

Impact Report



KGH FOUNDATION

2024/2025



Giving changes everything

At the KGH Foundation, this past year has been one of extraordinary progress and impact, all made possible because of you.

Your generosity has been the moving force behind meaningful change. In our hospitals, our care homes, our community, and in the quiet, tender moments at places like JoeAnna’s House, your giving has helped transform health care from something people wait and hope for, into something people can count on close to home.

Together, we’ve invested more than **\$10.5 million** in advancing health care across the region. Women facing

gynecologic cancers now have access to life-saving surgery right here at KGH. A brand new, state-of-the-art 3T MRI was welcomed ‘home’, and with it, a dramatic reduction to wait times and waitlists. We are investing in recruitment, training, and innovation to strengthen our health care teams and create the conditions that inspire talented professionals to choose our community. And families facing some of life’s most difficult moments continue to find respite at JoeAnna’s House.

These are more than just milestones. They’re proof that our mission to bring world-class health care closer to home is becoming reality. They’re reminders

that your support doesn’t just improve health care, it changes lives.

In the pages that follow, you’ll read stories and learn about the ripple effects that your giving has made possible. You’ll see how giving truly changes everything for patients, for caregivers, for families, and for the future of health care in our region. Every step forward has been made possible because of you.

Thank you for believing in better, for standing with us, and for helping advance world-class health care where it matters most. Right here at home.

YEAR AT A GLANCE



7,517 gifts made by
3,901 donors



\$19.29M in revenues
generated by the
Foundation



1,199 JoeAnna’s House
guests welcomed with
comfort and care

\$10.5M+ granted to support 213 projects across:



PEOPLE
83 PROJECTS



PLACE
90 PROJECTS



INNOVATION
40 PROJECTS



\$3.45M
in revenue generated
by our volunteer-run
business enterprises

46,900 hours donated
by 378 Volunteers
(not including events)



\$7.58M in future
gifts pledged through
estate expectancies



\$496,046 raised
through 40 third-party
fundraising events

Closer to Home Than You Think



The Campaign Cabinet



Thanks to your generosity, we’ve reached 78% of our \$40 million goal in our most ambitious fundraising campaign. What makes *Closer to Home Than You Think* truly powerful is its flexibility and urgency. Guided by the expertise of local physicians and care teams, donations are being put to work immediately across seven priority areas. Because of you, care is being transformed, and lives are changing in operating rooms, clinics, outreach programs, and homes across our region.



CLINICAL & SURGICAL EXCELLENCE

TO VIEW THE FULL LIST OF PROJECTS FUNDED, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT



WWW.KGHFOUNDATION.COM/CLOSER-TO-HOME-PROJECTS/

Donations continue to equip KGH teams with advanced technology to deliver specialized care, reduce wait times, and match the capabilities of leading urban centres. Thanks to your generosity, KGH has a state-of-the-art 3T MRI, which has more than doubled imaging capacity, and a new central monitoring system (CMS) in the Emergency Department, that’s improving patient safety and team coordination. But we aren’t done yet, as we continue to fundraise to bring robotic-assisted surgery to KGH. These investments greatly improve patient care, but they also help attract and retain leading talent, ensuring KGH remains a centre of excellence for years to come.

“The 3T MRI, CMS, and surgical robotics all require a significant investment, but the return is undeniable: shorter wait times, earlier diagnoses, less patient travel, and better outcomes. I cannot stress how important these improvements are for our patients, they can mean a cancer caught earlier, a stroke treated faster, the list goes on and on. This technology continues to play a vital role in saving and improving lives, all thanks to donor generosity.”

DR. MAURICE BLITZ
KGH Chief of Surgery,
Thoracic and Foregut Surgeon

HEALTH SYSTEMS INNOVATION

Innovation funding gives clinicians much-needed time and resources to turn ideas into real-world solutions, something rarely possible within the pressures of day-to-day care. Your support is driving bold new solutions focused on strengthening our health system for the future.

Thanks to your generosity, parents of children with diabetes are connecting directly with care teams (Project IMPACT), physicians are training for high-risk emergencies in new ways (Body Donor Program), and rehabilitation is accessible in community (YMCA Pulmonary

Rehab). The opening of the Jim Pattison Centre for Health Systems Learning + Innovation also marked a pivotal step forward, uniting care teams, researchers, and community partners to accelerate practical, research-driven change. These are just a few ways innovation funding is building a smarter, stronger, and more sustainable health system that puts people at the heart of every solution.



DR. CARA WALL
Hospitalist,
KGH Chief of Staff

“Investing in innovation means investing in the people driving it. Buying our teams time to design better systems and processes is essential to build a more efficient, collaborative, and effective model of care. We’re fortunate to have incredibly talented professionals who, when empowered, consistently turn bold ideas into lasting impact.”

The Jim Pattison Centre Board of Directors is joined by members of the Jim Pattison Foundation, KGH Foundation, and the Interior Health Authority at the official opening of the Centre.



Established in 2024 through a \$5 million gift from the Jim Pattison Foundation, in partnership with Interior Health and the KGH Foundation, this Centre fosters collaboration and innovation. By connecting communities, health care leaders, and industry, it accelerates solutions that strengthen health systems and improve care for the people of the Interior of British Columbia.

Closer to Home Than You Think

WOMEN’S HEALTH

Women’s health has long been underfunded, but thanks to donor support, advanced care for all genders is available at KGH. Investments in life-saving gynecologic cancer surgeries*, innovative breast cancer technologies, and improved maternity care are closing long-standing gaps and transforming patient outcomes.

**Read more on page 12*



Everyone deserves to feel safe, seen, and supported in their care. Thanks to donor support, we’re elevating women’s health, from the new gynecologic oncology program* bringing surgical care to KGH, to Wireless Localization technology that’s reducing pain and improving outcomes for breast cancer patients. Donors are reshaping women’s health care in our community.”

DR. VANESSA CARLSON
Gynecologic Oncologist



CANCER CARE

Because of you, KGH has enhanced precision, comfort, and outcomes for over 7,500 cancer patients cared for every year. The funding provided has equipped KGH care teams with new, state-of-the-art medical imaging, pathology (lab) and surgical oncology equipment and tools, some of which include:

- IHC Stainers for the lab
- Inpatient Chemotherapy Room
- Tumour Debridement/Cryo Equipment
- Endoscopic Ultrasound
- Wireless Breast Localization Technology



The support of our donors has enabled our hospital teams to detect cancers earlier, provide care closer to home, and employ less invasive treatment methods. These advancements are not merely clinical, they have a profound impact on individuals and families. When it is a loved one—a spouse, sibling, child or friend—who is able to return to daily life more quickly, the significance cannot be overstated. In cancer care, such victories are hard-won and deeply meaningful to patients, their families, and the clinicians who support them.”

DR. JOSHUA WIESENTHAL
Head of Urology & Urologic Surgeon

BRAIN HEALTH



Thanks to donor support, KGH is fast becoming a centre for brain health excellence, offering advanced neurological expertise, innovative equipment, and specialized training. From tools like the Neuro-stimulator and Mayfield Cranial Stabilization Device, to expanded services such as neuro-focused dietitian care and outpatient rehab, these advancements are improving patient experiences and outcomes, especially for our aging population and the growing number of those facing neurological challenges such as Parkinson’s.



We’ve seen remarkable advances in neurological care at KGH. The impact of our new cutting edge equipment, advanced treatments, and meaningful investments in innovation are undeniable. On behalf of our entire team, thank you for empowering us to help our patients with this level of care.”

DR. DARYL WILE
Neurologist & Movement Disorder Specialist

MENTAL HEALTH CARE



The *We See You* campaign continues to fund the urgent needs of mental health care programs for vulnerable populations, uplifting thousands of individuals through counselling services, mobile clinic visits, suicide supports, immigrant programs, and so much more. It’s also driving major system change through **Thrive Okanagan**, a convening table of community partners collaborating to build a more connected, resilient, and proactive mental health care system.



The mental health challenges we face are complex, but they also present an opportunity for collective action. There are many organizations and leaders working together through Thrive Okanagan to create innovative solutions that drive lasting change, both in our services, systems and communities. We have already seen how this proactive approach makes a meaningful and positive impact, and helps our community thrive.”

SHELAGH TURNER
Thrive Okanagan Lead Catalyst

CARDIAC CARE



Donor support has firmly established KGH as a recognized leader in cardiac care, providing thousands of patients with access to life-saving treatment.

But excellence isn’t a finish line, it’s a continuous journey. Ongoing investments, in items such as those below, ensure our teams remain at the forefront.

- **Technology** – ECMO and ECHO machines, pulsed field ablation
- **Critical Care** – CCU & CSICU enhancements, Code Blue improvements
- **Diagnostics** – Cutting-edge imaging and testing tools



Every year, thousands of cardiac patients come to our hospital, and every day, I witness moments that wouldn’t have been possible without donor support. A mother surviving a heart attack or a grandfather given more time. Our cardiac teams are skilled, compassionate, and have access to world-class equipment because of donors like you.”

DR. KATHRYN BROWN
Medical Director of Cardiology – IHA & Cardiology Division Lead - KGH



TO VIEW THE FULL LIST OF PROJECTS FUNDED, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.KGHFOUNDATION.COM/CLOSER-TO-HOME-PROJECTS/

Investing in the human side of health care

In the face of growing health care demands, and recent challenges like the temporary closure of KGH’s pediatric ward, the role of donor support has never been more critical. While infrastructure and equipment remain essential, addressing these complex issues requires sustained investment in people: supporting the recruitment, training, and critically, the retention of skilled clinicians. That means not only upskilling and wellness programs, but also fostering a workplace culture and environment where people feel supported, resourced, and able to do their best work.

Over the past 18 months, donor generosity has enabled the KGH Foundation to provide over \$255,000 in funding for a range of initiatives aimed at enhancing physician recruitment, training, and wellness. A few of those funded projects are highlighted on the right.

“Every one of these initiatives—whether it’s advanced pediatric life support, education days, or wellness sessions—are steps in the right direction,” emphasizes Dr. Cara Wall, Hospitalist and KGH Chief of Staff. “They build skill, they build confidence, and they remind our

care teams that they’re not alone. These donor-funded programs may seem small on their own, but together, they are helping us strengthen the foundation of care at KGH.”
The challenges facing health care today, especially in fast-growing regions like

the Central Okanagan and surrounding areas, are complex, and the path forward isn’t simple. Donor generosity allows for a nimbleness to respond to these vital requests with immediacy in our efforts toward a larger movement to retain great people, attract new talent, and

INITIATIVES	IMPACT
Pediatric Upskilling Plan (PUP)	Enhanced training for non-pediatricians in pediatric emergencies
Emergency Department Grand Rounds	Regular specialized education sessions for emergency care providers
Physician Wellness Series	Addressing grief and burnout among physicians
Advanced Pediatric Life Support Training	Advanced training for Emergency Department physicians in managing critically ill children
ELSO Education	Specialized training supporting new extracorporeal life support (ECLS) program development
Adolescent Psychiatry Unit DBT Training	Training in Dialectical Behavior Therapy for adolescent care
Civility Saves Lives Training	Promoting civility among medical staff across the region

help build a workplace where health care providers can thrive.

“We are in the midst of one of the most challenging times I’ve seen in health care, especially when it comes to staffing. But thanks to donor support, we can take meaningful steps forward in real-time, even while the bigger issues are still being worked out. Every investment in education, training, and wellness is helping us rebuild capacity, recruit talent, and retain the people who care for our community.

DR. CARA WALL
Hospitalist
KGH Chief of Staff

Donor gifts are more than charitable contributions—they are expressions of trust, solidarity, and hope. As the KGH Foundation looks ahead, it remains deeply committed to stewarding that support with care and urgency, ensuring that every investment brings the community one step closer to the health care system it deserves.



JoAnne Slinn and Dr. Jared Baylis setting up a patient simulator for educational purposes.



\$255,000+ invested
in clinician training, education
and professional development
over the last 18 months



590+ clinicians
supported in accessing advanced
education and upskilling
opportunities



330 clinicians
attended Indigenous cultural
safety training within
Interior Health



JOEANNA'S HOUSE

Quiet moments make all the difference

Just over five years since opening its doors, the impact of JoeAnna's House has been nothing short of extraordinary. With 20 beautiful, well-equipped family rooms and 10 more on the way, we've welcomed

over 3,000 families, accounting for 28,762 overnight stays, including 394 repeat visits.

Beyond our success and the exciting expansion set to break ground in

September 2025, JoeAnna's House reveals something even more profound — that healing often happens beyond the operating room, beyond the hospital walls, and sometimes, beyond the patient themselves. Here, caregivers



and families find refuge, a place to weather their hardest moments, connect with those who understand, and experience quiet, powerful exchanges that can change everything.



While I was doing everything to stay strong for my husband, inside I was falling apart. JoeAnna's House is an amazing place, it provided for me exactly what I strived to provide as a caregiver: support, a sense of calm, empathy, and the quiet reassurance that sometimes, it's ok to not be ok."

VAL, Vernon resident and JoeAnna's House guest for over 100 nights

JoeAnna's House shows us that healing is found in the everyday. Magic lives in the mundane. Like running out of slippers, only for volunteers to arrive with a fresh supply. Or in more bureaucratic wins, like just making the cut for a transit hub, ensuring our expansion can move forward. It's in the kitchen, where two strangers connect over coffee, becoming fast friends.

"To feel like the world is ending and have someone there going through the same thing makes you go to bed at night thinking you're not alone," says Val, who

met a lifelong friend during her stay. The home is intentionally designed to ensure caregivers don't slip through the cracks. It gently nudges them out of their rooms to pour a coffee, share a meal, or greet another who understands their grief and fear. The kitchen, shared tables, and patio become healing spaces for the caregivers.

For volunteer Kaitlin, the most meaningful moments are when guests choose to open up. "JoeAnna's House embodies community," she says, reflecting on the spontaneous conversations that reveal the power of presence and compassion.

Supporting caregivers is proven to directly improve patient outcomes. When families feel supported, they are calmer, less anxious, and better able to communicate and care for their loved ones, strengthening the entire healing journey.

JoeAnna's House is more than a convenient place to land, it's where quiet, unexpected magic happens. In the guests, the volunteers, and those who give so generously, we see the ripple effect of kindness and connection every day.

+ 10
20

20 family rooms
(with **10 more** on the way!)



3,003 families
welcomed in total



28,762
total overnight stays



\$89 daily cost to
operate JoeAnna's
House (per room)



148 nights
—longest stay



394 repeat stays

WOMEN'S HEALTH AND CANCER CARE

Bringing women's cancer surgery to Kelowna General Hospital

With a funding commitment from the Province and equipment acquisitions made possible by the generosity of donors to the KGH Foundation's *Closer to Home Than You Think* campaign, the Gynecologic Oncology Surgical Program celebrates one year in operation at Kelowna General Hospital this fall.

Gynecologic cancers, including ovarian, cervical, endometrial, vulvar, and vaginal cancers, affect an estimated 8,000 Canadian women annually, yet access to timely, specialized care remains uneven, particularly for women outside major urban centres.

Historically, women in BC's Southern Interior diagnosed with gynecologic cancers were referred to Vancouver for surgery, separating them from their families and support systems.

Bringing the vision of this program to life was made possible through the persistence of many: from KGH clinical leaders like Bev Sieker, Director of Clinical Operations; administrators like Lindsay Taberner, Executive Director at KGH; and a team of passionate KGH gynecologists and clinicians.

"Women deserve the same standard of care, close to home, that's available in our largest cities," says Sieker. "I am proud to be a part of a community and hospital that is putting women's health where it belongs: at the forefront."

To anchor the services, KGH welcomed three dedicated gynecologic oncology surgeons to Kelowna, including Dr. Vanessa Carlson.

“Moving to Kelowna to help build this program has been incredibly rewarding,” says Dr. Carlson. “Every day I get to help women and let them know we can treat them here in their community.”

Within months, the program met the provincial four-week standard of care for surgical intervention, reflecting both the clinical team's commitment and the urgency of the need.

"With a 46% increase in gynecologic cancers in BC over the past decade, expanding this care in our region isn't optional—it's essential," says Taberner. "We've already seen the profound impact that timely access to specialized surgery has on our patients' lives and outcomes."



Dr. Vanessa Carlson consults with a patient.

"When I heard I could have my cancer surgery in Kelowna, I broke down in tears—not from fear, but from relief. It meant everything to be treated here by people who cared, near my family and my support system," shares a recent Gynecologic Oncology Surgical Program patient.

The success of the program is not only rooted in strong clinical leadership, it's

been made possible by the generosity of donors. Last year, donors rallied to advance Cancer Care specifically at KGH, funding life-saving surgical innovation and critical upgrades to diagnostics, such as advanced imaging (including the acquisition of the 3T MRI), lab, and pathology services. In fact, the rapid acquisition of the diagnostic and surgical equipment needed for this program would not have been possible

were it not for the generosity of donors. "This was never about one person or one department—it was about believing that women in the Interior deserved better," emphasizes Sieker. "Now, with the commitment of our team and the generosity of our community, we've made Kelowna a place where women can access the care they need, when they need it."



219 women
have received care through the program



14% projected growth in patient volume over the next five years



3 Gynecological Oncology Surgeons recruited to KGH for the program

Featured projects



CADAVER & SIMULATION EDUCATION

Over the past six months, the IH CaSE (Cadaver and Simulation Education) program has revolutionized emergency medical training across Interior Health. The cadaver lab at UBCO, the first of its kind in BC, has equipped 23 KGH emergency physicians with hands-on practice in high-stakes, life-saving procedures. “The cadaver lab has allowed us to maintain competency with rare but life-saving procedures and will save lives,” says Dr. Jared Baylis. Demand is strong, with interest from Penticton, Vernon, Kamloops, and a request to train 80 emergency residents province wide.

“When experienced doctors take five hours out of a packed schedule and call it time well spent—you know you’ve built something that matters,” adds Dr. Neil Long.



DBS (DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION)

KGH is on track to become a centre of excellence for brain health—bringing life-changing care closer to home. Patients with Parkinson’s disease are able to access local follow-up for deep brain stimulation (DBS), a transformative therapy that helps regulate abnormal brain activity.

Previously, all post-surgical DBS care required travel to Vancouver, often at personal cost and risk. With aging patients facing barriers to regular care, local access means better outcomes, fewer complications, and a dramatically improved quality of life.

More than 100 DBS patients live in the Interior Health region who can access the critical follow-up care they need right here at home, all because of donor generosity.



UPSTREAM

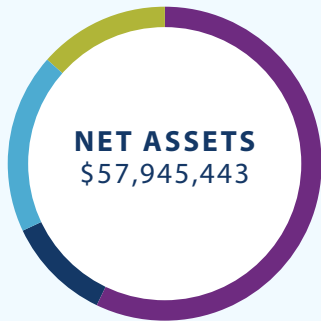
This community initiative is preventing school disengagement, youth homelessness, and mental health challenges by reaching youth who may not show visible signs of risk just yet. Upstream connects students and families with preventative supports.

In 2024, over 1,000 students were surveyed and 350 received tailored support. Of the students involved in the project, 100% reported feeling better about themselves, better able to cope with emotions, and that they are doing better in school. 88% reported feeling more comfortable in school. Upstream is bridging the gap between school staff and local service providers, and fostering well-being and resilience.

Financials



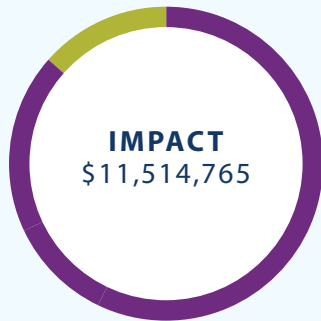
Donations	9,994,716
Social Enterprises	3,446,704
Investment Income	3,398,828
Gaming, Sponsorship & Other	2,283,883
JoeAnna's House Operations	167,065



Restricted for Endowment Purposes	23,436,219
Restricted for Specific Purposes	20,424,740
Unrestricted	10,043,410
Invested in Capital Assets	4,041,074



Amortization, Operations, Salary & Benefits	4,169,719
Social Enterprises	2,536,585
Gaming	80,490



Donation Disbursements	10,665,020
JoeAnna's House Operations	849,745



\$5.42

Return on investment for each dollar spent

- **\$3.50** Average ROI benchmark in Canada (higher is better)



\$0.18

Foundation’s Cost to Raise a Dollar

- **Canadian Benchmark \$0.25 - 0.35** (lower is better)

FUNDING DISBURSEMENTS

	# GRANTS	\$ GRANTS
People	83	\$716,970.71
Place	90	\$7,608,026.03
Innovation	40	\$2,340,023.40
Grand Total	213	\$10,665,020.14

“

No one has ever become
poor **by giving.**”

–Anne Frank

KGHFOUNDATION

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