

Fall 2022

Newsletter

The summer of 2022 was an exciting one for the Medicine Hat Health Foundation. We saw massive support and awareness from the community, helping to fill our areas of greatest need – like when you stuffed a truck full of teddy bears for sick children.

EQUIPMENT & BEAUTIFICATION

Up until recently, the hospital had been using a trial version of specialized surgical equipment that removes tissue during gynecological laparoscopic procedures. In Alberta, this method is considered best practice, because it is less invasive, less painful, and requires less recovery time. Thanks to the Yuill Family Foundation and the Royal LePage Breast Cancer Classic, this equipment has been purchased outright. This allows for better efficiency and patient experiences in the diagnosis and treatment of uterine, ovarian, and cervical cancers, plus many other gynecological procedures.



From the bottom of our hearts, and on behalf of everyone at the Foundation and the Board of Trustees, we want to express our deep appreciation to everyone who supports our mission and our healthcare heroes. Your donations help bring even the most distant dreams to life, every single day.

The Kinsmen Club of Medicine Hat has made an amazing purchase of four new rocker recliners for Pediatrics and NICU. These chairs will help parents and healthcare workers soothe newborns in the care unit, providing comfort and rest for all in a very stressful time.

We would like to thank Church Unlimited for their purchase of many assorted but vital ICU items, helping to support department needs. These items can get overlooked as we reach for bigger goals, so we are very grateful for every single one of these donations.

The Rotary Clubs of Medicine Hat came together to have a large flower bed built at the Regional Hospital's Ambulatory entrance. The Health Foundation is grateful for this addition to the area outside the hospital, as the beautification and addition of flowers will hopefully help to reduce stress and make our community feel more comfortable at the hospital.

"The Rotary Clubs – Sunrise, Saamis and Ignite – came together on this project as a means to brighten up the day for those people in, visiting, or working at the hospital. Flowers are always bright, beautiful, and cheerful. Their presence can help ease the pain of those who are suffering. We look forward to this garden being around for many years in the future."

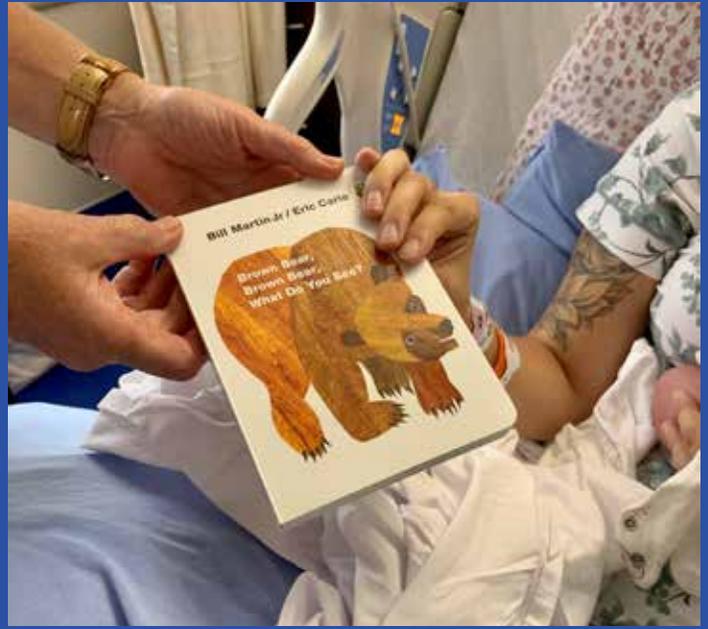
– Bill Cooper, President, Sunrise Rotary Club



FIRST BOOKS FOR NEW BABIES

When Frances Barnes' middle son brought home a book he had made in kindergarten and read it to her, she knew she would never forget the excitement and pride in his voice. It was his version of Brown Bear, Brown Bear. 22 years later, she reads that same story to his son, watching his joy and excitement as they turn each page. After hearing about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library – a program that sends a book a month to any child in Canada and the US, from birth to age 5 – she decided to build on an idea of her own.

A coffee meeting and discussion with Heather Bach, Executive Director of the MHHF, led to this new program. Frances orders the books and donates them to the Foundation, where they get special stickers before going to the maternity ward. Here, every new mom receives a book. On launch day of the project, Frances had the joy of presenting the first 4 books to baby girls Rosalyn, Eliza, Sullivan, and Magdalena. It was truly heartwarming!



“Reading is a critical skill and reading with your child is such a wonderful way to develop the skill and show your love. It’s a win-win in my books! Thank you to the Health Foundation for providing me with a personalized way to give back to my community.”

— **Frances Barnes**

big hearts for tiny heartbeats

Fundraising for our next major goal has begun! Our “Big Hearts for Tiny Heartbeats” campaign is raising \$350,000 to purchase new (and much-needed) fetal heartbeat monitors, allowing prenatal specialists in the room or around the province to hear what is happening with growing babies in real time. These monitors will also be a part of the AHS Connect Care system, keeping a central database of health records that are more easily accessible from different health facilities around Alberta. To donate, go to ourhealthfoundation.ca/support and find the Big Hearts for Tiny Heartbeats tab.



Did you know that you can leave a gift to healthcare in your will? As the designated charity for the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital, we have handled and dispersed over \$3 million in legacy gifts since 1997. When you choose to give, you and your estate will receive benefits like tax cuts, reduced fees, and other incentives. Calculate how big your impact can be with our partners at willpower.ca or find out more about legacy giving by emailing valerie@ourhealthfoundation.ca.

gathering for gratitude

FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

Congratulations to the award winners at our recent donor recognition event which celebrated the 2021/2022 fiscal year.

Philanthropist of the Year | Jessica Boyd

Volunteer of the Year | Karen Melle

Community Partner of the Year | Golden K Kiwanis

Corporate Partner of the Year | Methanex

Healthcare Hero | Ellen Longney



GIFT SHOP CART

We are excited to have our Gift Shop Cart program start up again. Volunteers go around to various units within the hospital in the mornings, selling confectionary items from the gift shop, supplying free reading material and pens, and simply visiting with patients. Hospital staff have been glad to see that the cart is out and about again, and patients enjoy the interaction. We are currently recruiting volunteers for this position. If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering, please email alexa@ourhealthfoundation.ca.