

Newsletter of the Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation

# GIVING MATTERS

**P**lease join with others in the community in making a gift to your hospital this Care From the Heart Day. Tune into your favourite local radio station on Thursday, February 10th between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and log onto [www.crhfoundation.ca](http://www.crhfoundation.ca) to make a gift and track the day's progress, or call 403-388-6001 to offer your support. Due to current visitor restrictions associated with the pandemic response, in-person donations will not be possible this year. For more information, contact the Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation Office at 403-388-6001.

The 2021 Care From the Heart Day and Radio-a-thon was a tremendous success. Over \$230,000 was raised with the support of six local radio stations: Country 95.5, B-93.3, KiSS107.7, 106.7 ROCK, 98.1 2day FM and 94.1 CJOC. Each station broadcast live and reminded listeners of the outstanding care provided by Chinook Regional Hospital. Interviews with past patients, medical staff, volunteers and donors highlighted the importance of supporting local healthcare and encouraged listeners to call in or visit [www.crhfoundation.ca](http://www.crhfoundation.ca) to make a gift. The on-going support of Lethbridge radio stations is unprecedented and hugely important to the success of Care From the Heart Day.

The Chinook Regional Hospital has evolved into an institution we know and trust, because of innovations in surgery, imaging, medicine, and many other areas. At some point, we will all likely need the hospital and investing in the health care of our community is critical to ensure the best health care professionals are available, state-of-the-art equipment is present and we trust in the facility that will be looking after

our most precious loved ones. If the ongoing battle with COVID 19 has taught us anything, it is of the importance of having a well-equipped hospital staffed with dedicated front-line workers. Donations to the Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation have ensured this is the case.

Long-time friend of the Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation, Bob Balog, of Balog Auction Services Inc., will once again serve as Honorary Chair. Bob is incredibly honoured to be at the helm of Care from the Heart Day, for the 11th year in a row. "The Balog family, just like yours, has benefited from the exceptional staff and expertise of the Chinook Regional Hospital. We, like so many of you have seen first hand the great compassion and wonderful care that is available right here in Lethbridge. We continue to be so proud of how our hospital has responded to the ongoing pandemic situation and I am honoured to be asked to help ensure this level of service in our community will continue."

"Care From the Heart Day offers our community the opportunity to support the Chinook Regional Hospital," says Jason VandenHoek, Executive Director of the Foundation. "Funds that are donated to the Foundation touch almost every area of the Chinook Regional Hospital and impact thousands of patient's lives every day and we thank you for your ongoing support."

**Your support of the Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation is an investment in the health of your community, your family and you!**

"We, like so many of you have seen first hand the great compassion and wonderful care that is available right here in Lethbridge. We continue to be so proud of how our hospital has responded to the ongoing pandemic situation..."

**BOB BALOG**



## **DONOR FUNDED MENTAL HEALTH REDEVELOPMENT CONTINUES**

Everyone has mental health and will experience challenges regarding their mental well-being, but not everyone will experience a mental illness. We are all directly or indirectly affected by mental illness; a loved one, colleague, friend or ourselves. The emotional and physical impacts this has on both patients and their family members is not something that can be measured. Being able to provide safe, trauma informed therapeutic care in an inpatient setting is a top priority at the Chinook Regional Hospital and the ongoing upgrades and renovations are helping to achieve this level of care.

“As phase 4 of renovations to Adult Inpatient Psychiatry begins, we cannot help but express deep gratitude and

appreciation for the incredible donors who have made this possible” says Chelsea Slobodan, Manager, Inpatient Psychiatry and Psychiatric Assessment Nurse Team, “The upgrades and renovations have improved the patient experience for those requiring acute psychiatric care and the environment in which they are cared for”.

Upgrades have included safety features in patient rooms and bathrooms as well as much needed wall coverings, new flooring and doors. Updated and welcoming floor plans for the common areas that patients share, as well as new nursing stations and areas for the large multi-disciplinary team to collaborate together. In addition, adding more wheelchair accessible shower

rooms and a physician’s exam room will also enhance the level of care provided. Particularly exciting for patients and staff is that this phase includes the creation of a beautiful outdoor courtyard that can be accessed from inside the unit. Fresh air and nature are an important part of healing and now patients will have access to the outdoors while in hospital. Having an environment that is safe, beautiful and functional plays an important role in a patient’s recovery.

“On behalf of every member of the Adult Inpatient Psychiatry and Psychiatric Assessment Nurse Teams, thank you so much to all the donors who have made this possible”.

## **CHINOOK REGIONAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION DONORS ASSIST IN THE RESPONSE TO COVID 19**

The COVID response at Chinook Regional Hospital (CRH) has been more than just ordinary. It has been an extraordinary coordination of teams, departments and programs that has never been seen before, and hopefully, never to be seen again.

The donors to the CRH Foundation have played an important role in the hospital’s response to COVID. When urgent equipment was needed, the CRH Foundation was able to step up and step in. Everything from wall-mounted vital sign monitors in isolation rooms to reduce the risk of spreading COVID between patients, to extra pagers for the Respiratory Therapists. Equipment purchased from monies donated to the Foundation helped create a safer environment for staff and patients alike. Moreover, it allowed Chinook Regional Hospital to be nimble in responding to

patient and staff needs during the pandemic.

One notable response from the Foundation, thanks to donors, was the purchase of WIFI telephones for the COVID Units. COVID patients would often not be permitted to have visitors and as a result they were unable to interact with their loved ones. Due to the infection control requirements, these patients were unable to use the regular phones provided by the hospital. In addition, many of these patients did not have access to mobile phones to be able to communicate with family. The purchasing of these infection control compliant WIFI phones allowed staff to provide these patients a way to keep in contact with their support systems. “To receive encouragement, well-wishes, and prayers from home, made the world of difference to these patients” said James

Ostoya, Site Manager of the Chinook Regional Hospital. “Donor support had a real impact here on the recovery and comfort of these patients.”

Another important purchase supported by donors was a home-mechanical ventilator. Patients who are unable to breathe on their own would use this machine at home. This portable unit helps people who require long-term ventilator assistance to remain in their community. Otherwise they would be required to move to Calgary or Edmonton where specialized ventilation units exist. According to Jason VandenHoek, Executive Director of the Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation, “the Foundation will always do what it can to ensure folks have the best access to care right here at home. With the portable ventilator, courtesy of Foundation donors, we were able to assist with that.”

# THANK YOU JASON VANDENHOEK! ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TRANSITION

With mixed emotions, we announce that Jason VandenHoek will be leaving the Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation, resigning as Executive Director effective January 2022.

"While we are sad to see Jason go, we are so grateful for the extraordinary work he has done over the past 13 years to build the Foundation into what it is today. He has strengthened the organization and put the pieces in place to ensure its success for many years." said current Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation Board Chair, James Nilsson. "Over this time, approximately \$30 million has been raised under Jason's leadership, with the vast majority being reinvested back into the community to ensure excellent healthcare is available for all who need it in Southern Alberta, just as our donors have desired. As a board, we wish Jason all the best as he starts his new adventures."

The Board of Directors would like to thank Jason for his hard work and commitment to the Foundation. The groundwork laid during

his time as Executive Director will ensure that the Foundation's success in fundraising for our communities healthcare will continue well into the future.

"I am extremely grateful for the past 13 years that I have been involved with the Foundation," says Jason. "Over that time, I have learned a great deal, met, and worked with amazing people, and I believe that I am leaving the Foundation in a strong, healthy position. What I am most proud of is the positive impact we have been able to have on the Chinook Regional Hospital by fulfilling and encouraging the philanthropic goals of our donors."

As we turn the page and close one chapter of the Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation story, we're excited to embark on a new one as we prepare for Jason's successor.

Once again, thank you, Jason, for your commitment to the Foundation. You certainly left your mark, and we're in a much better place because of you.

Last year Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation disbursed more than \$1.2 million dollars in support of state-of-the-art healthcare equipment, vital programs and special projects.

## AREAS OF SUPPORT INCLUDED:

- Acute Care
- Addiction and Mental Health
- Ambulatory
- Cardio Respiratory
- COVID Units
- Day Procedures
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Emergency Department
- Gastroenterology
- Indigenous Health
- Inpatient Units
- Intensive Care Unit
- Labour and Delivery
- Nutrition Services
- Medicine
- Outpatients
- Pediatrics
- Pharmacy
- Rehab Medicine
- Surgery
- Volunteer Resources



## ABOUT THE CHINOOK REGIONAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

The Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation receives and distributes funds for equipment and programs that enhance patient services and health programs in our community. This support goes to any area of need in the Chinook Regional Hospital, but specifically toward state-of-the-art healthcare equipment, vital programs and special projects in your hospital.

Our volunteer Board of Directors ensures all funds are dispersed in keeping with the wishes of our donors. Each Director brings unique experience and expertise to the Board.

Our dedicated and professional staff, led by Executive Director Jason VandenHoek, is experienced in fund development for healthcare in general and in our community in particular.

Together, we commit to ethical practice and sound management of your donations – in order to provide the best possible support for the health of our community.

If you would like more information on how you can make a gift to support the efforts of the Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation, please visit us at [www.crhfoundation.ca](http://www.crhfoundation.ca) or call our offices at 403-388-6001.

## GREAT WAYS TO GIVE

### BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

Automatic payments from your credit card are convenient and save you the time and money it takes to mail in donations. At the end of the year, you'll be surprised by how your contributions and tax credits have added up, while providing a stable and reliable source of funding for the Chinook Regional Hospital.

### HONOUR A LOVED ONE

A gift made in honour of a family member or friend is a special and unique way to pay tribute to them or their memory, or to celebrate a milestone occasion such as a birthday or wedding. Caring Heart Tribute funds can be viewed at [www.crhfoundation.ca](http://www.crhfoundation.ca).

### GIVE THE GIFT OF SECURITIES

Save a significant amount of money at tax time by donating securities, such as publicly traded shares and mutual funds, even if you have a capital loss!

### MAKE A LEGACY GIFT

Consider leaving a gift in your will to the Chinook Regional Hospital. All contributions, whether modest or grand, are pooled together to have great impact on patient care in our hospital, benefitting the health and wellbeing of our community. For more information, email: [shonna.lamb@ahs.ca](mailto:shonna.lamb@ahs.ca)

### LOG ONTO OUR WEBSITE

Visit [www.crhfoundation.ca](http://www.crhfoundation.ca) for the latest news, to make a secure donation and for more information on how you can support the healthcare of our community!

### CHINOOK REGIONAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

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✉ [INFO@CRHFOUNDATION.CA](mailto:INFO@CRHFOUNDATION.CA)

🐦 @CRH\_FOUNDATION

📘 [CRHFOUNDATION.CA](http://CRHFOUNDATION.CA)

[CRHFoundation.ca](http://CRHFoundation.ca)

## Board of Directors

**James Nilsson**, Chair  
**Anne Browne**, Vice Chair  
**Mark Orenstein**, Immediate Past Chair  
**Bryan Machacek**, Finance Chair  
**Karen Raphael**, Resource and Policy Development Chair  
**Cathy Martin**, Director  
**Asif Muhammad**, Director  
**Paul Rocca**, Director  
**Jason VandenHoek**, Executive Director (Ex Officio)  
**Pamela Rockerbie**, Assistant to the Executive Director (Ex Officio)

## Staff

**Jason VandenHoek**, Executive Director  
**Shonna Lamb**  
**Sherri Odland**  
**Sheryl Benson-Loman**  
**Pamela Rockerbie**

**CARE FROM THE HEART DAY**  
Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**TRUCK RAFFLE**  
May 2022

**VAL MATTEOTTI ITALIAN OPEN**  
August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**  
November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

**50/50 PAYDAY LOTTERY**  
Every Two Weeks