

MEDIA RELEASE

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CURLERS HIT THE LINKS TO SUPPORT KGH'S LITTLEST PATIENTS

KELOWNA, BC –Over 175 curling enthusiasts gathered at Sunset Ranch Golf Course in Kelowna this past June to participate in the 3rd Annual Sandra Schmirler Golf Tournament, bringing the three year cumulative total raised by the charity event to over \$130,000.

As always, the atmosphere was lively as participants took to the links to raise funds to support the purchase of state of the art equipment and patient care items for the tiny patients being treated in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Kelowna General Hospital.



Participants at the 3rd Annual Sandra Schmirler Golf Tournament, from left: Nick Stephenson, Dave Stephenson, Jamie Smith and Tod Simons.

“These little newborns are incredibly fragile and sometimes, very sick,” notes Bonnie Wilkie, a Nurse Educator in the NICU at Kelowna General. “Cutting edge technology and advanced medical equipment allow us to support their growth and recovery more effectively than ever before. We couldn’t be more grateful to the Sandra Schmirler Foundation for their generosity.”

Hosted by famed TSN play-by-play commentator, Bryan Mudryk, the tourney features a fun day of golf, games and opportunities for participants to engage in friendly competition. The tournament continues to pick up steam with each passing year

“We are thrilled!” says event chair and former world curling champion, Sasha Carter. “It really is like a family getting together for so many of us and an honor to contribute to the legacy of a woman who gave so much to our sport and to sick children across the country.”

Sandra Schmirler rose to international fame as the charismatic skip of the Canadian Olympic team that won the gold medal at the 1998 Winter Olympics, the first year women's curling was a medal sport. Schmirler passed away in 2000 at age 36, but her legacy lives on through the Foundation that bears her name. The Sandra Schmirler Foundation was established in 2001 with a mandate to fund life-saving equipment for babies born too soon, too sick or too small.

The KGH Foundation is an independent, volunteer-driven charitable organization committed to enhancing the delivery of healthcare to the patients of Kelowna General Hospital and its associated facilities.

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