



Victoria General Hospital  
**FOUNDATION**  
 HEALTHIER FUTURES

## Message From The Executive Director

Since joining The Vic Foundation as its new Executive Director just a few weeks ago, I've had the pleasure of meeting many new people who have greeted me with a warm welcome. And while I am grateful for their kind words, the truth is I have been part of this community for my whole life.

I was born at The Vic, and over the years I've had a number of loved ones receive excellent care at our hospital. It is a privilege to now have the opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of patients and families at our hospital and people in our community. I have a passion for helping others and I believe the sky is the limit for what we can achieve together. At a time when ensuring the health of our community is more important than ever, I am so grateful for the generosity of people like you.

How can I say thank you? It is difficult to put into words just how meaningful your support is, especially in a year like this. The information on the back of this note shows some of the many ways your contributions have made a difference over the past year. But these numbers are nothing compared to the real lives that have been changed thanks to your generosity. With your continued support, I know there is so much more we will do together in the future.

Over these past few weeks, it has been inspiring to hear so many personal stories from the people I meet about their connection to our hospital, our community, and our Foundation. It reminds me just how important it is for all of us to stay connected during these times and to be here for each other when needed.

I would love to hear from you and learn more about your experiences with us. Please feel free to send me a note in the enclosed envelope or by email at [foundation@vgh.mb.ca](mailto:foundation@vgh.mb.ca) with the subject line My Story with anything you would like to share.

Thank you for ensuring The Vic Foundation is here to help when needed, today and in the future.

With gratitude,

Nicole Chammartin  
 Executive Director



## WHAT OUR SUPPORTERS MADE POSSIBLE IN 2020 AND THUS FAR IN 2021

Over  
**\$335,000**  
 Invested in healthcare research at  
 Research Manitoba



**500**  
 care packages sent to isolated  
 seniors through our *Smile To A  
 Senior* program.



**119 & 13**  
 new televisions      new iPads  
 to support patient comfort  
 and well-being



**240**  
 members of our community received  
 tools for creative expression to  
 support their mental health



**332**  
 care packages for frontline home care  
 heroes helping people live safely and  
 independently at home



**100+**  
 Toys for local families in need  
 to brighten the holidays

For us, the past 16 months can be summed up in one word: **Together**. Through one of the most arduous moments in Canadian history, our community did not hesitate to unite and show incredible commitment, compassion, and generosity to one another by supporting The Vic Foundation.

Together, we saw our community through each and every complication and crisis – and lost no momentum in advancing healthcare in ways for all in need to benefit from. So, we happily share with you the progress we made through this unprecedented time.

Since 1971, our Foundation's been dedicated to advancing healthcare at The Vic and in our community, while bringing friends, family, and neighbours closer together. Monumental changes have been made – in the past 10 years alone, 15 million dollars have been raised to advance Manitoba's healthcare – and improvements continue to be made, thanks to the support of kind-hearted community members like you.

So, if you already are a supporter of The Vic Foundation, thank you for being there for our community through a time unlike any other. And if you aren't yet, we invite you. Join us on our mission to bring our community the care it deserves and needs.

For more information, please see our 2020/21 Annual Report, which you may have already received. If not, you can get your copy at: [www.thevicfoundation.ca/who-we-are/annual-report](http://www.thevicfoundation.ca/who-we-are/annual-report)

## **PARTNERSHIP WITH ARTBEAT STUDIO**

It's proven that creative activities combat anxiety and depression, boost confidence, and provide relief from negative thoughts – all of which are extremely beneficial for everyone during prolonged isolation. That's why we partnered with Artbeat Studio; a unique organization providing social supports and mentorship for individuals living with mental illness so they can recover and feel empowered.

Through this partnership, we funded our very first *Healthy Community Grant Program* project and sent 265 community members in need art kits, instructional videos, or art journals to care for their well-being while they are unable to seek support outside their homes – bringing not just our organizations together but our community, too.



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(204) 477-3513

## **PARTNERSHIP WITH RESEARCH MANITOBA**

Through this joining of efforts with Research Manitoba, The Vic Foundation can further support world class research right here in our province, invest in made-in-Manitoba solutions, and contribute to our local economy.

### **The Telepresence Robot Research Project at the University of Manitoba**

This initiative allows caregivers to remotely activate and operate telepresence robots to check on individuals living with dementia without having to be physically present, promoting healthier, more balanced lifestyles for both.

### **Our first-ever Health Research Competition, including:**

A decolonizing approach to the incorporation of traditional Indigenous ways of healing in Manitoba's bariatric program, headed by Dr. Krista Hardy (University of Manitoba).

Opportunities to promote treatment engagement among older adults referred to specialty mental health services, headed by Dr. Corey Mackenzie (University of Manitoba).

### **COVID-19 Clinical Trials**

This initiative supported the work of Dr. Ryan Zarychanski, associate professor, hematologist, and critical care physician at the University of Manitoba and CancerCare Manitoba. With these funds, he and his team quickly began trials, which discovered the inexpensive blood-thinning drug heparin decreased mortality and improved outcomes in hospitalized COVID-19 patients. With participation from many Winnipeg hospitals, the trial is already benefiting Manitobans!