

Foundations

BUILDING EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH CARE



3T MRI: Let's bring it home!

JoeAnna's House

Finding the calm
in the storm

Campaign Launch

The future of health care is
closer to home than you think

Love on the Brain

The KGH NICU receives
a generous gift

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We humbly recognize and acknowledge that the KGH Foundation operates on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the syilx people.

Cover Photo: A few members of the medical imaging team at KGH. Left to right: Shelby Bichel, Director of Medical Imaging, Shelby Hashimoto, Head Ultrasound Technician, Dr. Brenda Farnquist, Medical Director and Chief Radiologist, Cindy Stratychuk, Head Mammography Technician.

A MESSAGE FROM CEO ALLISON YOUNG



IT'S TIME TO BRING IT HOME

At some point, we just stopped talking about what was 'wrong'.

“While one hopes that they, or those they love, will remain healthy forever, there will come a time when it ‘hits home’ for all of us.”

Allie Young

It was in the early stages of the pandemic. I guess you could say it was like an epiphany that we all had at the same time. Health care has to change. Not superficially. But fundamentally.

The conversation shifted to ‘what would it look like if it was right?’

That’s how it all began. Asking questions. Listening. The more questions we asked, the more enthusiastic they became – the doctors, nurses, health care workers, administrators, clinicians and community care providers in the throes of the biggest health care crisis of our time – and they started to dream... big.

While we thought about what a new era of health care would look like for the people who call the Central Okanagan home, we hoped that our community hadn’t become jaded or cynical. The news stories left little room for hope or the belief that ‘we’ (the users of the health system) could do anything about the current state of health care in our country.

While one hopes that they, or those they love, will remain healthy and well forever, there will come a time when it ‘hits home’ for all of us. Losing hope in our health care system is not an option.

The pandemic highlighted the shortcomings of the current system with gut-wrenching clarity. At the same time, it also really proved how capable and agile we could be when it came to adapting and implementing change where it matters most... right here, where we live.

The pandemic also proved that no matter how desperate a situation might become, generosity will still (and I think always) prevail in this community. You walked through the uncertainty and extreme discomfort right alongside us, and only asked one thing... ‘how can I help?’

There is hope. It’s *closer to home than you think*. In this edition of Foundations, you will read about our most ambitious campaign in history, how we got here, and the people on the front lines of health care who have dared to dream. Together, we have formed a plan to address some of the fundamental changes that need to happen to improve health care, right here where we live.

And now, we have reason to believe that we can make a difference. We are taking action, informed by the people who know what we need most – the people working in health care in our community, patients, families, and you.

The future of health care is *closer to home than you think*.

It’s time to bring it home.

In gratitude,

Allison (Allie) Young, CEO
KGH Foundation



CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

CLOSER TO HOME THAN YOU THINK

The KGH Foundation launches its most ambitious campaign in history.

If you're driving down Pandosy Street towards downtown, you can't miss it – the oversized billboard on the side of the Dr. Walter Anderson building at Kelowna General Hospital. The stunning photo of KGH washed in the hues of a glorious Okanagan sunrise provides a backdrop of hope and optimism, paired with the billboard's bold message – 'Health care has to change.'

The sign's installation signals the beginning of a brave commitment to a new era for health care in our community; one that refuses to submit to the narrative that our health system is irrevocably broken and that there's nothing that we can do about it. A promise of a new era of health care for the people who live in the southern interior of BC that is *closer to home than you think*.

This is why, on the day after the big billboard was installed, KGH Foundation CEO,

Allison (Allie) Young stood shoulder to shoulder with dozens of KGH's top physicians, administrators, health care clinicians and program providers to share the vision of what this new era of health care could look like and, most importantly, to invite the community to actively participate in building this vision, together.

It's *closer to home than you think*. A \$40 million commitment to advance health care at Kelowna General Hospital and through vital community health service providers across the Central Okanagan.

"What matters most to all of us is the health care that is being delivered right here, where we live," says Allie. "So that's why we're focusing on investing in solutions that serve the unique needs of our patients and their families, served by our people, our hospital and community. We are not Vancouver or

Calgary. It's time to truly give the people of the interior of BC a voice, to listen, and to act on their behalf."

The campaign looks remarkably different from recent KGH Foundation campaigns, which have successfully rallied the community to raise funds for specific equipment or program expansion in critical areas such as cardiac or stroke care. The \$40 million includes a novel commitment to innovation funding and is allocated across eight areas of priority.

"It's important that we recognize the current deficits that exist in care – and where we can, make investments that improve wait times and reduce the frustration that people have been experiencing," explains Allie. "But we can't stop there. This is a new era in all regards – cutting-edge technology, research and innovation – these are critical

components that not only allow us to advance care in our region but are also vital to attracting and retaining top physicians, nurses and health care workers to the Okanagan and KGH.”

“We are grappling with the same, complicated issues that communities across Canada are facing,” says Dr. Devin Harris, Interior Health’s Executive Medical Director of Quality and Patient Safety and an Emergency Physician at KGH. “While the pandemic was acutely disruptive, it also showed us what we can do.”

Dr. Harris, along with a number of physician/clinician colleagues from a variety of medical specialties and community care, is an active participant in the campaign’s advisory cabinet, helping to inform priorities and re-imagine what is possible in delivery of care locally.

KGH radiologist, Dr. Michael Partrick and KGH cardiologist, Dr. Frank Halperin also participate in the campaign’s advisory cabinet and are excited about the opportunity to engage the community in the effort to improve health care locally.

“The fact that the campaign is recognizing the need for support across multiple medical specialties and in services in our community is really remarkable,” says Dr. Partrick. “This campaign is so important for those of us who work in health care. Not just for the funding but to know that we have our community’s support.”

“It has been a very collaborative effort,” adds Dr. Halperin. “Health care is changing. In order for the community to have a meaningful impact on health care, we need to find different, more efficient ways to deliver care and embrace technology. We are pleased that this campaign addresses more than the need for better equipment.”

Reflecting further on the potential impact of the campaign, Allie notes, “Success is keeping interior patients close to home for advanced, specialized care. It’s reducing waitlists and enabling access. It’s establishing the conditions that will attract and keep our brilliant physicians and clinicians right here in our community. Success is an investment in innovation that will help build the accessible, inclusive, sustainable system of care that we all deserve.”

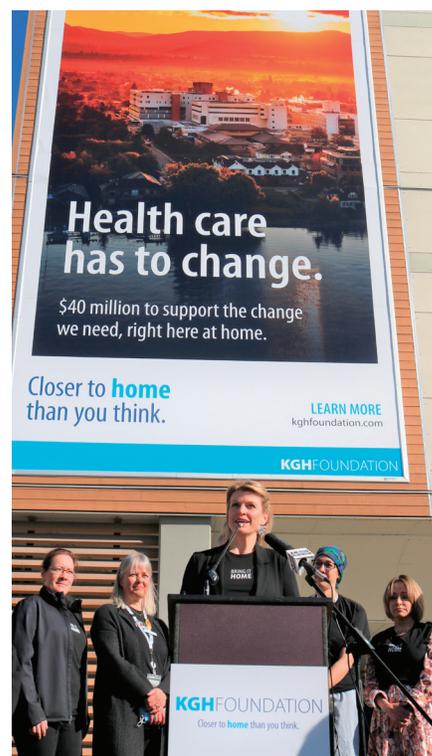
“Though we expect it will take us some time to raise \$40 million, the response so far has been extremely encouraging,” says Allie. “We are already almost a quarter of the way there.”

“The future of health care is closer to home than you think.”

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 For more information about the campaign’s goals, please visit kghfoundation.com

“Because not only have you told us that health care needs to change, you’ve also told us you want to help. It’s time to bring it home.”

Allison Young
 CEO, KGH Foundation



\$40 million to support the change needed, right here at home.

<p>\$10 MILLION</p> <p>CLINICAL & SURGICAL EXCELLENCE</p> <p>To fund state-of-the-art equipment and technology including a 3T MRI.</p>	<p>\$2 MILLION</p> <p>WOMEN’S HEALTH</p> <p>Advance OB/GYN services at KGH and establish Women’s Health Innovation Fund.</p>	<p>\$3.5 MILLION</p> <p>MENTAL HEALTH CARE</p> <p>Address the mental health crisis, and invest \$1M in Mental Health Collective Impact Fund.</p>	<p>\$3 MILLION</p> <p>BONE & JOINT CARE</p> <p>Fund additional surgical equipment and training, and improve patient care experience.</p>
<p>\$9 MILLION</p> <p>HEALTH SYSTEM INNOVATION</p> <p>Fund system-wide changes to health care. Establish Indigenous Peoples Wellness Fund.</p>	<p>\$4 MILLION</p> <p>CARDIAC CARE</p> <p>Investment in expansion and innovation within KGH’s existing, world-class program.</p>	<p>\$3.5 MILLION</p> <p>CANCER CARE</p> <p>Acquisition of specialized diagnostic and surgical equipment and advanced training.</p>	<p>\$5 MILLION</p> <p>BRAIN HEALTH</p> <p>Bring highest quality of care and establish a Centre of Excellence in Brain Health at KGH.</p>

3T MRI: LET'S BRING IT HOME

From acute injuries to unexplained symptoms, pain, lumps and bumps, the answers to so many questions can be found deep in the body. This is why medical imaging is so vital—it is the critical link between a patient's symptoms and the path to diagnosis and treatment.



The always smiling and energetic Sprott Shaw College Change Bandits.

This year's KGH Day of Giving called on the community to take action and help raise the funds needed to double Kelowna General Hospital's ability to provide MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scans for thousands of Central Okanagan patients every year.

The commitment to fund a 3T (Tesla) MRI is part of the KGH Foundation's *Closer to home than you think* campaign. The foundation aims to raise \$40 million to drive the changes needed in health care, right here at home, in multiple areas of care. This includes advancing clinical and surgical excellence at Kelowna General Hospital (KGH), and \$5 million to fund the interior's first 3T MRI machine.

Currently, KGH has one twenty-year-old 1.5T MRI machine that operates 147 hours per week.

"MRI is an absolutely critical diagnostic technology in medicine today," says Allison (Allie) Young, CEO of the KGH Foundation. "The fact that KGH currently only has one machine – the oldest in BC – is no longer acceptable. As our community continues to grow, thousands of Central Okanagan patients wait too long for an MRI which in turn, delays their care team's ability to diagnose and treat what is ailing them."

Community Answers the Call

Thanks to the generosity of local families, all funds raised on KGH Day of Giving, up to \$250,000 were matched dollar for dollar. The final gift came in online at 11:57 pm and shortly thereafter, the Foundation's Donations Manager, Veronica Copeland, had the final total – \$794,606.36.

"It was incredible," says Veronica. "I couldn't wait to share with the team so that they could share with the community. And for me, this felt very personal because I know what it's like to have to wait for an MRI."

After a three-year hiatus, local radio personality Phil Johnson was back in the lobby at KGH broadcasting live. The drive-through donation station outside the KGH Foundation offices on Pandosy St. was bustling with activity. The Sprott Shaw Change Bandits took their legendary energy to the streets to drum up support from the cars passing by. Bell Media partner stations, Move 101.5 and Virgin 99.9, were broadcasting live on location. And throughout the day, hundreds of individuals, business owners and corporate representatives stopped by to donate and add their voices to the rallying cry of support.

3T MRI: A Game Changer

To address the growing demand and backlog of Central Okanagan patients waiting for an MRI, the Province recently announced a commitment to replace the existing 1.5T MRI at KGH. The Province and Central Okanagan Regional Hospital District also committed to providing the infrastructure funding for a second MRI machine at KGH if the KGH Foundation was able to raise the funds needed to buy the machine itself.

“The 3T MRI will help more than double our capacity, meaning people aren’t going

to need to travel hundreds of kilometres to get a scan,” explains Dr. Brenda Farnquist, Medical Director and Chief Radiologist at KGH. “In addition to being faster and producing incredibly detailed images, the 3T MRI will help us accommodate many different sizes of patients, helping to improve comfort and reduce the claustrophobia that some patients feel.”

“Every day, we see examples of how MRI is crucial for treatment planning, decision-making about what comes next in someone’s care and following up to see

if our treatments are effective,” states Dr. Daryl Wile, Neurologist at KGH. “We are excited about the 3T MRI because we know that the technology will drive care forward and allow us to learn new things about brain diseases and how we treat them.”



GIVING IS GOOD MEDICINE

As he broadcasted his live radio show from the lobby of KGH, Phil Johnson noticed a gentleman in a hospital gown and slippers lingering nearby, listening intently to the radio interviews. The man shuffled off but later returned. He opened up his wallet and handed Phil a \$50 donation.

Kjell Sundin, a loyal KGH Foundation donor, made his gift saying, “We can all do a little more to help.” Kjell was one of a handful of generous donors and families who offered to match gifts made on Day of Giving.

Joining Kjell as matching donors was the Porubanec family. But Darrell Porubanec, a former KGH Foundation Board Chair and campaign advisor, didn’t stop there. While out for lunch with a friend, Darrell excitedly shared his family’s intention to match gifts on KGH Day of Giving up to \$100K.

By the end of the lunch, Darrell’s friend decided to match \$100K as well. Because that’s what friends are for.

We are grateful to all the families who came forward to match gifts on KGH Day of Giving.

GIVING CHANGES EVERYTHING

Since its inception seven years ago, the KGH Day of Giving has raised over \$3.8 million in support of KGH and community health care. The success of the annual fundraiser is a testament to the care and generosity of the community, businesses and frontline caregivers to come together in support of a shared goal.

“Philanthropy is incredibly powerful,” states Allie. “It gives people what we need most in health care right now – hope and agency.”





PHYSICIAN & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MEET THE 'HOME TEAM'

The future of health care in our community is people.

For over eight years, Dr. Kathryn Brown has played an important role on a team of celebrated cardiologists at Kelowna General Hospital (KGH). Lately though, Dr. Brown has found herself a place on another team; a volunteer cabinet of 39 health care professionals from multiple KGH medical specialties, huddling up to create the playbook for the biggest philanthropic effort in KGH Foundation history. Together with an additional 17 community leaders, the cabinet, aka the 'Home Team', is actively helping to inform priorities towards a new era in health care, at KGH and across the community. Each has demonstrated leadership and vision in their area of specialty, and a willingness to forge strategic collaborative partnerships to advance health care in innovative and exceptional ways.

"It has been exciting to be part of reframing the conversation around health care in our community. We are co-creating a path forward that provides real hope for patients and clinicians," says Dr. Brown. "Whether

it's cardiac care, brain health, surgical excellence, cancer... this is the first time we've really worked together for an outcome that will ultimately benefit us all"

"The KGH Foundation's *Closer to home than you think* campaign represents a much-needed shift in how we view and plan for the future of health care," says Dr. Brown. "A sustainable system will not only require physical equipment but also the clinicians and leaders to guide how best to explore new horizons of care."

A wide variety of perspectives are needed to identify gaps, articulate issues and identify opportunities to help re-imagine a system of care that is inclusive, sustainable and accountable.

"We are so fortunate to have leaders not only from our local health care community but with a variety of experience and backgrounds," explains Allison (Allie) Young, KGH Foundation CEO. "They infuse our

campaign with diverse perspectives. They are not only champions in our community; they also serve as vital connectors, spreading the word and forging meaningful connections throughout the region."

A new era in health care means that transformation isn't something that will be achieved in silo or isolation. It is informed by patients, their loved ones and caregivers. It considers the important perspectives of the program providers, clinicians, administrators, doctors and nurses who are doing the work every day. It will only be accomplished by aligning priorities and working together.

The future of health care in our community is people. It's *closer to home than you think*.

To learn more about our Volunteer Campaign Cabinet, please visit kghfoundation.com/campaign-cabinet

Dr. Devin Harris, Executive Medical Director, Quality and Patient Safety, Interior Health and **Dr. Deanne Taylor**, Corporate Director of Research, Interior Health are the campaign's co-chairs.



Dr. Devin Harris

Dr. Devin Harris, Cabinet Co-Chair
 Executive Medical Director, Quality and Patient Safety for Interior Health
 Emergency Physician, KGH
 Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine, UBC



Dr. Deanne Taylor

Dr. Deanne Taylor, Cabinet Co-Chair
 Corporate Director of Research for Interior Health
 Scientific Director of the Rural Coordination Centre of BC
 Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Health and Social Development, UBC Okanagan

Dr. Harris has provided vital leadership and insight informing the development of the campaign's vision, regional funding priorities and ultimately, what the future of care in the BC southern interior (and regional jurisdictions around the world) could look like. He is local, from Penticton, but also spent a good part of his career working in Vancouver at St. Paul's Hospital. He is highly regarded as a physician and a leader in quality improvement and has rapidly advanced in leadership roles, including holding the Chief of Staff position at KGH, in the past decade.

Dr. Harris, along with Dr. Deanne Taylor, has been a lead clinician spokesperson. He spoke convincingly at the KGH Foundation's Heart of Gold gala in September, which raised \$1.6 million for the Brain Health component of the campaign.

Dr. Taylor is an advocate and active role model for the cultivation of Learning Health Systems thinking and application in the delivery of regional health care using evidence-informed practice and decision-making. Dr. Taylor provides leadership and vision for the proposed BC Centre for Health Systems Learning and Innovation at KGH. She currently leads KGH's team of physician researchers and cultivates and facilitates a range of research and knowledge translation activities at Kelowna General Hospital.

Dr. Taylor has been instrumental in the initial concept stages of the campaign, in particular, the specific focus on research and innovation. She has spoken at a number of donor events and works very closely with the KGH Foundation team in support of the fundraising effort, transformational and lead gifts.

Campaign Cabinet

Cabinet Co-Chairs

Dr. Devin Harris
 Dr. Deanne Taylor

Health Care Cabinet

Health System Innovation

Andrew Hughes
 Dr. Michael Humer
 Dr. Neil Long
 Dr. Katrina Plamondon
 Dr. Sana Shahram
 Dr. Alex van Duyvendyk
 Dr. Cara Wall

Clinical & Surgical Excellence

Shelby Bichel
 Jaymi Chernoff
 Dr. Nevin De Korompay
 Dr. Brenda Farnquist
 Dr. Ryan Foster
 Donna Jansons
 Dr. Michael Partrick
 Kevin Peters
 Bev Sieker

Brain Health

Cory Bendall
 Pamela Hruska
 Dr. Aleksander Tkach
 Dr. Michael Tso
 Dr. Daryl Wile

Bone & Joint Care

Dr. Cassandra (Lane) Dielwart
 Dr. Steven Krywulak

Cancer Care

Dr. Chris Baliski
 Dr. Dante D'Urbano
 Karen Leach-MacLeod
 Dr. Josh Wiesenthal

Mental Health Care

Ginny Becker
 Ellen Boelcke
 Danielle Cameron
 Mike Gawliuk
 Shelagh Turner

Cardiac Care

Dr. Kathryn Brown
 Robyn Goplen
 Dr. Frank Halperin

Women's Health

Dr. Amber Burridge

Community Cabinet

Brett Aynsley
 Kevin Bradshaw
 Dallas Chelick
 Allyssa Costerton-Grant
 Roberta Fidalgo
 Janine Karlsen
 Ken Kilcullen
 Eric Ledding
 Christy Lovig
 Karina Munroe
 Patrick Ng
 Darrell Porubanec
 Margaret Porubanec
 Bruce Sprague
 Steven Tuck
 Ray Warren
 Dawn Wrightson

FINDING CALM IN THE STORM

A stroke can happen at any age, in both men and women, without warning, which is exactly what happened last November to Pam's husband, Gord.



"I couldn't understand," says Pam, who, together with Gord, lives in Grand Forks. "He is a non-smoker and doesn't have high blood pressure or high cholesterol. Gord keeps active by playing hockey, going to the gym, skiing, and walking on most days. So we were both shocked."

A stroke is an abrupt loss of brain function caused by a sudden blood vessel blockage or rupture in the brain. Thanks to supporters of the KGH Foundation's *Every Moment Matters* campaign, Kelowna General Hospital (KGH) and the Interior Health Stroke Network now have the capacity, expertise and equipment to help hundreds of stroke patients every year just like Gord.

Gord was sent to KGH, the main referral hospital for stroke patients from across the southern interior of BC, including Grand Forks. Pam followed and later their daughter Robyn, flew from Vancouver to support her parents.

"I was in a fog. I had no plan," shares Pam. "We needed a place to stay and I just didn't even know where to start."

One of Gord's nurses suggested JoeAnna's House, a home away from home for out-of-town families with loved ones receiving care at KGH.

"We did not know a place like JoeAnna's House existed in Kelowna," explains Pam. "But thank goodness for the staff at JoeAnna's House. My life was in chaos and they were so kind and calm. A huge weight was lifted."

Pam stayed at JoeAnna's House for four weeks then went back to Grand Forks for 10 days. She later returned to JoeAnna's House for another two weeks while Gord recovered from the stroke.

"You never know when your life could be turned upside down."

"You never know when your life could be turned upside down," says Pam. "JoeAnna's House not only gave me a place to sleep but also emotional support from the staff and from the other guests. We were all worried about our loved ones, but we really helped each other."

Pam's daughter is on the board of directors for Ronald McDonald House (RMH)

in Vancouver. She says that what they do at RMH is so much more real now that JoeAnna's House has touched their lives.

Both Pam and Gord are now back at home in Grand Forks. "Our new normal is different and continues to evolve," says Pam. "Gord is focused on his recovery and doing well. We are forever grateful to the supporters of JoeAnna's House – being able to stay there lifted a significant financial and emotional burden for us – and for that, and so much more – thank you."

Better Together: When Pam returned to JoeAnna's House for the second time, it was around the holiday season and she brought a turkey and made a donation to go towards a holiday dinner for the house. Pam also helped prepare the dinner with JAH staff for the guests, showing yet again that we are Better Together.



JoeAnna's House was built through community support, with the sole purpose of providing out-of-town families with safe, compassionate, reliable, and affordable accommodation while their loved one(s) received advanced medical care at Kelowna General Hospital (KGH).

MUST BE LOVE ON THE (BABY) BRAIN

It is the most complex organ in our bodies, the headquarters of intelligence, interpreter of the senses, initiator of body movement, and conductor of behaviour. Thanks to advancements in technology, the brain is no longer the complete mystery it once was.

Brain development begins early – just a few weeks after conception. Development then skyrockets during pregnancy and an infant’s early life.

“We know that preservation of brain health is an absolutely integral part of neonatal care,” explains Dr. Jill Boulton, Neonatologist at Kelowna General Hospital (KGH). “So, the ability to detect seizures in our tiniest patients is critical to future development and overall brain health.”

At birth, a baby has around 100 billion neurons, all they will ever need. Protecting these neurons is crucial. A seizure can have a significantly detrimental effect. But how is a seizure be detected in a baby?

“Most neonatal seizures are not obvious,” says Bonnie Wilkie, NICU Educator at KGH. “Sometimes it’s a little cyclical limb movement, or lip smacking, or twitches – all of which babies do for other reasons as well.”

This is why a new piece of equipment funded by the Kelowna Sunrise Rotary Club through their 2021 Season of Giving Calendar campaign has been so critical.

The club sold 6,000 calendars and raised over \$129,000, with half of the proceeds dedicated to supporting pediatric care at KGH. The Rotary members chose to use the funds to purchase a BRAINZ monitor for use in the NICU at KGH.



L to R: Bonnie Wilkie, NICU Educator, Joseph Daignault, RN and Laura Beresford, Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, NICU Pediatrics with the BRAINZ monitor at KGH.

The BRAINZ monitor, a specialized EEG (electroencephalogram), allows clinicians to see the subtle indicators of a seizure or other abnormal brain activity in a baby. Small sensors are attached to the scalp to pick up the electrical signals produced by the brain. These signals are recorded by the technology for review by neonatologists like Dr. Boulton.

“The BRAINZ monitor has made a potentially life-altering difference in the care that we are able to provide,” states Dr. Boulton. “We had a baby who had a very clear seizure and we applied the BRAINZ monitor and provided treatment. But that wasn’t the end of it. The BRAINZ monitor also allowed us to identify additional, more subtle seizures that were not visibly apparent and subsequently escalate care.”

The treatment for the initial seizure required medications to sedate the baby.

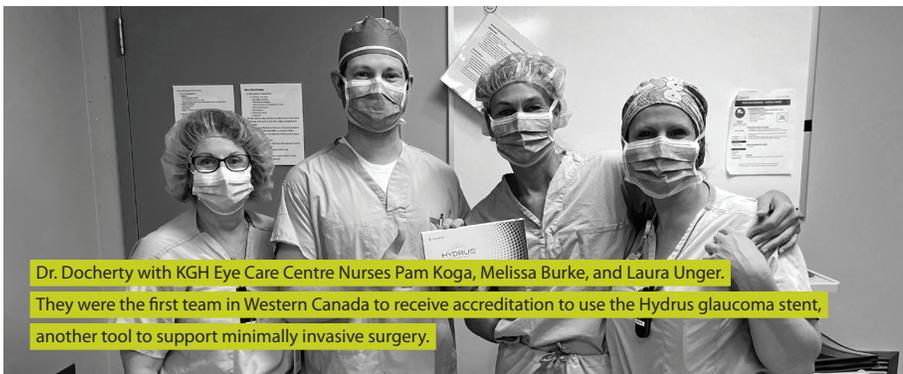
“Without the BRAINZ monitor, we would not have seen the subtle changes in the baby’s brain activity and might not have intervened as quickly as we did,” concludes Dr. Boulton.

The BRAINZ monitor has been used almost ten times in less than a year, allowing KGH clinicians to identify seizures and determine whether a baby needs further follow-up. In addition, the BRAINZ monitor helps clinicians see when no seizures are present, thus allowing the baby to remain close to home, at KGH, for treatment.

Thank you for supporting the Kelowna Sunrise Rotary Club’s Season of Giving Calendar! For our tiniest patients, giving really does change everything.

VISION PRECISION

There are few things as unnerving as losing your vision. With a condition called glaucoma, it can be particularly distressing because glaucoma often has no symptoms. It develops gradually, with many people going years before noticing an issue and often losing some of their eyesight, which is not reversible.



Dr. Docherty with KGH Eye Care Centre Nurses Pam Koga, Melissa Burke, and Laura Unger. They were the first team in Western Canada to receive accreditation to use the Hydrus glaucoma stent, another tool to support minimally invasive surgery.

Thankfully, doctors can intervene, help protect the remaining vision and reduce the chances of further deterioration in vision.

The Eye Care Centre at Kelowna General Hospital (KGH) provides surgical procedures of the eye, including cataract, macular degeneration, retina, and glaucoma surgery. The busy centre performs upwards of 8-20 glaucoma surgeries per week and its ophthalmologists recently began using a new set of equipment to further enhance glaucoma surgery at KGH.

When examining or performing surgery on an organ as small and delicate as the human eye, it is imperative to have the best visual equipment possible.

“Over a year ago, we treated a patient for complications from a Trabeculectomy – a type of glaucoma surgery – done in Vancouver,” explains Dr. Gavin Docherty, Ophthalmologist at KGH. “The patient was so pleased with our team and the excellent and professional care that he asked us if there was anything we needed to enhance our work.”

A bit surprised, Dr. Docherty and his team provided the individual with a list of equipment that could advance patient care in the Eye Care Centre. However, they kept their expectations in check.

But thanks to that grateful patient-turned-KGH Foundation donor, Dr. Docherty’s wish list was granted – exceeding all expectations. The donor provided the funding to purchase a new microscope for the Centre’s second operating room (OR 2), with a teaching scope attachment and a slit lamp with a mounted camera.

“The new microscope has expanded our ability to perform glaucoma surgery, in particular, angle-based or minimally invasive glaucoma surgery,” explains Dr. Docherty. “Now, both operating rooms are equipped to support the full spectrum of glaucoma surgery.”

The new microscope and accessories also promote enhanced learning. “I am able to teach residents, medical students and nurses to a much higher level with the

new teaching scope,” says Dr. Docherty. “They can watch in real-time as I perform a surgery, plus we can record a surgery for learning later.”

Patients have noticed the difference as well. “I am so pleased they were able to get the new microscope to expand the capacity to do glaucoma surgery at KGH,” states one of Dr. Docherty’s patients. “I remember when I had to travel to Vancouver for my initial surgeries. It is such a blessing to have this available in our region now.”

“This gift has dramatically improved our ability to teach and train future health care providers and affords greater access for current patients,” says Dr. Docherty. “I am very appreciative of the generously donated funds to purchase this equipment – it has made such a difference in the care we can provide in the Eye Care Centre at KGH.”



Glaucoma is an eye disease that involves damage to the optic nerve as a result of increased pressure buildup in the eye. The nerve sends visual signals to the brain, where they are processed into what you “see”. The cause of glaucoma is not known.



“This gift has dramatically improved our ability to teach and train future health care providers...”

Dr. Gavin Docherty,
KGH Ophthalmologist



PLANNED GIVING

GIFT PLANNING: FROM VISION TO LEGACY

By Colleen Cowman, Director of Planned Giving, KGH Foundation

KGH Foundation donors John and Monica Shantz formed a clear idea of their philanthropic legacy. It grew from their belief that the best health care possible, close to home, is vital to our whole community.

To achieve their vision of supporting health care for the Interior, John and Monica decided to establish an enduring, named endowed fund.

Creating this fund rests on a “blended giving” strategy. By using regular annual

donations, they began funding The John and Monica Shantz Endowed Fund in 2021. It will achieve full funding with their last gift - a charitable bequest to fulfill their commitment. Once fully funded and after a year of investment, the Shantz’s fund will enable KGH to purchase new equipment for diagnostics, medicine, labs, and surgery – priorities our community will require for years to come.

Every donation makes a difference, but making a gift beyond your lifetime takes

reflection and shows the special care you take when considering the future.

By blending your current donations with a bequest, you can craft your personal legacy for future generations. One way is to establish an endowed fund to ensure your lasting support for critical medical advancements and patient care.

We are grateful for donors like the Shantz’s who have thoughtfully included the foundation in their philanthropic legacy.



The Endowment Wall at Kelowna General Hospital.

Inspire Advances in Care

Creating a plan for a unique mix of charitable contributions can leave a lasting imprint of generosity.

Estate planning is fundamental to philanthropic planning. Deciding how to distribute your estate demonstrates how you want to take care of loved ones. With each tangible memento or asset given, you share a memory, build future potential, and provide a form of support and hope for others.

Charitable giving amplifies what you leave others AND helps to leave the world a better place.

If there is one place that everyone needs, now or in the future, it's our hospital. Access to excellence in health care doesn't matter...until it does. And then, it is the only thing that matters.

Donating a portion of your estate to the KGH Foundation allows you to continue to inspire advances in care at KGH. No matter how you choose to give, by planning a blended approach for current and legacy giving, you're contributing to a thriving health care system, close to home for future generations.

A donation in someone's honour

is a gift that will have lasting impact. A commemorative donation in memory or celebration of a loved one is a special way to share your acknowledgements.

Learn more at kghfoundation.com/in-honour

Endowments Support Urgent & Primary Care

Kelowna has grown a lot over the years, and with this growth, more residents and visitors whose first language is not English are experiencing barriers when accessing health care services.

Every day, the Kelowna, Rutland Aurora and West Kelowna Urgent & Primary Care Centres (UPCC) found these barriers a big challenge while caring for numerous patients.

“We see between 50-80 patients daily,” says Chauntal Skemer, Manager of the Rutland Aurora Primary Care Clinic. “Many are non-English speaking or not proficient in English. With the current health care crisis in primary care, and urgent and emergent care, accurate communication and understanding between patient and clinician is imperative.”

Thanks to two endowments with the KGH Foundation, the UPCCs now have translation services for patients after purchasing clinical iPads with rolling medical-grade stands and specialized software.

“This equipment enables stronger communication with our patients every day,” says Stephanie Paulson, Manager, Kelowna UPCC. “Before the iPads, we used a land-line telephone translation service. It was

challenging: set up took a long time; calls got dropped; and ASL (American Sign Language) was unavailable.”

“This equipment enables stronger communication with our patients every day.”

These iPads are portable and easy to use, with video and audio options, plus ASL. Patients can now access health care and feel heard and understood, resulting in increased dignity and respect.

“We serve diverse people,” Stephanie explains. “New immigrants, refugee populations, and tourists visiting Canada whose first language is not English come to us for various treatments. With language barriers and errors in information sharing, not receiving safe care is a risk. Now we can ensure accurate medical visits because we understand one another, and they receive safe, appropriate care.”

“We are grateful for this gift,” says Chauntal. “It makes translation service more accessible, personal, and efficient. Both patients and providers are benefiting! Thank you.”



“On behalf of those who work in health care, thank you for supporting the KGH Foundation.”

Kyle Recsky

FROM THE HEART

IT'S NOT JUST CLOSE TO HOME... IT IS HOME

By Kyle Recsky, KGH Foundation Board Chair

As I enter my sixth and final year as a member of the KGH Foundation board, I find myself reflecting on how truly special Kelowna General Hospital is. Most people try to avoid the hospital. But for my family and so many others, it's a little different.

Dr. Magda Recsky is a colorectal surgeon at KGH who also happens to be my amazing wife. She wanted to be a doctor since the day I met her. After 16 years of post-secondary training (and two kids along the way), she landed her dream job in 2014 at KGH.

We rely on our hospital 24/7/365. This means that for families like ours, whose loved ones work in health care, there



are times when bringing 'home' to the hospital is just what we do. Last year our family enjoyed Christmas dinner in our car, parked outside

the hospital, so my wife could care for her patients on Christmas Day. For hundreds of patients and staff, KGH was "home" on Christmas Day.

On behalf of the families of those who work in health care, thank you for supporting the KGH Foundation. For those who call KGH home, it means so much.



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