

ADVANCING HEALTHCARE

Voice

Our Hospital. Our Community. Our Impact.

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Victoria General Hospital

FOUNDATION

HEALTHIER FUTURES

OUR VISION:

Healthier futures for the people in our community.

OUR MISSION:

We are dedicated to advancing healthcare at the Victoria General Hospital and in our community.

We engage our community, health experts and other stakeholders to identify, support and fund innovations that enhance patient care and improve the health and well-being of our community.

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MESSAGE FROM THE VIC FOUNDATION

The health of our community is at the heart of what we do. The Vic Foundation recently broadened its mission to advance healthcare through strategic investments at The Vic and in healthcare projects vital to achieving our vision of healthier futures for our community.

The positive implications of a healthier population are significant. Fewer of us will fall to chronic illness and require hospital care, stresses on individuals and families will be reduced, productivity in the workplace will increase, and through healthier living, we will enjoy a better quality of life.

Together, we can make this happen. We can transform the healthcare we require as a community by investing in:

- **modern, well-equipped healthcare facilities that attract and retain skilled medical professionals that deliver patient-centered, quality healthcare services;**
- **innovative and advanced medical research and technology; and**
- **local services for the specific needs of our growing, aging and diverse community, to name a few.**

Recent partnerships and donor investments have already begun to advance healthcare for our community. In this issue, we are excited to share a few of our success stories and the extraordinary people who are making a difference.

It's our hospital, our community, our future. Thank you for investing your time, talents and monetary gifts to help us ensure we have the advanced healthcare our families, neighbours and loved ones need, right here in our community, today and into the future.

Sincerely,

B.J. Langdon, Chair

Charlene Rocke, Executive Director



Don't miss the latest news!

Sign up for e-news and get updates on new research, upcoming events, health tips and more.

TheVicFoundation.ca



MESSAGE FROM THE VIC

The Victoria General Hospital is proud to serve an ever-growing south Winnipeg population with high quality health care services. Today, The Vic is a 195-bed acute care facility that offers a wide range of inpatient and outpatient services including internal medicine, family medicine, surgery, endoscopy, cardiology, gynecology and bariatric care. We strive to provide these services with dignity, care and compassion.

This past year has been an exciting time of change, and I am happy to share some highlights of what our team has accomplished to advance healthcare at The Vic and in our community.

In keeping with our mission of delivering safe and caring services, we recently began significant renovations to the medicine units on our fifth floor. This is the largest transformation to these units since the hospital opened its doors on Pembina Highway close to 50 years ago!

The Vic's acute care services are now fully integrated with South Winnipeg's community services including home care, public health and primary care. This integration of hospital and community services is helping us to provide the right care, at the right time and in the right place. Last summer, our community services expanded with the opening of a new primary care clinic in ACCESS Fort Garry at 135 Plaza Drive.

The outstanding services that we provide are possible because of the exceptional staff that work in The Vic and in our community offices. In this issue, we highlight one employee that routinely goes above and beyond for the patients and families that she serves.

On behalf of our entire team of talented staff and physicians, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Robbins
Chief Operating Officer, South Winnipeg Integrated Health
and Social Services including Victoria General Hospital

Donor-funded equipment makes world-class surgery technique possible!

The Vic has become the first hospital in Manitoba and only the fifth in Canada to offer a new colorectal surgery technique for complex rectal diseases. The new procedure, called Transanal Total Mesorectal Excision (TATME), combines the proven methods of laparoscopy and Transanal Endoscopic Microsurgery (TEM) and the benefits of both which include less pain, fewer complications and faster recovery times to improve the patient experience.

"It is a natural marriage of technology," said The Vic's Medical Director of Surgery Dr. David Hochman. *"We are bringing new, state-of-the-art techniques to Manitoba."*

This combination of laparoscopy and TEM also increases the likelihood that gastrointestinal continuity can be restored and a permanent colostomy can be avoided. To date, only 1,000 of these surgeries have been performed worldwide.

This new technique would not be available for patients at The Vic without the generous support of our donors. Two special donors in our community funded the TEM and have given close to \$190,000 over the years to advance healthcare at The Vic. The support of our donors also enabled The Vic Foundation to invest more than \$1 million in state-of-the-art technological upgrades to two surgery suites, allowing for innovative procedures like TEM and TATME to be performed. These upgrades also created a highly-efficient environment for staff and increased The Vic's ability to attract and retain the best and brightest surgeons to advance healthcare in our community.

Donate

The Vic is leading the way in minimally invasive surgery! Help us advance healthcare by donating online or sending back the envelope inside.

Advancing Healthcare at The Vic

Major Makeover to the 5th Floor Medical Units

The Vic's 5th floor Medicine Units provide care for patients with pneumonia, respiratory and cardiac conditions. All patient rooms, nursing stations and corridors on these Units are being upgraded to improve patient care and to accommodate new technologies for greater staff efficiencies.

Bright lighting, new flooring and fresh paint have transformed these Units into a welcoming and restorative environment.

"Enhancements will result in a better patient care experience and a safer environment for patients, families and staff," said Unit 5 South Manager of Patient Care Kurt Pay.

These improvements mark the first major makeover to this floor since The Vic opened its doors on Pembina Highway in 1971. Upgrades are scheduled to be completed this summer.



Investing in Pancreatic Cancer Research

Pancreatic cancer is a relatively rare disease, with 181 patients diagnosed in Manitoba in 2013 (Source: CancerCare Manitoba). Patient prognosis is often poor; approximately 80% of pancreatic cancer diagnoses are advanced (Source: National Cancer Institute).

Most patients receiving chemotherapy treatment for advanced pancreatic cancer experience some degree of peripheral neuropathy (numbness, tingling and pain) during treatment. There is a potential for the peripheral neuropathy to become permanent. When a patient develops neuropathy, the healthcare team may decide it's not safe for a patient to continue treatment, or the patient may decide to stop treatment.

The Vic Foundation is partnering with the Manitoba Medical Service Foundation (MMSF) to invest \$28,000 in new research to explore the link between advanced pancreatic cancer treatment and peripheral neuropathy.

Dr. Christina Kim, a highly-skilled medical oncologist at The Vic's Buhler Cancer Centre and CancerCare Manitoba, is embarking on a new study to assess changes in patients with advanced pancreatic cancer during treatment. The study will be coordinated by the Victoria Institute of Clinical Research & Evaluation.

"There are currently two first-line chemotherapy treatment options for advanced pancreatic cancer," said Dr. Kim. "New research may ultimately help us to determine the ideal therapy, ideal dosage and help in preventing toxicity in patients with advanced pancreatic cancer. Once complete, the results from this study will give us important information that will help us in collaborating with other centers across Canada for a larger cohort study."

The Vic Foundation and MMSF have been collaborating to advance healthcare research since 2013, co-funding two research grants totaling \$50,000. Your gift can help make the next breakthrough possible! Please donate online or by sending back the envelope inside.

Donate ❤️

Staff Spotlight:



Meet Lynn Granke

Manager of Spiritual Health Services

Lynn contributes immensely to high quality patient care at The Vic as a spiritual care leader, educator and practitioner. She routinely goes above and beyond for patients and families she serves, often working overtime, nights and weekends to comfort and support patients and families in our Intensive Care Unit and Emergency Department. Lynn advocates for those who cannot advocate for themselves, and is respectful of everyone's beliefs, religious practices and culture.

Lynn has initiated or taken an active role in several important initiatives at The Vic like the award-winning Cherry Blossom Project, which ensures end-of-life care is given with dignity, compassion and respect. She also runs a regular Memorial Service so that families and staff have an opportunity to remember those patients who passed away at The Vic.

Beyond patients and families, Lynn mentors Spiritual Care students, educates and provides emotional support to staff. She recently launched "Lavender Alert", a new initiative designed to provide support for staff in urgent need.

Lynn brings a smile to all those she meets, along with tireless energy and determination. She is highly respected throughout The Vic, and is truly a role model for us all!

Like what you see? Healthcare professionals like Lynn help to improve lives every day. Support innovative, advanced healthcare programs at The Vic by donating online or sending back the envelope inside.

Donate

New Solarium. New Hope!

Nestled in a quiet corner of the The Vic's Buhler Cancer Centre is the new Solarium. Recently transformed to include a cozy fireplace, comfortable seating area and large windows overlooking a Miracle Garden, the Solarium is a tranquil space for cancer patients to reflect, unwind and support each other.

The new Solarium is also a permanent, neighbourhood home for the delivery of the national Look Good Feel Better® program for women battling cancer. Look Good Feel Better® helps women cancer patients manage the often-traumatic, appearance-related effects of surgeries and chemotherapy treatments. Through free workshops on skin care, makeup, wigs and head-covering techniques, women can look and feel more like themselves, giving them hope, confidence and strength to fight their disease. *"Cancer patients must deal with tremendous obstacles and the ability to take control of some portion of their treatment is important,"* says Connie Gray, Program Volunteer.

Originally born out of the generous support of Dr. and Mrs. Chandulal Shah, East India Company, the Mehra Family and the Guild of the Victoria General Hospital, the new Solarium meets the advanced healthcare needs of our community. *"I have experienced first-hand the gratitude from patients utilizing the Solarium,"* says Connie. *"Everyone leaves a workshop with a smile on their face and often a hug on the way out. Participants appreciate the connection and support from other women experiencing many of the same treatments and side effects, and friendships are often formed."*

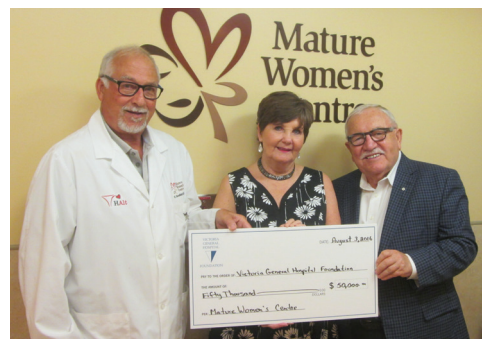
Your support ensures women living with cancer in our community have the support that they need to battle their disease. Support advanced healthcare at The Vic by donating online or sending back the envelope inside.

Donate

Your Generosity Adds Up!

\$50,000 raised to #fightHERkiller

The proceeds of our annual Medicine and Miracles fundraiser will support For Her Heart's Sake - women's heart disease research, education and care.



\$50,000 for the Mature Women's Centre

Thank you to John and Bonnie Buhler for their generous gift in support of program development and research at The Vic's Mature Women's Centre.



482 presents bring holiday cheer to seniors!

Partnering with Home Instead Senior Care, this year's Be a Santa to a Senior program was a huge success. Thanks to all donors and participants, gifts were delivered with a warm heart and a friendly visit.

Volunteer Spotlight:



Meet Dave Simpson

Victoria Lifeline Home Service Rep

Dave is both a Victoria Lifeline client and volunteer. He spends one day a week servicing the medical alert equipment for clients across Winnipeg.

It was because of his volunteer role as a Home Service Rep that Dave saw first-hand the value of a personal help button. Dave lives alone, and after hip surgery in 2012 he decided to be proactive and protect himself in case of a fall or medical emergency.

"I thought, what happens if I go down to the basement to do laundry or change the furnace filter and something happens. No one would hear my calls for help."

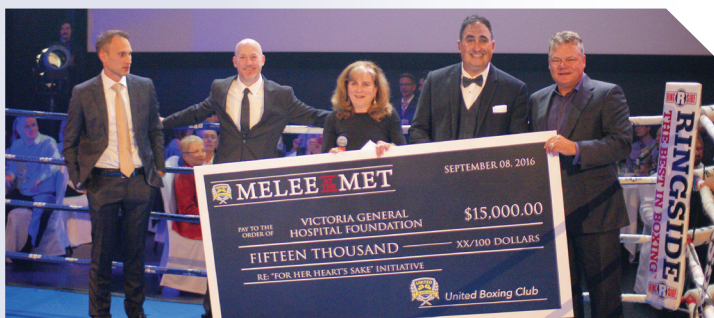
Dave recalls installing Victoria Lifeline for a client who was on the floor of her apartment for three days after a fall without food, water and access to a bathroom. *"Victoria Lifeline is just like life insurance"* explained Dave. *"You may not need it 99% of the time, but with a push of a button, it's there when you do."* Accidents can happen to anyone.

Dave, a retired Canada Safeway Production Coordinator, has volunteered for different organizations for over 40 years; it's who he is. *"Giving back to my community is rewarding"* said Dave. As a Victoria Lifeline volunteer, Dave now helps others in his community live safely and independently at home.

Dave was recently awarded a Manitoba Council on Aging Volunteer Service Recognition Certificate for his work with Victoria Lifeline, and the staff could not be prouder of Dave and his accomplishments.

Victoria Lifeline is a community service of The Vic Foundation. To volunteer your time to help us advance healthcare in your community, please call (204) 956-6777 or email victorialifeline@vgh.mb.ca

Volunteer



\$900,000+ For Her Heart's Sake advances women's heart disease care and prevention

Women are a vital part of our community – and heart disease is her #1 killer. Thanks to the generous contributions of almost 600 individuals, businesses and organizations we have made great strides in our fight against women's heart disease:

- Our First STEP Cardiac Care Program for Women opened on February 6 to help women at high risk and heart attack survivors make the lifestyle changes they need to prevent an attack and live heart healthy.
- Primary prevention is being provided to women in the Happy Hearts study through collaboration with Dr. Todd Duhamel, Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences at St. Boniface Hospital.
- Women's heart disease Survival Guides were distributed at several community awareness events held throughout Winnipeg.
- Canadian-wide networks were formed to share new research and best practices for the diagnoses, treatment and prevention of women's heart disease through the Canadian Women's Heart Health Summit.

Medicine & Miracles Garden Party

Thank you to sponsors, supporters and attendees for advancing healthcare in our community by making women's heart disease prevention and care a priority.

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SHE'S NOT OKAY!

Women's risks and symptoms are different from men's, and can begin at age 20.

Protect yourself and the women you love.

Download your free wallet and phone Survival Guides at: **ForHerHeart.ca**

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Donate Now 

Advance Healthcare so it's there when we need it!

We want our families, neighbours and loved ones to have access to the best possible care, right here at The Vic and in our community. Preventing and treating illness requires investments in innovative research, education, technologies and care. Every dollar you give supports healthier futures for us all. Make a difference.

Give. Invest. Save Lives.

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