



Supporting
Exceptional Healthcare
For Future Generations



VICTORIA HOSPITALS
FOUNDATION



A Proud History Of Innovative Healthcare On Vancouver Island

For over a century, **Royal Jubilee Hospital (RJH)** and **Victoria General Hospital (VGH)** have been beacons of hope and healing, where skilled medical professionals dedicate themselves to the well-being of others. These are places where leading-edge medical technology and compassionate care come together to help patients recover and move forward, places where generations of Vancouver Island patients have come to seek care and be cared for.

In 1890, RJH was the first hospital built on the Island to serve the rapidly growing city of Victoria. In 1983, VGH was built to keep pace with the city's growing need for comprehensive hospital care, including specialties like pediatrics and neuroscience. Today, RJH and VGH are the leading acute care and referral centres on Vancouver Island.

The Victoria Hospitals Foundation (VHF) has a long history working hand-in-hand

with our community, turning generosity into life-changing support for our referral hospitals. **Since 1989, donors have raised over \$200 million to fund strategic priorities and invest in innovative technology to equip our hospitals with the latest advancements and research developments—all of which strengthen both our healthcare facilities and our community.**

Today, VHF continues to work with donors to champion a culture of philanthropy that transforms healthcare for all 930,000+ residents living on Vancouver Island.

By including the Foundation in your legacy planning, you are ensuring that patients from every corner of Vancouver Island receive the care they need while also supporting the dedicated healthcare teams who serve them. Your gift will leave a lasting legacy, transforming healthcare and enriching the lives of Island residents for generations to come.

A Gift In Your Will Makes A Lasting Impact



A gift in your will fuels groundbreaking research and innovation.

Innovation and discovery drive healthcare forward. With your support, groundbreaking research takes flight—leading to new treatments and life-changing discoveries.



A gift in your will keeps our hospitals at the forefront of leading-edge care.

From purchasing state-of-the-art equipment, to enhancing labs and operating rooms, to attracting some of Canada's top medical talent, your thoughtful giving keeps our hospitals at the forefront of excellence.



A gift in your will ensures your values live on, making a lasting impact for generations to come.

As you establish your own legacy, your gift will ensure that all Islanders have access to excellent patient care. Your legacy gift will equip our hospitals with state-of-the-art equipment to drive innovative discoveries and ensure patients receive world-class care when they need it most.



“**Through dedicated caregivers, best-in-class equipment, and strategic initiatives, our hospitals are committed to delivering the highest standard of care for our Island community—the same calibre of care found in the country’s most specialized hospitals.**

Standing alongside them, our Foundation and our family of donors are dedicated to continually elevating that care through bold, forward-thinking initiatives.

In recent years, we have witnessed the profound impact of our community's generosity on our hospitals. We now stand at a pivotal moment in our mission to provide exceptional healthcare for all Vancouver Islanders. This journey requires vision, commitment, and the support of those who believe in a healthier future.

Just as past generations paved the way for today's most innovative programs and progress in our hospitals, the choices we make now, will shape the future of healthcare. I have seen firsthand the extraordinary impact of estate gifts—fueling research, innovation, and patient care. Together, we can create a lasting legacy of excellence and ensure a brighter, healthier future for generations to come.”

Avery Brohman

CEO, Victoria Hospitals Foundation

RJH and VGH
have a long
history of
innovative
achievements
that have
transformed
patient lives.



1889



Cornerstone laid for the original RJH. This 20-acre site was purchased for \$6,702.

1891



RJH School of Nursing opens.

1904



280 operations are performed in RJH's first operating room, establishing the hospital as a leading surgical site in BC.

1968



Dr. Fouad Ahmed Hamdi makes history, performing the first spinal cord replacement surgery in Canada.

1981



The first angioplasty in western Canada is performed inside the RJH Cardiac Unit, marking just the second time the procedure has been done in Canada.

1983



VGH opens in View Royal, specializing in pediatrics and neuroscience.

2003



The Stroke Rapid Assessment Unit (SRAU) is established at VGH, providing an innovative, specialized, and time-efficient approach to diagnosing and treating stroke patients.

2014



RJH becomes the first hospital in North America to operationalize a donor-funded, fully automated microbiology lab.

2017



The donor-funded Neil and Susan Manning Cognitive Health Initiative launches for dementia care with the opening of the Island's first Specialist Memory Clinic at RJH.

2023



The first minimally invasive mitral valve repair surgery on Vancouver Island is performed at RJH.

2024



A donor-funded MRI refurbishment is unveiled, a first in Canada, using revolutionary AI technology and innovation.

2025



RJH becomes the second hospital in BC to perform surgery with a da Vinci Surgical Robot. Donor funding is further advancing minimally invasive surgery.



GAYLE'S STORY

Honouring Family And Community

“It makes me feel good to know I’m helping other people, and I think my parents would be really happy to know I’m doing this. There are so many different charities out there, but this is one of the best ones to support because it touches so many peoples’ lives.”

As an only child in Esquimalt, Gayle fondly remembers riding bikes and building forts at Saxe Point. She loved building rafts, swimming, and playing at Fleming Beach with her friends. “Saxe Point was also one of my parents’ favourite spots when they got older,” says Gayle. “They would walk down and sit on a certain bench, and that bench is still there today.”

When Gayle’s mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease, she started to experience frequent falls and was admitted to Royal Jubilee Hospital. She was 91 years old. Gayle’s father, who was 87, then made the difficult decision to place her mother in long-term care at Gorge Road Hospital, where he visited her every day. They had been married for 67 years.

Just five months after her mother’s passing, Gayle noticed some concerning symptoms in her father, including loss of coordination

and forgetfulness. Soon after, he was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer at Royal Jubilee Hospital.

“Two weeks later, the doctor called and said he likely wouldn’t last the day,” says Gayle. “I went to the hospital and sat with him for an hour and a half. I kissed him on the forehead and told him I loved him, and then I left. When I got down to the parking lot, they called to tell me he had passed.”

Gayle wanted to find a way to honour the care her parents received and made the decision to leave a gift to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation in her will as a tribute to the life they had shared together.

“I really appreciated the care my parents received, and it’s a ‘giving forward’ decision—because, one day, it could be me in there,” says Gayle. “I don’t have children of my own, so I thought, why not leave a legacy?”



Many Ways To Give Many Ways To Make A Profound Impact

Donors fund
40% of the
equipment at
Royal Jubilee
and Victoria
General
hospitals.

Donors choose to make planned gifts in a variety of meaningful ways, each one contributing to the advancement of healthcare on Vancouver Island. Whether by funding leading-edge equipment, supporting innovative research, or directly empowering our dedicated caregivers, these thoughtful gifts are essential in driving progress.

Your planned gift, in any form, plays a crucial role in shaping a healthier, brighter future for patients while also strengthening the care our hospitals will provide for generations to come. If you're considering one of these giving options, we invite you to reach out. We would be honoured to discuss them in greater detail and provide information tailored to your unique needs.

We also encourage you to consult with your legal and financial advisors to ensure your gift aligns with your goals. Thank you for considering a legacy that will transform healthcare through the Victoria Hospitals Foundation.

Ways Donors Give



Giving in your will



Naming VHF as a beneficiary of registered funds (RRSP, RRIFs, TFSA)



Publicly traded securities



Donor advised funds (DAFs)

Other Thoughtful Options



Life insurance



Real estate or personal property



Charitable gift annuity



Charitable remainder trust

Please contact VHF to explore these giving options.

ERNIE'S STORY

A Gift In Peggy's Memory



When Ernie Smyth remembers his wife Peggy, his face lights up at the thought of her smile and her big heart. "She was a wonderful person. Not at all selfish," he says. "She supported me in everything. Peggy was just happy."

Married for an extraordinary 62 years, **Foundation donors** Ernie and Peggy met when they were just 19 and later immigrated to Canada from Ireland. **They raised two sons and spent the last 30 years together on Vancouver Island.** What is the key to a long and happy marriage such as theirs? "Respect for each other," Ernie says, "and enjoying each other's company."

Sadly, Peggy passed away at Royal Jubilee Hospital in 2017. Remembering the understanding and compassionate care of the hospital staff, Ernie knew he wanted to make a gift in her memory.

"We should all give back. I have a wonderful life, and it makes me feel good to give, and it makes my family feel good. That's what my wife would have wanted to do. When you talk about life, it's nice to give back."

Ernie, Planned Giving Donor

Ernie's multi-million-dollar estate donation, which will be received over the next few years, will advance surgery and medical imaging in our hospitals. VHF has gained a deep understanding of Ernie's wishes for his legacy following six years of work on his estate plans, highlighting the significant impact Ernie will have on our hospitals and patients across Vancouver Island.

INSPIRED GIVING

Bette's Legacy Of Love

How a special gift honours her late husband and our local care teams

I can't remember the exact moment we decided to leave a gift to the **Victoria Hospitals Foundation** in our wills. However, **I vividly remember the reason and intention: the exceptional care my husband received in our local hospitals.**

My husband, Jack, passed away from complications with his heart in 2023, and I miss him every day. In the years before, Jack had many hospital visits, and he eventually underwent open-heart surgery. He needed to have a pacemaker to ensure his heart functioned properly. Of course we were always nervous, but more than the worry, I remember how amazed we were by the care he received from the cardiac unit here in Victoria, and how much we trusted the medical teams who looked after him. Jack always said he just felt safe in Victoria, knowing that the hospitals were so close by.

When we decided to update our wills in 2016, we considered how we could best donate money to benefit the greater good in our community. This was incredibly important to us.

My husband was so well taken care of at our local hospitals, and we were so grateful for the care that he received. **When we found out about the Victoria Hospitals Foundation, we knew that it was the only place we could donate to, because it was supporting the two major hospitals in our city and not going anywhere else.**

When Jack stayed in our hospitals, I never came home worrying about him. Even on the day he died, the care he received right up to his last moments was amazing. To champion care together is a great privilege and my purpose in this chapter of my life.



When we found out about the Victoria Hospitals Foundation, we knew that it was the only place we could donate to, because it was supporting the two major hospitals in our city and not going anywhere else.



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e. ”

— **Bette**, VHF Donor & Volunteer



**HOW DO
YOU HELP
EVERYONE?
Help Your
Hospitals.**

**Caring For Today And Caring
For Our Future: Caregivers
Give Back In A Profound Way**

“Charitable giving is really important to me. 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.”

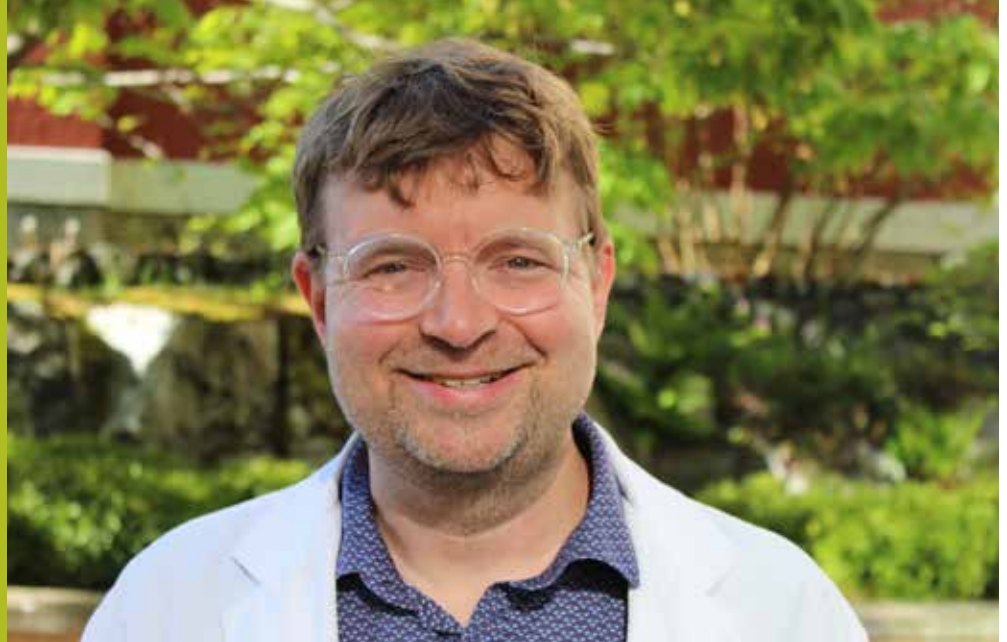
Meara Brown

Speech Language Pathologist,
Royal Jubilee Hospital

VGH and RJH are home to more than 8,900 caregivers, all with one goal in mind: the health and wellness of the 930,000+ residents on Vancouver Island. Every year, these referral hospitals provide comprehensive and emergency care to more than 240,000 patients.

POWERING KNOWLEDGE AND CARE

For All On Vancouver Island



“On behalf of myself and my colleagues, your Radiologists, thank you. Donors are leading the way for better healthcare.”

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

Every day, I see clearer images, faster scan times, shorter wait times, and new procedures, all thanks to donors' commitment to improving care.

Starting as Medical Director for Medical Imaging in February 2020 was a dynamic time in medicine. **It was clear to me very early on that donor support and investment in medical imaging, specifically from a few directed estates, ensured that our hospitals had the imaging tools required for the pandemic.** Since then, donors have brought first-in-Canada technology to Victoria at a third of the cost through the refurbishment of three MRIs at Royal Jubilee and Victoria General hospitals. On top of that, we have also benefited from a new SPECT/CT scanner and a CT scanner for our Island patients. These tools are a significant investment and benefit over 18,000 patients every year.

Inside the walls of our hospitals, medical imaging never stops. Members of the public undergo scheduled scans 24/7, and my colleagues and I are reading scans and getting answers to healthcare providers around the clock. But, at any given time, there are also emergent cases when scans are needed without delay. This is the balance our teams navigate every day.

Often, a care journey begins with an imaging scan. For some patients, these scans can determine a diagnosis or treatment plan, while others might receive the relief of a clear scan. Regardless of the outcome, the information received from the scans is often life-changing.

Vancouver Island's population is estimated to exceed one million in the next decade, and we want to ensure we are strategic and patient-focused as we plan for the future.



WHAT WILL MY LEGACY GIFT ACCOMPLISH?

A gift in your will provides stable funding for strategic priorities and innovative technology. Your gift drives medical advancements and research, strengthening our hospitals and the health of our community.

As we look to the future, the needs of our Island referral hospitals are immense. A gift in your will creates a lasting legacy, ensuring future generations receive world-class care on Vancouver Island.

Every donation is a personal choice—a decision to support our hospitals and the future of healthcare on Vancouver Island. When you choose to leave a gift without restrictions, you are trusting us to make your gift matter and to direct funding to the areas of greatest need, making the biggest impact possible.

- Equip our operating rooms, clinics, and units with the most advanced technology
- Elevate pediatric care for Island kids
- Advance minimally invasive surgery through imaging technology in ORs
- Support research advancements that inform exceptional patient care
- Provide diagnostic equipment that helps treat and manage disease
- Place tools into caregiver hands to ensure our hospitals retain and attract incredible talent



HOW WE RECOGNIZE YOU

We are honoured to celebrate your generosity in a way that reflects your values and leaves a lasting impact. Philanthropy inspires patients, caregivers, and our entire community. By recognizing your contributions on our donor walls and in our annual report, we express our heartfelt gratitude for your exceptional gift and your visionary leadership.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can recognize your gift in a way that is meaningful to you.

You can advance care for the more than 240,000 patients that VGH and RJH care for every year. Philanthropy is the catalyst that funds innovation in our hospitals.

Thanks to donor generosity, RJH is the second hospitals in BC to offer robotics-assisted surgery using the da Vinci Surgical Robot. This is a game changer for patients —prostatectomies used to require a three-to five-night stay in the hospital, and now patients are going home in less than 24 hours.

Donors are making an impact in our hospitals through gifts in their wills:

- Foundation donors funded three MRI refurbishments at RJH and VGH for the cost of one MRI replacement
- Foundation donors funded a new automated chemistry line that performs three million blood sample tests per year
- Mitral valve surgical instruments have enabled a new minimally invasive cardiac surgery for eligible Island patients, which also keeps individuals closer to home
- The introduction of advanced breast imaging software at VGH has enhanced cancer detection for approximately 15,000 breast imaging procedures performed annually

ALL ABOUT WILLS

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a will and how do I leave a gift to charity?

A will is a legal document that ensures your money, property, and possessions are distributed according to your wishes. It allows you to provide for loved ones and support the causes that matter most to you. Adding a charitable gift can be as simple as asking your lawyer to include a clause in your will.

How can I support my loved ones as well as the Victoria Hospitals Foundation?

A will ensures your loved ones are cared for and allows you to decide how your estate is shared among family, friends, and charities. You choose which assets to include and how your estate is allocated. You can also change your mind and update your will at any time if you need to.

Who can leave a gift in their will? I thought I needed to be wealthy or have a big estate.

Most charitable gifts in wills are left by Canadians of average means. You can provide for your loved ones and also leave a lasting impact that will make a difference in the lives of others. No matter the size of your estate, a gift in your will allows you to make a lasting impact for a cause that reflects your values.

How do I know how much I can leave to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation?

Think about your estate as a whole and consider what percentage you wish to leave for loved ones and for charity. These can be in any proportion as long as they add up to 100%.

Are there other ways to leave a gift without changing my will?

In BC you can create a codicil—a legal amendment to your existing will. A codicil allows you to specify a new gift while keeping the rest of your will unchanged. Alternatively, you could name the Victoria Hospitals Foundation as a beneficiary of your RRSP, RRIF, RESP, TFSA, or life insurance policy.

What makes a gift in a will special?

A gift in your will is a powerful way to leave a lasting legacy. Not only are you extending your generosity beyond your lifetime, but often there are financial benefits when you include a gift in your will. A legal or financial advisor can help you reduce the taxes paid on your estate, leaving more money to go directly to your loved ones and charities.

Including a gift in your will to support the Victoria Hospitals Foundation is easier than you may think. This meaningful decision not only reflects your values but also allows you to give back to a cause that matters to you, ensuring exceptional healthcare on Vancouver Island for generations to come.



How Do I Make A Gift To The Victoria Hospitals Foundation In My Will?

Types Of Gifts In Wills And Sample Bequest Wording

Specific Bequest

Your gift will be directed to our hospital's greatest need at the time it is received as determined by the Board of Directors.

I direct my trustees to pay \$_____ to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation, charitable registration # 10793 5637 RR0001, for the general purposes of the Victoria General Hospital or Royal Jubilee Hospital as the Board of Directors of the Victoria Hospitals Foundation or its successor may from time to time determine.

Residual Gift

Your gift to the hospital will be distributed from the remaining portion of your estate after all specific bequests and expenses have been paid.

I direct my trustees to pay or transfer to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation, charitable registration # 10793 5637 RR0001, the residue/_____% of the residue of my estate to be used in such manner for the general purposes of Victoria General Hospital or Royal Jubilee Hospital as the Board of Directors of the Foundation or its successor may from time to time determine.



**WE ARE
HERE TO
HELP**

Contact

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Address

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1952 Bay Street
Victoria BC V8R 1J8

Charitable Registration Number

10793 5637 RR0001

Respecting Your Privacy And Confidentiality

The decision to leave a planned gift is a deeply personal one, and a decision that you may not wish to share. We are committed to always ensuring your privacy. We will only ever share information about your gift or your gift intentions with explicit permission from you or your estate.