

Summer 2022 Newsletter



New Equipment

April 2022 marked the wrap up of the Medicine Hat Health Foundation's 25th anniversary! Since 1996, the Foundation has dared to dream of a better healthcare system for Medicine Hat and its surrounding communities. In that time, you have raised over \$18.1 million dollars to help advance our facilities, train our healthcare workers, and provide comfort and relief to countless patients.

On behalf of the Foundation's staff and Board of Trustees, we would like to offer thanks and gratitude to the many, many kind donors whose generosity makes our work possible, and to the tireless healthcare professionals for all their efforts on the frontline over the past year.

"We continue to dream big, and despite the ongoing challenges presented by the pandemic, 2021 was the most successful year in our history."

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

The Home Rehabilitation Team is finding an increased need for pulse oximeters and blood pressure cuffs to help treat those suffering from ongoing COVID-19 symptoms. We sent out a call at the end of April to help provide funding for this equipment – and we're delighted to say our donors met our goals! The equipment will soon be in our workers' hands, helping to enhance home rehabilitation services.

Ventilators, which can support or completely control a patient's breathing, are vital pieces of equipment – particularly for our fixed-wing air ambulance crew. Earlier this year, the Foundation replaced the aging ventilator in the air ambulance, ensuring the highest quality of patient care even at 10,000 feet. Air Ambulance Paramedic Greg Cruickshank had this to say:

"This is extremely exciting news for our program. This ventilator will ensure we continue to provide the best care for our patients with the most appropriate and safe equipment. Thank you for the generosity shown by the Health Foundation and the donors!"

An echocardiogram is an ultrasound of the heart. It provides a visualization of the heart's chambers', valves and how the blood pumps through them.

Thanks to your donations, the Foundation was able to provide our Diagnostic Imaging (DI) department with equipment to provide inpatient echocardiograms at Medicine Hat Regional Hospital, including at a patient's bedside. We are excited that with our donors, support we can aid DI in improving access to this important diagnostic procedure.

AHS PRIORITY AREAS

As COVID-19 volumes continue to decrease, AHS and our local healthcare systems are shifting their focus accordingly. AHS continues to maintain some COVID-19 measures at our sites until further notice.

Other post-pandemic measures include:

- **COVID Surgery Recovery:** AHS is working to increase the volume of surgeries to address the surgical backlog. In partnership with Alberta Health, AHS developed the Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI), a plan to improve surgery in Alberta by shaping demand, managing capacity, and improving the patient's journey to receiving surgery. The South Zone is implementing measures to increase the number of surgeries being performed.
- **Connect Care:** South Zone will begin work in the fall of 2022 to prepare for the launch of Connect Care, with plans to go live in fall of 2023.



GIVING HOPE FOR MENTAL HEALTH & YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH ROOM UPDATE

In difficult times, mental health services are more important than ever. From May 8-15, we held an online auction and 50/50 raffle. Local businesses and individual donors came together to raise \$7,100!

Among other allocations, these funds will be used to help renovate a dedicated mental health room for our pediatrics unit, and contribute to ongoing needs for the Adult Inpatient Psychiatric Unit.

The go ahead has been given to start the renovations needed for the dedicated youth mental health pediatric room, beginning with the required permits for changing some of the infrastructure. Here is the room prior to renovation, we can't wait to show you a picture after completion.

big hearts for tiny heartbeats

Every member of our community deserves the highest level of healthcare service – right from the very start. Our next major fundraising campaign will be focused on modernizing the central monitoring system for our Labour & Delivery unit.

Our current monitoring system is based around paper printouts and paper records for each and every patient. This upgraded system will allow for completely remote electronic monitoring for both the nurse and the doctor. It will also be part of the new Connect Care system, providing a central access point where health records will be accessible across the province.

CHILDREN'S ALLIED HEALTH

Children's Allied Health maintains a clinic helping to provide strategies for parents to manage behavioural issues in their children. Thanks to kind donations from long-time Foundation supporters Aecon and Enerplus, we were able to complete renovations on the Behavioural Department's family room. Through upgraded audio-visual equipment and new aesthetic improvements to artwork and furniture, families now have an environment in which they can feel comfortable and cared for.



As our lives progress, it's natural to be drawn to thinking about the impact we will leave behind. We want to take care of our loved ones, and leave an enduring mark upon the world, too. Legacy giving is a way for us to achieve both. The Medicine Hat Health Foundation has been a grateful recipient of many legacy gifts over the years. We've used these gifts to grant ongoing wishes in honour of the donors, and helped many local people live healthier, more fulfilling lives. We all have the chance to leave a larger legacy by choosing legacy giving.

If you would like more information on legacy giving, please email valerie@ourhealthfoundation.ca.



GIFT SHOP

The Gift Shop has teamed up with Sisu Adaptive Clothing to sell mobility clothing for individuals to get dressed with less stress. The clothing uses snap buttons and Velcro to make it easier for people with mobility limitations and other special health needs to get dressed. We are excited to introduce this unique clothing line to the community.