in-office volunteer, calling donors to share our gratitude for their generous support.

When asked what our hospitals mean to Bette, she shared: “Everything. We are so lucky to have such dedicated healthcare professionals in our hospitals. Even with the challenges that they face every day—the caring provided is unsurpassed. My husband had the very best of care while in hospital and couldn’t say enough great things about them. He was very grateful to live in a city with excellent facilities.”

Bette deeply appreciates that “the funds raised here, stay here. Helping people from not only Victoria but all over the Island.”

→ Learn more about volunteering for the Foundation:
victoriahf.ca/volunteer



Caregiver is recognized by her peers

Karlyn Langridge was more than just a coworker; she was a cherished friend and a source of inspiration to all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her compassion and commitment to helping her community were evident from the beginning of her career and set her on a course

towards diagnostic medical sonography.

In 2020, Karlyn brought her passion and expertise to Victoria, where she joined the team at RJH. In her role, Karlyn met and scanned thousands of Victorians and was known to make everyone feel at ease. Her positive influence extended far beyond the confines of the hospital.

Tragically, Karlyn’s journey was cut short while on vacation with her beloved partner Colin in December of 2023. Her memory lives on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her—including her colleagues at RJH.

Written by her colleague, Monita

→ Read Karlyn’s full story: victoriahf.ca/karlyn

Miracle on the MOUNTAIN Gala



Victoria Hospitals Foundation team members, donor Craig Mearns, Radiologist Dr. John Hickie, Westshore champion Stew Young, and Gala Committee Chair Amy Ratcliff

On Saturday, May 25, our supporters united at the third annual *Miracle on the Mountain* gala to elevate hospital care on the Westshore. Community members joined forces to support funds for a new CT scanner at VGH, as part of the *Imaging is Power* campaign.

The community stood tall—first, in a standing ovation for **Craig Mearns who started the night with a \$500,000 gift to inspire the room**. Then, throughout the evening, as guests, donors, and local businesses helped us reach a **preliminary event total of \$956,000**. And finally, the Westshore showed up in force: in wishing to ensure the match would be fully met, **Stew Young rallied business leaders to help us achieve the \$1 million mark**.

“This final total is a tribute to the incredible philanthropists in our community, and a pure reflection of the Westshore’s generous nature. Seeing donors, caregivers, sponsors, and volunteer committee members united for the greater good of the community—during the gala, and immediately following it—is quite simply remarkable,” shares **Avery Brohman, Victoria Hospitals Foundation CEO**. “We know that the strongest hospitals across Canada have the strongest philanthropy, and what we have done for our imaging department at VGH is powerful and transformative. It is a great privilege to be witness to such intentional philanthropy.”

Craig Mearns’ generous donation match sparked a feeling of philanthropy and inspired many to donate, both in the room that night, and throughout the community over the course of the weekend.

“I’m honoured to support our local hospitals, and grateful to be able to amplify the impact we can all have as a community,” says **local donor Craig Mearns**. “I believe in the Foundation’s mission and the work they do to advance care for all Islanders. I look forward to continuing to support the incredible work done in our local hospitals. It’s so important that we all give to ensure our hospitals have the best technology and latest equipment. We are all better for it.”

We are grateful for this momentous show of generosity.



Dr. Iain McAuley with James Anglin

Miracle on the Mountain Steering Committee, joined by Foundation CEO Avery Brohman and donor Craig Mearns

Donor Craig Mearns

Emcee A.J. Cruze

A NOTE FROM OUR SPONSORS!

“ We are honoured to support the Victoria Hospitals Foundation, knowing that our contributions enhance patient care, equip our caregivers with advanced tools, and strengthen the community we proudly call home. Supporting a cause greater than ourselves and our business brings us immense pride, as it benefits us all.”

– Amy and Lewis Ratcliff,
Ratcliff Group



Amy and Lewis Ratcliff
5-year presenting sponsors

“ Supporting Miracle on the Mountain and the Victoria Hospitals Foundation is so important. By investing in healthcare and community initiatives, we empower progress, inspire hope, and make a lasting impact on lives. Together, we can create a healthier tomorrow for everyone.”

– Martin
Thibodeau,
Regional
President, RBC



Carmen Stossel, Kelly Bissell, Martin
Thibodeau, and Annette Sabourin

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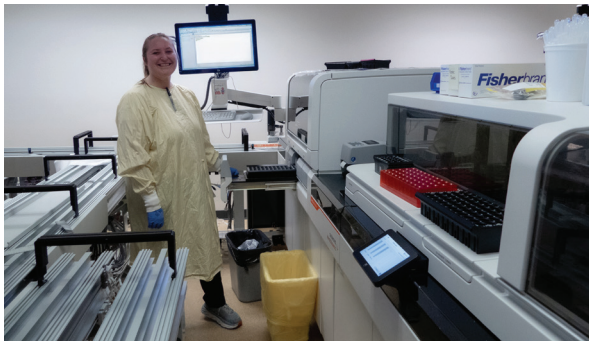


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Champions IN AND AROUND Our Hospitals

Chemistry Line



Jessica Lervold, Lab Technologist, in front of Chemistry Line

DONOR IMPACT: The new donor-funded automated Chemistry Line is being installed at Royal Jubilee Hospital. The Chemistry Line is the most used piece of equipment in all of Island Health, providing vital and time-sensitive lab testing analyses. Thanks to those who donated to our *Emerge Stronger* campaign, the new system, costing \$2,230,000, has replaced a 20-year-old machine.

“An updated automated Chemistry Line will help increase efficiencies and result in an improved care journey for our patients, especially those who come through our Emergency Departments and spend time in our Intensive Care Units.”

– Dr. Omar Ahmad, Intensivist, RJH and VGH

Scan the QR code to discover grateful patient Sara's story, and the power of the Chemistry Line.



Uplands Golf Tournament



Since 1978, Uplands Golf Club, its members, and local golfers have played an integral role in advancing cardiac care on Vancouver Island through the Annual Heart Golf Tournament. **With over \$3.3 million in cumulative support, the impact of the tournament has been profound.** The funds have supported Royal Jubilee Hospital's Cardiac Centre of Excellence, with equipment such as a heart-lung bypass machine, cardiac operating room tables, bedside cardiac monitors, external pacemakers, defibrillator monitors, and other life-saving equipment.

A special thanks to the Uplands Golf Club and their members, as well as this year's Committee co-chairs Karen Krysa, Kathy Thomson, Richard Brownsey, and Jim Weaver.

Presented by Peninsula Co-Op, the 2024 47th Men's and Women's Tournaments are being hosted this July.

Learn more by visiting: victoriahf.ca/ugcheart



For exclusive updates from us, join our emailing list by contacting: VHFCommunications@islandhealth.ca

Thank You For Being Our Champion



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