Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation

It's in our Nature to Give

June, 2024

Inaugural Soirée by the Sea a Smashing Success – by Barney Ellis-Perry, CEO

The Foundation realized one of its strategic objectives in a very fun, engaging and impactful way earlier this month. Our strategic plan is focused on us doubling our fundraising in order to be a foundation that is capable of supporting a major campaign for a new hospital tower. In order to do this, we need to greatly expand our donor base, and we set out to create an experience that would engage people in the region capable of supporting the hospital foundation, but who have not done so in the past.

Our inaugural Soiree by the Sea event was held on Saysutshun Island on the beautiful evening of June 7th. We engaged some fantastic contractors to handle the event details and we worked with Camas restaurant to put on a beautiful dinner. Tony Harris, Chair of the Board, led the fundraising push and within nine minutes we raised over $200,000 to purchase nine $20,000 birthing beds for the perinatal unit. After hearing from the very passionate, Trina Knight, who manages the perinatal unit, the crowd was inspired to give and give they did!

A Message from Hospital Leadership: 15 Pediatric RN's Receive PALS Training, Funded by the Foundation

The Pediatric Advanced Life Support Course (PALS) is an accredited, nationally recognized course intended for health care providers who care for children and youth in urgent and emergent situations. This course is offered through the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada and is recognized by all professional regulatory bodies in Canada as being best practice for care of children who require resuscitation. PALS recently underwent a revision in the curriculum that emphasizes team dynamics, and the importance of communication in these high risk – low frequency situations. The course utilizes simulation experiences to allow participants practice high quality CPR, systematic assessment of a pediatric patient requiring resuscitation, and communication within the resuscitation team.

Registered Nurses (RNs) at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH) provide care to infants, children, and youth who are at risk of sudden deterioration while admitted to the Pediatric Inpatient unit or the Emergency Department. It is critical that RNs who work on the Pediatric be provided with not only the knowledge that the PALS course provides, but also the opportunity to participate in the simulations that are part of the course.

There was a huge effort at NRGH to make PALS education more readily available to the physicians, RNs, and Respiratory Therapists (RTs) who respond to these critical situations, so that they can assist the emergency department when required, as well as be able to respond appropriately and confidently to a deteriorating pediatric patient who is admitted to the in-patient unit.

Thanks to donor support, NDHF provided funding for 15 Pediatric RNs to receive this training, which has helped build our teams' knowledge and confidence in stressful situations. We are so thankful for the support the Foundation provides our hospital and staff to continue to learn and grow together as a team to provide excellent care for our patients and our community!

Together We Can Brighten Their Days: A Special Initiative for Seniors' Month

The Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation is celebrating Seniors' Month with a special initiative aimed at enhancing the quality of life for the 400 residents in Central Island long-term care facilities operated by Island Health. Many of these residents, particularly seniors with mobility challenges, find it difficult to enjoy the sunny days of summer. Our goal is to provide opportunities for these seniors to safely venture outside and experience the warmth and beauty of our Island.

Your generous gift today can help brighten their days, allowing them to feel the sun on their faces and enjoy more outdoor activities.

When asked what would make their days brighter, the residents highlighted the need for more comfortable patio furniture, enhanced gardening opportunities, and the return of beloved bus excursions. Our long-term care Activities Departments work tirelessly to keep spirits up, but they need your support to expand their programs. Patio upgrades at Eagle Park, Trillium Lodge's outdoor programs, and Dufferin Place bus excursions will help get seniors outdoors in nature where they love to be! This June, let's come together to make a senior's day a little bit brighter—after all, It's in our Nature to Give!

Learn more about how you can make a difference at nanaimohospitalfoundation.com.

Meet Your Foundation Team: Cheryl Onciul, Senior Manager of Annual & Planned Giving at the Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation.

Cheryl Onciul dedicates her time to empowering individuals to make a difference in healthcare across Central and North Vancouver Island. She helps bring forth opportunities for donors to contribute to annual giving campaigns and explore planned giving options. Cheryl's passion is fueled by inspiring donor stories and her strong belief in community and giving.

How Many Years have you been at the Foundation For?
Not quite a year! I'm looking forward to celebrating my one-year anniversary on July 10th.

Your Code Brew order: Small black coffee or an Americano Misto, usually. But I do treat myself now and then with a cookie or a muffin – there are a lot of tempting choices.

Work from home, office, car, or all of the above: After working from home for 12 years in my previous job, I enjoy working in the office alongside our amazing team. However, I also appreciate the flexibility of our hybrid work environment and now value my days in my home office.

Sun or Snow: My sunglasses are always at the ready!

Best part of your job: I have the privilege of connecting with hundreds of individual donors each year. Listening to their stories of gratitude for the care they received from our healthcare providers is genuinely inspiring and humbling. I am honoured to be in a position to assist these generous individuals in making a difference through their giving.

Place you spend your time most (outside of the office): On a typical weekend, you will find me walking with my dog and, ideally, a family member or two along my favourite creekside trail. I love the sound of the water and the fresh smell of the air in the lush rainforest. I am so grateful to make my home in this beautiful part of Canada.

What is your favourite thing about your team?: Every team member brings unique and important strengths and experience to our team. It is truly a case of being stronger together! I love how we are all working toward the same goal of increasing resources for healthcare in this region.

Why is it in YOUR nature to give: Two words come to mind: Community and Gratitude. I am incredibly thankful to be part of such a wonderful community. For a community to thrive, everyone must contribute. Giving is not just about financial gifts, but also about giving time and considerations.

Read more about Cheryl in her bio on our staff page here.

A Heartfelt Thank You: Reflecting on Our Donor Appreciation Event

In June, the Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation hosted its Annual Update and Donor Appreciation event at the Nanaimo Golf Club. It was a heartwarming evening where we honoured our dedicated donors with pins recognizing their 10, 15, and 20-year commitments. The dedication and generosity of these individuals are truly inspiring and reflect the strength and unity of the communities north of the Malahat.

We are also profoundly grateful to Community Private Wealth Group for their generous sponsorship, which made this event possible. Their unwavering support underscores their commitment to our mission and highlights the importance of community partnerships in advancing our goals. As we look ahead, we are excited to continue this journey with all of you, working together to improve healthcare services and facilities for everyone in the region.

For those unable to attend the event, we invite you to view our annual update online. This comprehensive update highlights our achievements over the past year and outlines our vision for the future. Thank you for being an integral part of the community and for your continued support of the Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation. Together, we are building a healthier future.

2024 ANNUAL UPDATE

Live Independently with Lifeline

As Canada's most trusted medical alert system, Nanaimo Lifeline has been empowering seniors and their families to live, travel, and explore independently since 1987. Book a call with Chelsea and the local team at Lifeline Nanaimo today by emailing Chelsea.Carne@islandhealth.ca or calling the team direct at 250-739-5770.

Why Choose Nanaimo Lifeline

- **Empowering Seniors:** Stay active and independent, with a safety net that's always there.
- **Local Support:** The Lifeline Response Centre is located right here in Nanaimo, offering quick, local support right when you need it.
- **Community First:** 100% Operated by the Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation—using our service directly supports local healthcare.
- **Worry-Free Living:** With Personal Help Buttons that work up to 350 feet radius and in the shower/ bath, help is always within reach.
- **No Hidden Fees, No Long-Term Contracts:** Just simple, straightforward safety, designed for seniors, supported by your local Nanaimo Lifeline team.

Spotlight on Joanne Van Engelsdorp: Bridging Cultures and Care at NRGH

Joanne Van Engelsdorp, an Indigenous Liaison Nurse at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH), plays a vital role in advocating for Indigenous patients and ensuring culturally sensitive healthcare. Through her work with the Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Friendship Centre and Island Health's Indigenous Health branch, Joanne assists patients from remote communities across Vancouver Island. She coordinates discharge plans, helps access health benefits, and supports patients and their families during their hospital stay, ensuring they receive the care and respect they deserve.

Integrating spiritual care with healthcare is a cornerstone of Joanne's approach. She collaborates with spiritual health practitioners to address the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of Indigenous patients. The All Nations' Healing Room at NRGH provides a space for traditional practices and family gatherings, fostering a healing environment. Joanne's advocacy extends beyond the hospital, as she also works to address systemic racism and promote cultural safety training for all healthcare staff.

Joanne's dedication to bridging the gap between Indigenous communities and the healthcare system is making a significant impact. Her story highlights the importance of culturally competent care and the need for ongoing education and advocacy. To learn more about Joanne's inspiring work and the critical role of Indigenous Liaison Nurses, read the full story on our website.....Read the Full Story Here

Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Helps Turn the Lights On in Perinatal Operating Rooms

2024 marked 10 years of Tim Horton's Smile Cookie Week supporting Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation. This year Central Island residents showed up to take some sweet bites and together raised $38,442.35.

100% of these funds raised were dedicated towards a much-needed electrical upgrade in the perinatal operating room at NRGH.

“We are thrilled to be the partner recipient for the 2024 Smile Cookie campaign,” shared Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation CCL (Chief Cookie Lover) Barney Ellis-Perry. “This is our sweetest campaign of the year – pun intended – and we want to thank everyone who purchased a Smile Cookie to help our perinatal department at NRGH.”

Thank You, Nanoose Bay Lions Club!

We are excited to announce a generous $10,000 donation from the Nanoose Bay Lions Club to the Renal Unit at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH). This significant contribution will support our ongoing efforts to provide the best possible care to patients in the region.

The Nanoose Bay Lions Club has a special connection to the Renal Unit, as one of their members is currently receiving dialysis treatment. Their generosity and dedication to supporting the community's healthcare services are truly inspiring.

Thank you, Nanoose Bay Lions Club, for your compassion and commitment to making a difference in the lives of our patients.

Staff Appreciation Day Brings Smiles to NRGH and Island Health Employees

On June 13th, Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation co-hosted the NRGH Staff Appreciation Day. It was a beautiful day filled with fantastic giveaways and delicious food for 3,700 NRGH and Island Health employees who came over to enjoy this event.

This special day wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors and prize donors. A heartfelt thank you to:

Sponsors:
Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation
Save-On-Foods
Pepsi Co
Code Brew Café
Gordon Food Services

Prizes Donated By:
Canadian Tire
Landmark Cinemas
Planet Fitness
The Fit Hub
Woodgrove Mall
Code Brew Café
FMO Crew

Your contributions brought smiles to many faces and made the day truly memorable. Thank you for your unwavering support and for helping us show our appreciation to the incredible staff at NRGH.

Landmark Cinemas' Generous Donation to NRGH Pediatric Unit

A hospital stay can be a daunting experience for children, filled with uncertainty and fear. However, thanks to the generosity of our community, we can make their time in the Pediatric unit at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital a bit brighter and more comfortable.

We are delighted to extend our heartfelt thanks to Landmark Cinemas, especially Rup Parmar, General Manager, and Crystal, for their recent donation. Their contribution of movie passes, Funko Pops, and DC and Marvel Action Figures brings joy and comfort to our young patients. These thoughtful gifts not only provide entertainment but also offer a much-needed distraction, helping children to cope better during their hospital stay.

Donations like these are essential as they help us create a more welcoming and comforting environment for our pediatric patients. Every act of kindness and generosity makes a significant impact, and we are deeply grateful for Landmark Cinemas' support.

Thank you for helping us make a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve.

Critical Care Building Update

A Milestone for Our Hospital

In 2020, the Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation (NDHF) embarked on our largest fundraising campaign to date, aiming to replace the eight-bed ICU, which was then rated the worst in Canada. Thanks to extraordinary community support, we exceeded the $5 million target, funding all necessary state-of-the-art equipment for the new ICU, which opened in June 2023 and now operates at full capacity.

Building on this success, the Foundation launched a campaign to raise an additional $5 million for the second phase of the Critical Care expansion: the High Acuity Unit (HAU). Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community and a transformational gift from the Windsor Plywood Foundation, we are nearing this goal. The HAU is expected to be completed by the summer of 2025, ensuring top-tier care for our community.

Acknowledging Windsor Plywood Foundation

The Windsor Plywood Foundation donated a record $3 million to support the new Critical Care expansion at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital. The donation honours Randle Jones, the Foundation's founder, and will have a lasting impact on healthcare for Central and North Island residents.

Read full story and more news on our website.

In the Community

Golf for Life: Save the Date!

Join us for the 31st Annual Golf for Life event on September 20th! This signature event raises funds for urgently needed equipment at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital. Your participation and support will directly impact patient care in the community.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses seeking to align their brand with a great cause. By becoming a valued sponsor, you can promote your brand while making a difference in healthcare.

Interested in sponsoring? Email Tina Lutz at Tina.Lutz@islandhealth.ca to learn how to get involved in the 2024 Golf for Life event.

View the 2024 Sponsorship Package

Stay tuned for more details, and thank you for your support!

Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation Summer Renovations

Starting June 27, 2024

nanaimohospitalfoundation.com

Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation

It's in our Nature to Give

Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation Temporary Office Relocation Effective June 27th

The Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation's main office, located at 1200 Dufferin Crescent, Nanaimo (within Hospital lobby), will be undergoing renovations starting June 27th. During this time our team, while working remotely, will remain fully available during regular office hours, Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, throughout the summer to support you.

For in-person donations or inquiries, please visit us at our Nanaimo Lifeline office located at 1801 Bowen Rd Suite 102, Nanaimo or call us directly at 250-755-7690, email us at ndhf@islandhealth.ca or visit us anytime at nanaimohospitalfoundation.com.

Thank you for your continued support of healthcare in the central island region!

Thanks for reading our newsletter!

DONATE TODAY