



## COMOX VALLEY HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION



*"I strongly believe that I'm alive today thanks to the care I received at the Comox Valley Hospital."*

These are the words shared by Wendy, one of our neighbours here in the Comox Valley. I hear stories every day about how your donations are helping make the gift of a longer, healthier life in our community a reality. With Wendy's permission, I am honoured to share more about her experience with you in the enclosed insert.

Last fall, I reached out and asked for your help in funding ureteroscopes. Our community responded with heart, and the ureteroscopes are now being used at our hospital to help detect some of the most prevalent cancers, including bladder and kidney cancers. We are continuing to expand cancer care by working to fund improved breast, prostate and uterus cancer detection equipment. Through the support of donors, our cancer care nursing team recently attended a national conference building on their knowledge in caring for people receiving chemotherapy.

Over the past year, we have also been working to expand cardiac care in our community. With heart disease being the second leading cause of death in Canada, heart health is a concern for all of us. Cardiovascular risk is greatest for people between 60 and 79 years, but it can affect people at any age. Last year, almost 35,000 heart-related exams were completed at our hospital.

**Because every moment counts, a few seconds of quick intervention can turn into years of life.** We need your help to expand cardiac care in our region. Together

we can make sure our healthcare teams have the specialized equipment and on-going training that saves lives.

We need to raise \$300,000 for urgent cardiac training and equipment. Your support will fund items such as leading edge technology for echocardiography, which are **precision instruments that produce clearer, more accurate ultrasound images with critical information about how your heart is functioning.** Better information for diagnosis leads to more effective treatment and care.

Your support will also help fund new portable equipment for our Emergency Department and ICU teams to diagnose life-threatening concerns, at the bedside when transportation to medical imaging is dangerous or not possible. **When every second counts, your donation will purchase equipment to equip doctors with the tools to quickly assess and initiate treatment faster.**

In addition to these vital pieces of life-saving equipment, we are raising funds for ongoing cardiac training. Our hospital's rapid response teams are ready to take action when a patient goes into cardiac arrest or experiences any other medical emergency. Ongoing training shortens the response time of these teams and increases survival rates. Research has shown one life is saved for every mock rapid response practiced per 100 beds per year.

With your help, we can fund the tools and equipment to strengthen local cardiac care. **Together we can reduce preventable, cardiac-related deaths.**

Last December, Wendy wrote her healthcare team a letter of gratitude:

***"I thank you all from my heart (and on behalf of my heart)!"***

Wendy had suffered a heart attack, but the care she received at the Comox Valley Hospital made all the difference. I hope you will take a moment to read her story.

I am fortunate to witness gratitude like Wendy's on a regular basis. In person, by letter, on the phone, people want *you* to know that *your* local hospital is providing life-saving care. Your donations to Comox Valley Healthcare make a difference, every day.

I'm sure you've heard someone say, "I'd do anything for more time with..." You may have even said it yourself. Better cardiac care can literally be the gift of more time. More time with loved ones, more milestone celebrations, more days to soak in the ocean view, hike a favourite trail, make the perfect chip shot, or savour a conversation with a good friend.

Every gift to cardiac care, or designated to another area of care, close to your heart, will help our community. Thank you for considering this request to give.

With Gratitude,

Jessica Aldred

Executive Director

**P.S. To learn more about echocardiograms and why this equipment is a priority, [click here.](#)**

**DONATE TO CARDIAC CARE OR ANOTHER AREA OF CARE**

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## Wendy's Story

I strongly believe that I'm alive today thanks to the care I received at the Comox Valley Hospital. I had a heart attack in August 2021. I wasn't expecting it and like most people I was in denial for hours. I took some antacids, sure it was just indigestion but when the pressure and pain in my shoulder blades, back and then jaw worsened, I finally woke my husband, and we made our way to the hospital.

When asked what stood out about my experience, my first thought was how well and how quickly everything went. Almost immediately the triage

nurses recognized the seriousness of my situation and acted fast. I have no doubt that their swift response saved my life.

I was transferred to Victoria for surgery. The technology and machines combined with the knowledge of the healthcare teams, gave me the best chance for a longer life.

After my surgery, I woke in recovery feeling marvelous and came home feeling better than I have in 20 years. It was like magic and since then my quality of life has vastly improved.

I have lived in Comox for over thirty years and in that time my family members and I have been supported by our healthcare teams in so many ways – through my mother's dementia and palliative care for my husband. I cannot say enough about how appreciative I am for all the care we have received.

I'm happy to share that I have become a monthly donor to Comox Valley Healthcare Foundation. I want to give back what I can, so that the resources and new technology we need are here for all of us.

Every day I wake grateful to be alive. I want to say thank you to you for considering a gift to healthcare and to all the donors whose gifts made it possible for me to enjoy more time with my family and friends in this beautiful place we call home.

With heartfelt thanks,

Wendy

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BECOMING A MONTHLY DONOR**



### **ENT Stealth Station Supports an Excellent Standard of Care**

Two years ago, we reached out to ask for donations to purchase an ENT Stealth Station to help recruit an Ears, Nose and Throat Specialist to our community.

The Stealth Station is the industry standard for any ENT trained in the past 10 years to bring the full extent of their excellent standard of care to patients. Without this equipment, ENTs are limited in how deep they can work during sinus surgery as the procedures takes them close to the eyes and brain.

ENT Specialist, Dr. Remillard, moved to the Comox Valley in 2021 and earlier this year donations funded the purchase of the Stealth Station. Because of the incredible support of donors complex sinus surgeries are performed every week at our hospital, ensuring more people have access to the best possible care, close to home.

We are delighted to share a video with our ENT surgical RN, Ashleigh, as part of our heartfelt gratitude for your support of healthcare in our community.

**WATCH VIDEO**

## Local Cancer Care Nurses Inspired Upon Attending National Conference

Through your support, the team of nurses providing cancer care at our hospital recently attended a national conference on oncology. The team shared with us the following message that we are happy to be able to pass along to you:

"We are so grateful to donors for supporting our trip to the 2022 Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO) conference in Victoria. After the last couple of very challenging years, it was wonderful for our team to be able to attend an in-person event that gave us the opportunity to further our education as well as connect with our oncology peers from across the country. Our team is incredibly encouraged by the bravery, resilience and fortitude demonstrated by our patients every day and we have come away from this conference inspired to make positive changes to our Comox Valley Hospital Cancer Care Clinic. Thank you - we were able to strengthen our team and are re-invigorated in our passion for oncology nursing."



*Image: Jessica Dakin, RN CVH Cancer Care presenting on "Finding Hope in Difficult Times"*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CURRENT CANCER CARE PRIORITIES**

**Great Care. Close to Home.**

250-331-5957



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