

WINTER 2020

# KGHF FOUNDATION

Giving Changes Everything.



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## FROM THE CEO IT TAKES A VILLAGE



At the KGH Foundation, we are fortunate to bear witness to the best in people every day. People giving, big and small, because they believe they can make a difference. Gifts in support of friends, family, neighbours and complete strangers. We see the impact those gifts have on those who are often facing their darkest days. We are humbled by superhuman efforts the medical staff at Kelowna General Hospital and in the community make to reduce suffering and save lives. We marvel as the most skilled researchers and planners create a healthcare system that is working to rival the best in the country.

We witness miracles. Lives changed. Lives saved. Time given back. We see hope. None of these miracles would be possible without the collective effort of the community working together.

As they say, 'it takes a village.' In this issue of our winter newsletter you will read about some of the miracles made possible by our village.

You will learn of a young Enderby mother's joy and relief when she and her two children were able to stay close to her husband while he recovered at KGH from a terrible accident. Where only a year ago there was just a parking lot, JoeAnna's House now stands, a home away from home for families like the Klassens, who must travel from across the province to remain close to their loved ones while they received advanced, specialized care at KGH. Bright, warm and safe, built by the hearts and hands of this community, not unlike an old-fashioned barn raising.

You will read about the importance of corporate citizenship, and why local families like the Augusts are so committed to giving back to the communities they serve.

We take you 'behind the curtain' and introduce you to Dr. Devin Harris, an Emergency Department physician. Dr. Harris is one of the most dynamic leaders our health system has seen in recent years, whose vision includes catalyzing our village to revolutionize the way we treat one of the most deadly and debilitating medical challenges of our time. We will also go behind the scenes of 'Where the Miracles Live', and the massive team effort required to capture the unseen, immeasurable gifts made possible by our village in a two and a half minute video.

I hope you enjoy the stories to follow. Your stories. Our stories.

Thank you for being a part of the village.



With care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'D. Rankmore'.

Doug Rankmore  
CEO, KGH Foundation

## FAMILY GIVES BACK

# AUGUST DREAM RALLIES COMMUNITY



Michelle August (right) and  
Dream Rally participant

Matt August admits he got goosebumps when he first toured JoeAnna's House with his sister Michelle and staff. "When Michelle and I started the August Family Foundation we envisioned supporting a home like Ronald McDonald House here in Kelowna so when we heard about JoeAnna's House, it was a perfect fit," says Matt.

The August family has a history of owning local businesses that goes back three generations to 1945 when Archie August founded Kelowna Motors, a family business built on the support of the community. Today, Matt and his father Brian own August Mazda (formerly Kelowna Motors) and Matt owns August Luxury Motorcars. Michelle August is also a successful entrepreneur; she is the founder of SPINCO with 14 locations across Canada.

With the passing of their uncle Gary August in 2014 (Gary was a founding partner of Coldwell Banker Horizon Realty), Matt and Michelle quickly realized the importance of community. The siblings knew their uncle was an amazing person but didn't know to what extent he had touched the lives of community members. As heartfelt condolences and memories flooded in, Matt learned "it's not what you have in life, it's the people in it that make the difference and for that I thank him", says Matt.

In 2015, Matt and Michelle co-founded The August Family Foundation with an ambitious goal to raise \$1,000,000 over the course of five years to support local charities and those in need. Their efforts have been revved up with the success of their flagship event, The Okanagan Dream Rally: an exotic/sports car rally dedicated to creating once-in-a-lifetime experiences for children and youth who have gone through difficulties.

"Our mission is simple," says Matt. "We want to put a smile on the face of children in need and provide them with a day they will never forget."

In 2019, the event's fourth year, the Okanagan Dream Rally raised over \$800,000, with funds going to both Ronald McDonald House and JoeAnna's House. "We couldn't do it without the hard work of our staff, all of the volunteers, our drivers, car owners and our clients" Matt adds.

Beyond raising money, the event gives the public the opportunity to see, touch and hear some of the finest cars in the world, right here in Kelowna. This past year, over 200 drivers and car owners showed up for the opportunity to share their prized possessions with children in need and the community. Thousands of onlookers filled downtown Kelowna and lined the streets of Highway 97 all the way to Penticton for an opportunity to witness the impressive motorcade.

When they launched the Dream Rally in 2015, Matt August could only dream of success like this. But if last year's record attendance and fundraising is any indication, his plan is to keep going and growing.

The August family's commitment to community shows us just how much impact we can have when we work together. The 2020 Okanagan Dream Rally takes place on August 2.



Matt and Brian August





## JOEANNA'S HOUSE

# FIRST FAMILY: THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT

It was a clear, starry night this past November 21, when the community came out in droves to celebrate the completion of a project that has captivated our collective hearts for over two years. Built and now operated entirely by the generosity of the people of this community and from across the southern interior region, the lights were officially turned on at JoeAnna's House.

Just four days later, on November 25, the first family arrived, desperately in need of a safe, warm place to stay near Kelowna General Hospital where a beloved son, husband and father fought to recover from a devastating traumatic accident in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). The family had already been in Kelowna for over four weeks.

For Cam Klassen, October 21 began like any other typical, rainy fall day in Westwold, BC, a small community close to his home in Enderby. The 31-year-old carpenter was working on a hayshed roof with a friend. But in a moment, everything changed. Cam slipped on the wet roof and fell to the ground, 22 ft. below. His friend also fell, but was unhurt, and quickly called 9-1-1. The Air Ambulance was dispatched directly to the farm, and Cam was flown to Kelowna General Hospital, the main referral hospital for emergency trauma for the southern interior region. His injuries were extensive, but the most concerning was the trauma to his brain. He was sedated and placed in a medically induced coma.

That night, Cam's wife, Heather, tried to comprehend the gravity of Cam's condition. So many doctors, broken bones, bleeding in the brain - the list seemed endless. Heather leaned into her faith. "All we could do was pray. I just prayed that his brain would be OK."

Soon, her prayers began to include their two small children: four-year-old daughter, Jaci, and one-year-old son, Kade who Heather had to leave in Armstrong with friends. It broke her heart to be away from them. She did her best, with the help of her parents, Larry and Marion, to commute back and forth, to be there for Cam and their children, but the stress was overwhelming. "When the person you love is fighting for his life, you feel like you have to be strong, but inside I felt like I almost died too. I was numb."

Meanwhile, friends and family in the Klassen's tight-knit Mennonite community in Enderby were doing whatever they could to help their fallen brother and his family. By grace, there was already a well-established friendship between their church and the KGH Foundation.

For years, the Klassens' Mennonite community in Enderby has been host to young men from across the U.S. and Canada who provide service as part of their faith commitment. Many of these young men choose to volunteer at KGH, and as a result, a deep relationship has formed between Director of Business Enterprises,



Heather Klassen (right) and her family photographed inside JoeAnna's House

Nancy Wells, and the Mennonite host families in Enderby. In the weeks leading up to the JoeAnna's House grand opening, Nancy was busy organizing volunteers to help prepare for the home's first guests. It wasn't long before Nancy learned about the Klassens from her young Mennonite volunteers and their host families. Being from a small farming community in rural Alberta herself (ironically, the same small town that Cam's parents came from), and having taken the young men under her wing for many years, Nancy felt a kinship toward this family. They needed help.

Cam lay in a coma for nearly three weeks. On Nov. 8, he woke up.

Still two weeks from opening day, Nancy reached out to the KGH social worker assigned to Cam's case and began the process of ensuring that Heather, Jaci, Kade, Larry and Marion would be welcomed to JoeAnna's House as soon as it was ready to receive guests.

"We called them our Kelowna unit," laughs Heather. "Nancy Wells and the boys - they were our angels. JoeAnna's House is so beautiful and the staff are so caring, coming here has been such a relief, there are no words. Being with my children... well, it's helped mend a little part of my broken heart."

"What would I say to the donors who made this possible? 'Thank you' just seems too feeble. I am grateful beyond measure. You have given me the most precious gift... being together with my children, while staying close to Cam."

JoeAnna's House is a remarkable gift in so many ways. It will continue to stand as a symbol of what can be accomplished when we work together. And as the days go by, and more families pass through its doors, more stories will emerge that remind us that, despite what seems like an ever more complicated and disconnected world, there is never really much degree of separation between us.

Our village might seem bigger, but the values we share don't change. Families helping families. We are always better together.

After nearly two months at KGH, Cam was discharged on December 19, and was able to spend the holidays at home in Enderby.



KGH volunteers and members of the Klassens' Mennonite community



## PHYSICIAN PROFILE

# DR. DEVIN HARRIS: COMING HOME



Dr. Devin Harris

As a young boy growing up in Penticton, Devin Harris watched as his father built what appeared to be a very challenging and rewarding career. He was inspired to pursue a career in medicine.

His chosen speciality, emergency medicine, presented as both thrilling and challenging. Dr. Harris couldn't have imagined then,

that the most rewarding part of his career would be found in the relationships with people. It's what motivated Dr. Harris to pursue increasing responsibility in leadership positions. He is now Interior Health's Executive Medical Director of Quality and Patient Safety; in short, ensuring patients from across the region receive the highest standard of care possible.

Dr. Harris' wife was also born and raised in the Okanagan. Both had busy careers in Vancouver for over 20 years, yet frequently spent their free time returning to the Okanagan to visit. Dr. Harris was recruited to join the Emergency Department at KGH in 2014. "It meant a better life," he says of the move. "The community is fantastic; access to activities for our kids; and for us, the outdoors, nature, and locally grown food."

Professionally, Dr. Harris could see there were significant opportunities in joining Interior Health. In just three years, Dr. Harris was promoted to Chief of Staff at KGH. It was in this role that he began to work closely with the KGH Foundation. His passion for finding solutions to support those with mental illness moved him to become actively involved in the KGH Foundation's collaborative campaign with CMHA Kelowna to build Foundry Kelowna. Dr. Harris has also been directly involved in the campaign for JoeAnna's House.

Indeed, doctors, nurses and staff at KGH are often the first to see opportunities for improvement and genuinely want the best for their patients. "We can't always provide what we really want for the best experience in care. Because of philanthropy, as care providers, we have better access to imaging, funding for improvement projects, a fantastic home away from home for our patients and families in JoeAnna's House, and an amazing resource for our children and families in Foundry Kelowna."

Heading into 2020, perhaps the most significant collaboration between Dr. Harris and the community simmers on the horizon. Stroke - one of the most deadly and debilitating medical challenges of our time. Dr. Harris is playing an instrumental role in advocating for the need to implement a revolutionary stroke care plan at KGH.

***"Working with donors helps us feel connected to and part of our home community," concludes Dr. Harris. "Something very special happens. We realize we are all part of the same team, and that ultimately, we all want the same thing - the best health care possible for the people in our community."***

Dr. Devin Harris is Interior Health's Executive Medical Director of Quality and Patient Safety, and an Emergency Department physician at KGH. He also maintains responsibilities as Council Chair, BC Patient Safety and Quality Council, and is Clinical Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, UBC.



## PLANNED GIVING

# PHILANTHROPY CAN BE PRACTICAL, TOO

There was no way it could be true. A voicemail from a man named Marshall Eliuk wishing to give the \$1.4 million required to complete the KGH Foundation's \$7 million campaign to bring Electrophysiology (EP) to Kelowna General Hospital, the regional hub for Interior Health's Cardiac Science Program.

But it was true. Mr. Eliuk's nephew had seen an ad in the local newspaper and suggested he consider giving a gift. The Edmonton and Peace River based businessman had just sold his last car dealership. As he'd be happy to tell you, one of the primary motivations for his incredibly generous gift was actually quite practical. "The enjoyable tax and depreciation deductions from the past had surfaced, causing a tax situation. Rather than losing control of my hard earned money by giving it to the tax man, retaining control and giving it to charity was a much better way to go."

The gift is an excellent example of the countless benefits of charitable giving. While many are familiar with the traditional 'cash' gift, an emerging and growing trend in philanthropy is planned or legacy giving. This category of charitable giving includes strategic gifts that allow donors to capitalize on tax benefits, consider how their giving will be achieved and what legacy they'd like their estate to represent.

A donation of securities or mutual fund shares is one of those options. Using this strategy, donors pay no tax on capital gains, receive a tax receipt for the fair market value of their contribution, and reduce their taxes. In short, with proper planning, a donor will realize even more tax savings than they would with a gift of cash. The ability to accept securities opens the door to more gift givers, as well as larger gifts, to support the work at Kelowna General Hospital.

Tax planning is important. Donors must make sure that securities or mutual funds will qualify for the incentive. Since the incentive relieves tax on capital gains, choosing securities with larger capital gains, as in Mr. Eliuk's case, is typically a good approach.

When asked why they've chosen to give a gift of securities, Mike and Cherald Tutt agree with the practical nature of this option. "We believe in supporting our community," they say. "A number of years ago we were introduced to the concept of providing gifts of publicly traded shares as a more tax efficient way to achieve what we wanted to do. Through giving in this way, not only are we able to give larger gifts, it also matters to us that we are keeping more of our dollars in our community, supporting the causes we care most about."

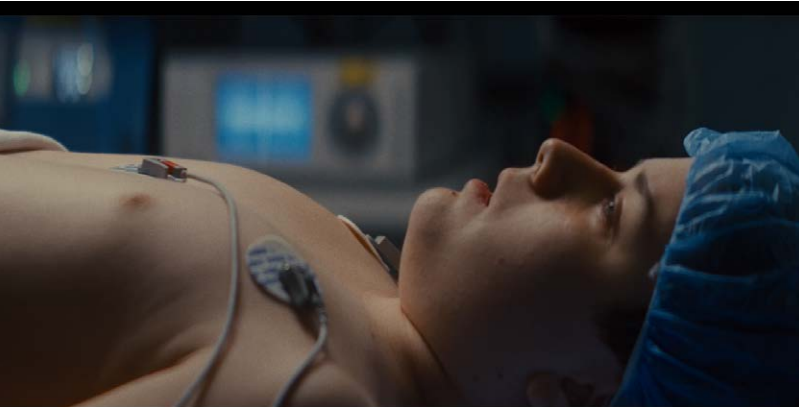
Similarly, Mr. Eliuk echoes the Tutts' sentiments. "I have experienced much success throughout my life. I wholeheartedly believe in giving back to the communities we live in and supporting medical services we are blessed to have available to us as Canadians," said Mr. Eliuk. "And, I'm a grateful patient myself. It gives me great joy to know that this gift will ensure heart rhythm patients can access the lifesaving care they need, right here at KGH."



For more information on the relationship between charitable giving and tax planning, please contact Sasha Carter, Director of Legacy Giving at 250-862-4300 ext. 7011 or [sasha.carter@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:sasha.carter@interiorhealth.ca)

# GIVING CHANGES EVERYTHING WHERE THE MIRACLES LIVE

It was an idea that seemed impossible when it was first suggested back in 2018. A short film that takes the viewer behind the curtain at Kelowna General Hospital and gives some sense of what we mean when we say 'Giving Changes Everything.' But as we've learned over the years, when a project or a goal meets its time, the impossible becomes possible.



Filming in a working hospital was an ambitious task. It required a huge team effort on the part of hospital staff, one that they enthusiastically embraced. The beautiful sweeping exterior shots were filmed with a drone and had to be carefully coordinated with Transport Canada, so as to not interfere with regular flights from BC's Air Ambulance.

The moving visuals are brought to life by an emotive script, carried by a voice that is instantly recognizable. Local poet turned international, award-winning spoken word performer thanks to his world-stage debut at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics, Penticton's Shane Koyczan thoughtfully and artistically explores the balance between life's greatest challenges and the value "time" plays.

In the end, the film's fast-paced 2.5 minutes represents a world class system of care that is driven by philanthropy; a beautiful tribute to the work being done at KGH every day and finally, a reminder of the miracles that are made possible when we give to support our hospital.


**TO VIEW THE VIDEO, VISIT [WWW.KGHFOUNDATION.COM](http://WWW.KGHFOUNDATION.COM)**

Giving Changes Everything.  
Learn more at [www.kghfoundation.com](http://www.kghfoundation.com)

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