

WELL **AWARE**

PEOPLE CARING FOR PEOPLE

Protecting Patients: Automated Medication Dispensing



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Back row (l-r) Rosine Garabedian, Warren Postlewaite, Holly Ward, Braden Turnquist, Steve Shannon (CEO), Randy Singler (Chair), Dr. Kabir Virdi, Tracy Arno, Depesh Parmar. Front row (l-r): Terry Sirois, Deven Stewart, Tj Keller, Liam Mooney, Heather Ryan, Meghan Gervais.

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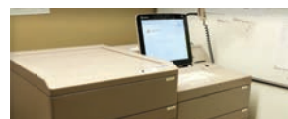
LPN Cathy Evans demonstrates the Pyxis automated medication dispensing system currently in use at St. Paul's Hospital. Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation is asking for your help to purchase a dozen units for use in the hospital's busiest wards and departments.



EQUIP FOR EXCELLENCE

The Foundation's campaign has raised more than \$11 million since 2013.

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PROTECTING PATIENTS

A new medication dispensing system will increase patient safety.

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Plan your holiday and winter activities with this handy guide.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Steve Shannon

Keep up: to stay level or equal with someone or something.

You've probably heard this phrase. In the world of health, it tends to mean having the same technology as others. At the hospital, it also means having the latest and best technology.

It especially applies to the Foundation's latest initiative. You've no doubt read how we need your help to raise more than \$2 million for a new medication dispensing systems at Saskatoon City Hospital. The cost is high because the goal is to install these in more than a dozen of the hospital's busiest wards and departments.

The new dispensing system is more efficient, faster and most of all, safer for patients. It ensures they get the right medication in the right amount at the right time. That's so crucial.


It's also necessary because it's quickly becoming the standard of practice across Canada. The vast majority of hospitals across the country and almost all emergency departments are already using the same dispensing units.

This is where the keeping up part comes in. You can ensure that our very

fine hospital and its great, dedicated staff have the best and the latest. And that patients, as always, are protected. Recent statistics for Saskatoon City Hospital usage is another reason why your help is so vital. Last year, the number of patient visits to the hospital increased to 195,000.

That's 20,000 more visits than the previous year. Simply put, Saskatoon City Hospital is getting busier.

The busier it gets, the more important it is to ensure that the hospital has the resources, technology and equipment to keep up with demands of an ever-growing patient base.

So, please continue to support the Foundation and the hospital. You play a vital role in keeping Saskatoon City Hospital up with the latest and best technology. And, as always, thank you for continued and faithful support. 



Donate at SCHFgo.com

HOW YOU HELPED!

Medical Imaging, Fit for Life, Fellowship benefit from donations; Courtyard Project completed



Your gifts have enabled drivers with various physical and cognitive challenges to get training and remain independent. In the spring of 2017, the Foundation asked for your help to purchase a new driving simulator.

Used in the hospital's **Fit for Active Living** program through the Driver Education Program, the simulator measures in real time factors such as legality, safety and courtesy.

It benefits those with cognitive, perceptual, physical, or medical limitations that affect driving ability.

It's also useful for individuals who've never driven but have significant disabilities that may require special adaptations.

The new simulator is very welcomed – the last time the program had a simulator was in 2007!

The purchase was supported by many donors, including \$10,000 from the Saskatoon and District Safety Council. Pictured here testing the machine is Alan Reichert, media relations officer, who was joined by the council's Don Meister and Bob Turczyn.

Thanks to EY Black Tie Bingo, its many supporters, and to donors like you, Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation has named its first Fellowship award recipient.

Ophthalmologist Dr. Gabriela Campos-Baniak will spend a year at Dalhousie University in Halifax. She'll complete a fellowship in the subspecialty of glaucoma. When she returns, she'll be just the second surgical glaucoma specialist at Saskatoon City Hospital.



Thanks to you, the Physician Fellowship/Residency Program is off to a great start!

Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation has committed to raising \$600,000 for its **Physician Fellowship/Residency Program**. The program funds young doctors to receive specialized training, with the provision they return to the hospital where patients benefit from their newly obtained expertise.





You've also enhanced **Medical Imaging** at Saskatoon City Hospital.

Readers might recall how the digital radiography room was in need of an update – it was using a computer with old floppy disk drives.

Thanks to donors like you and also to Irene and Leslie Dubé, who provided a very generous matching gift of \$300,000, the suite has been renovated and is now fully operational.

Utilizing digital technology, the radiography suite allows the department to more efficiently deal with numerous patients. It's not unusual to have 30 to 40 patients at a time waiting for radiography.

The radiography suite's new technology is fully digital and employs less radiation, making radiography safer for everyone, but especially for pediatric patients or those women who are of child-bearing age.

This past summer saw the hospital's courtyard, between the staff entrance and parking garage, upgraded to make it safer and more usable. The majority of the work involved replacing old paving stones with more stable and decorative concrete tiles.

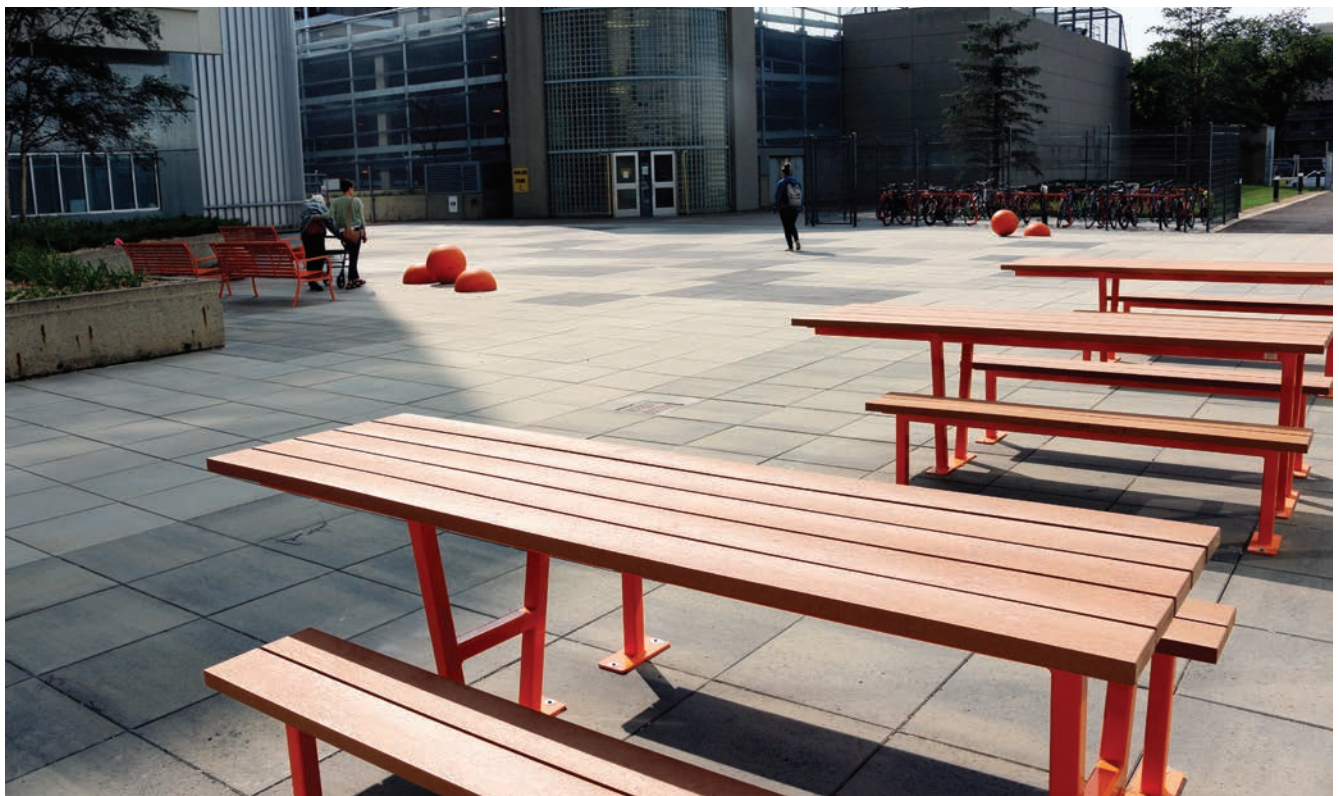
The project also saw the addition of colourful seating, including several benches and wheelchair-friendly

picnic tables. Finally, the large planter received a makeover with the addition of new shrubs and plants.

The Foundation was glad to be involved in this effort to create a welcoming, more usable space for all hospital visitors and users!

When you're at the hospital be sure to take a peak and have a sit.

Thank You!



BUSY HOSPITAL LEADS TO NEED FOR NEW EQUIPMENT

New equipment needed for Rehab Centre, Nuclear Medicine, Central Therapies, NIC, Surgical Services



Dr. Waill Khalil says ultrasound will help him meet demand for therapeutic pain treatment.

You can help four departments and hundreds of patients by supporting equipment requests.

Dr. Waill Khalil, physician with the hospital's **Physical Rehabilitation and Medicine Clinic**, is asking your help to purchase **two ultrasound machines**, one of which is portable.

He's a fellowship-trained physician whose specialty is managing interventional pain as an alternative to pharmacological solutions. His practice's waiting time increased from one-month to one-year since he returned to Saskatoon.

Dr. Khalil says his current ultrasound is limited in what he can see. As a result, he defers 50 per cent of patients to St. Paul's or private pain clinics, which also have lengthy waitlists.

Patients with carpal tunnel symptom are one group that would benefit from ultrasound-guided treatment. "Injection is an alternative to remedy this but these injections used to be done blindly. New ultrasound technology

helps physicians more accurately point the injection to the spot where it needs to be. This works the same for joints such as ankles, knees, shoulders and even the spine."

Conditions treated include pinched nerves, arthritis, osteoarthritis, joint, and spine issues. The new ultrasounds would let Dr. Khalil treat patients without referring them to fluoroscopy or C-Arm x-ray. He could treat more patients who wouldn't need to return to their family doctors and pursue drugs as an alternative therapy.

With one camera and two bone density scanners, the **Nuclear Medicine** unit at Saskatoon City Hospital sees thousands of patients every year. Karen Sundby, supervisor of Nuclear Medicine for the city's hospitals, says typical patients are scheduled outpatients but there also are some inpatients, many from rehab.

"It's for these patients, and those with mobility issues who present challenges when transferring, that we're asking donors to help purchase a **HoverMatt**."

"The HoverMatt is like an air mattress you slip under the patient," she explains. "It inflates so the patient is lying on a bed of air. It lets staff easily transfer patients regardless of weight. It also takes less staff to do it and reduces their risk of injury."

She adds that there's no discomfort for the patient. "They'll feel a slight bump but that's minor and less than what would happen in a lift or other transfer methods currently used."

(continued on next page)



A HoverMatt will make patient transfers safer and easier.

While many areas of the hospital use sling and lift systems, Sundby says they don't work in Nuclear Medicine. "The lifts have legs but our equipment comes right down to the ground so the legs don't fit. Patients have to be transferred three times prior to coming into the room, first to a sling then to a stretcher and finally to the imaging table. This is cumbersome for patients and also presents staffing difficulties."

The hospital's **Central Therapies** department is in need of new **continuous passive motion machines** (CPMs), says Marla Fieber.

"CPMs provide continuous assisted range of motion to joints such as knees," she says. "They're used when patients have limitations in joint movement and require repeated movement to increase that range of motion. CPMs for knees are commonly used after surgeons manipulate the stiff joint under anesthetic to release scar adhesions.

CPM is usually applied to maintain motion for the next 24 to 48 hours.

With City Hospital performing numerous orthopedic surgeries daily, the machines play a vital part in many patients' rehabilitation. As a result, Fieber says current CPM's "are repeatedly out for repair. Replacement parts are no longer available. New CPMs will benefit many patients."

A high volume of surgeries means the **Operating Room's GlideScope** needs to be replaced immediately. "The GlideScope is used for difficult intubations and to visualize the airway, especially in emergency situations," reports Terry Nixey, OR manager.

In addition to obtaining a working unit, she says new technology will aid procedures. It employs a 10-inch high definition monitor and picture-in-picture technology, allowing simultaneous views that previously were obtained using two or more pieces of equipment.

Your support also will help the high volume of patients requiring eye surgery, through the purchase of **seven new surgical stretchers**.

There are more than 1,500 eye surgeries at the hospital every year, reports Jennifer Link, **Surgical Services** manager. "The surgeries are typically for strabismus (lazy eye), lens implants, cataracts, and vitrectomies with occasional trauma related cases.

"The stretchers have separate molded holds that keep the patient still but the head piece allows a surgeon to get very close to the patient's face so they can work on the tiny delicate muscles of the eye," she adds. While it's important to keep patients still, it's especially critical during eye surgery.

To donate, visit SCHFgo.com, call the Foundation at 306-655-8489 or toll free at 1-800-603-4464, or visit the office adjacent to the front entrance of Saskatoon City Hospital. □



Continuous passive motion machines are used when patients have limitations in joint movement following surgery.



BREAST HEALTH CENTRE NEEDS NEW PRONE BIOPSY TABLE

Equipment is more flexible and comfortable for all patients

You can ensure that patients facing breast health issues have access to the latest and best equipment.

Installed when the Breast Health Centre first opened in 2006, its prone biopsy table needs to be replaced.

“The prone biopsy table allows physicians to biopsy using mammogram images for guidance,” explains Dr. Carolyn Flegg, radiologist. “It’s used for biopsy of something abnormal seen on a mammogram that cannot be seen with ultrasound.”

Dr. Flegg explains the procedure: “A patient lies on the biopsy table on her stomach and the breast goes through an opening in the table into the mammogram machine directly beneath the table. The breast is compressed in the same manner as for a regular mammogram but the compression plate used has an opening in it through which the radiologist can insert the biopsy needle into the breast.”

She says the current machine’s compression plate is entirely metal which means the mammogram taken for the biopsy shows only a very small part of the breast. “Before positioning the patient we have to estimate where the abnormality we’re targeting for biopsy is, and position that area in the small opening. If we estimate the position incorrectly, we have to reposition the patient and try again.

“It can be uncomfortable for patients because sometimes there’s the need to really maneuver a patient so the correct part of the breast can be biopsied. The current table doesn’t allow many options for positioning.”

Dr. Flegg adds that new tables have different options for sizing, allowing more room for getting the larger breast through. It lets doctors compress the breast from multiple different angles, allowing them the right angle and thickness for safe and accurate biopsy.

“The greatest advantage with the prone biopsy table is that a diagnosis can be achieved without having to send a woman to surgery.”

More accurate biopsy will let radiologists determine sooner if calcifications are benign, which they usually are. New tables also make it easier for them to obtain and process tissue samples.

The greatest advantage, though, is that a diagnosis can be achieved without having to send a woman to surgery.

To donate, visit SCHFgo.com, call 306-655-8489, or toll free at 1-800-603-4464, or drop by the Foundation office in the hospital. □



Dr. Mary Kinloch (Anatomic Pathology Lab) and Dr. Ilia Poliakov (MS Clinic) are doctors who've received funding for Fellowship training and are now working in Saskatoon City Hospital.

FUNDING FELLOWSHIPS

Investing in the hospital's future

Your support of the Foundation's Fellowship Funding Program will fill service gaps and meet patient needs, support and retain young talent, and enhance treatment options.

Funding will support areas of medical training that fit with hospital needs. It offers financial support in exchange for a return-of-service to Saskatoon.

"Bricks and mortar are important parts but so are people," says Dr. George Pylypchuk, chief of staff for the Saskatoon Area. "You can have the nicest hospital, but if you don't have anyone working in it, it's nothing.

"Recruiting trained experts is difficult because they're often in high demand," he adds. "It makes good sense to train homegrown physicians and guarantee them a position to return to.

"There are two ways to recruit expertise – you can look for physicians with particular expertise or you can support

training of people who are here and who will honour a return of service commitment. The Fellowship program helps us do that."

"The initiative was presented to us through the Joint Foundations Forum," says Steve Shannon, CEO of Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation. "We realized the benefits it could have and presented it to the board, who committed \$100,000 a year for six years, or \$600,000.

"Through the initiative, we're hoping to support training and recruitment of physicians in areas where the hospital needs more physician resources or specialization," says Shannon.

"The board was advised that priority areas of support include the Physical Medicine and Rehab department. Due to heavy and growing patient demand, Saskatoon City Hospital's Rehab Centre is grossly understaffed.

"Another area is geriatrics. Currently there is only one geriatrician in the entire province. Saskatoon City Hospital is very busy serving this area with departments such as Transitional Care, Convalescent Care and also the Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM) program.

"To support Saskatoon City Hospital the best we can and assist in areas of greatest need, we have opened our program to considering funding for final years of residency training as well as Fellowship training. That's a major win for the hospital and patients.

"It's a unique opportunity for donors," Shannon says. "You can directly invest in the future but also address current areas of need."

Donate today at SCHFdonate.com, by calling 306-655-8489 or 1-800-603-4464, or in person at the Foundation office near the front entrance. □

Protecting Patients: Automated Medication Dispensing



LPN Cathy Evans demonstrates the Pyxis medication dispenser on the surgery ward at St. Paul's Hospital. Your help is needed to purchase these for use in more than a dozen wards and departments at Saskatoon City Hospital.

“Simply put we really need your help,” says CEO Steve Shannon about the Foundation’s efforts to raise funds for automated medication dispensing units.

“Because the project will see units installed in a dozen departments and wards in the hospital, the cost is more than \$2 million,” Shannon explains. “We’ve raised a significant portion of that but need you to help us.”

Patrick Robertson, executive director, Provincial Programs – Pharmacy Services in the Saskatoon area of the Saskatchewan Health Authority, says automated dispensing is now the standard across Canada. “More than 80 per cent of hospitals and almost 100 per cent of emergency rooms use automated dispensing units. In almost all cases, they were funded by donors.”

Robertson says the system, sold under the brand name Pyxis, is operational at RUH, St. Paul’s, and the new Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital.

Lynette Koroscil, a former nurse clinician at RUH and now manager of the Emergency Department at Saskatoon City Hospital, knows firsthand how effective Pyxis is.

“I spent nearly 10 years working in the USA in facilities that had Pyxis or some form of medication dispensing systems,” she says. “I was thrilled when I heard Pyxis was coming to RUH ED. I knew from my experience that patient safety would be enhanced.”

Koroscil notes several advantages to the Pyxis system. “It allows medications to be organized in separate ‘cubbies’ which open only when prompted to do so. They open one at a time and only when the one opened prior to it is closed. Pyxis prompts the RN to the correct drawer and cubie number, making the RN’s time more efficient.”

The Pyxis has a built-in alert system, so nurses are reminded when a scheduled medication is due to be given. It also can alert a nurse if a patient is receiving too much medication – Tylenol, for example – in a 24-hour period.

She says Pyxis is so effective because it works with all points of patient care. “It assists in counting and tracking controlled substances to ensure correct patient receiving, correct dose being given, correct RN preparing, and correct physician prescribing.

“It’s also directly linked to Pharmacy staff to ensure stock is always maintained and will flag staff that a medication is running low so they’re aware of the need to replenish. This is especially important for critical care medications that are necessary to have available at all times.”

Koroscil adds that, “users of Pyxis must complete Pyxis specific training

“I know from experience that patient safety will be enhanced with Pyxis.”

and are then given access only to specified Pyxis machines in their work area. Each user has a password and is identified by Pyxis with their own individual fingerprint.”

For all of these reasons, she says, “Pyxis really does serve to enhance patient safety, but along with Pyxis training RN’s are reminded that providing medication to their patients is a huge responsibility and there is still a human role in providing these medications safely!

If you want to ensure patient safety, visit SCHFgo.com and click ‘donate.’ You also can give by calling 306-655-8489 or in person at the Foundation office, adjacent to the front entrance of the hospital. □



PLAN YOUR WINTERTIME FUN!

Lights, Trees, Dancing and Bingo put fun in fundraising



BHP Enchanted Forest

Nov. 16 – Jan. 3

Light Walks Nov. 15 and Jan. 4

Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park

Enchanted-forest.org

Saskatchewan's #1 winter tourist attraction returns for an amazing 21st season. Last year's 20th Awesomeversary season saw record-breaking crowds of 80,000 plus so plan your visit early this year.

Following the success of new displays such as the Grinch and Charlie Brown, organizers promise another spectacular new addition. It'll join the numerous other crowd-favourites – the 12 Days of Christmas, Noah's Ark, the Enchanted Express, and the Northern Gateway.

It all adds up to a million dazzling lights, sure to warm your heart. If you want a closer look, take in the Saskatchewan Blue Cross Light Walks on either Friday, Nov. 15 or Saturday, Jan. 4.

For more information, pricing, and where to get Enchanted Express Passes, visit enchanted-forest.org.

Festival of Trees

Nov. 22-30

Western Development Museum

Festival-of-trees.com

Saskatoon's Western Development Museum comes alive with the sights and sounds of Christmas. The Festival of Trees runs for an incredible nine days from Nov. 22-30. Dozens of trees, wreaths and gingerbread houses.

New this year is a second popular Brunch with Santa – choose Nov. 23

or 24! You and your kids can enjoy tasty food, goody bags, activities, and take-your-own pictures with Rudolph, Frosty, or Jasper the Elf. Tickets are \$25 and include a view of the Trees.

Replacing the Gala is the new Jingle & Mingle on Nov. 23. The cocktail-attire evening will feature hors d'oeuvre stations and entertainment mixed in with the displays on Main Street.

The Christmas Carnival is another new feature geared for the young-at-heart. On either Nov. 27 or 28, your ticket includes festival admission, food such as hot dogs, pizza and popcorn, games, photos with Rudolph, Frosty or the Elves, and great entertainment.

There are also two returning favourites. The breathtaking Father/Daughter Gala takes place Nov. 25 and 26. Another upscale event, the Perfectly Princess Tea Party runs on Nov. 30.

Tickets for special events go on sale Oct. 1. General tickets are available at the door. For prices and more details, visit festival-of-trees.org.



Swinging with the Stars**Feb. 1****TCU Place****SWTSevents.com**

Eight celebrity dancers paired with professional partners. A raucous crowd of 800 cheering fans. One super cause.

It all makes for a terrific night. Swinging with the Stars takes place at TCU Place on Saturday, Feb. 1. It's a new year and a new decade so join in all the frolicking fun of the Roaring 20's!

Dancers and partners will be announced soon. Tickets will be on sale in early November, online voting begins in January. For more information, visit SWTSevents.com or follow on Facebook and Instagram .


Hospital Home Lottery
Hospitalhomelottery.org

Another lottery with another stunning grand prize. This fall's Hospital Home Lottery top prize is a \$1.3 million, 3,300 square-foot home in Greenbryre Estates. Plus \$50,000 in cash!

The Early Bird prize (deadline Oct. 25) is a gorgeous package with a \$630,000 cottage right on Candle Lake Golf Resort, a 2019 pontoon boat and marina slip, two 2020 golf memberships, and \$5,000 cash!

Other great giveaways include vehicles, vacations and scads of funtastic leisure prizes.

Tickets are available at the grand and early bird prize homes, the Foundation office, hospitalhomelottery.org or by calling 1-866-957-0777.

Events wouldn't be possible without sponsors, volunteers and supporters. Thanks to everyone involved! 

**Black Tie Bingo****March 21****Sheraton Cavalier****[Facebook.com/BlackTieBingoSCHF](https://www.facebook.com/BlackTieBingoSCHF)**

Dapper meets dabbers in the spring's hottest night. Join in the fun on Saturday, March 21 for the 25th edition of Black Tie Bingo. For ticket details and other information, follow at [Facebook.com/BlackTieBingoSCHF](https://www.facebook.com/BlackTieBingoSCHF).



\$1.3 MILLION
GRAND PRIZE SHOWHOME

PLUS \$50,000 Cash

Pawluk Homes

GREEK COMMUNITY HOSTS FUN NIGHT

11th Ouzopalooza supports pediatric eye surgeries



George Fofas (l) and Deighan Remoundos (r) present a cheque for \$24,000 to the Foundation's Kendra Parfitt.

Presented by Nutrien and hosted by the Greek Community of Saskatoon, Ouzopalooza took place at the Sheraton Cavalier on Friday, June 14.


Attendees enjoyed Greek hospitality, great food, fine wine and the chance to take home some Greek memories. One lucky person won a trip for two to Greece!

This was the 11th year for the event. Proceeds supported pediatric eye care

at Saskatoon City Hospital through the purchase of seven eye surgery stretchers for the Surgery Services department.

Eye surgeries are performed on all ages of patients from children to older adults. These specialty stretchers are beneficial for keeping patients comfortable and still during eye procedures. The contour of the stretcher allows the surgeon to get very close to a patient's face so they can work on the tiny delicate muscles of the eye.

Over the past 10 years, Ouzopalooza proceeds have helped purchase retinal and Fundus cameras and pediatric diagnostic equipment for the Eye Care Centre. These tools provide eye care professionals with more accurate imaging that allows for better diagnoses and treatments.

Since it began in 2008, more than \$240,000 has been raised. Thank you! 



LOVELY DAY FOR GOLFUN 2019

Late spring event raises funds for Cameco MS Neuroscience Research Centre

Thursday, May 16 was a beautiful spring day, ideal for the 60-plus people who took part in the Foundation's annual Golfun.

Tournament proceeds support the Cameco MS Neuroscience Research Centre (CMSNRC). After a noon barbecue, honorary chair Brian Towriss welcomed players before they headed out to play a casual 12 holes at the Greenbrye Golf and Country Club.

The centre's staff and volunteers greeted golfers at tees with meaningful questions and answers about MS and other neurological conditions.


The day ended with a tasty supper (ribs and chicken) served by Greenbrye staff. Golfers had the chance to bid on some great silent auction prizes and heard from speakers, including CMSNRC director Dr. Valerie Verge, and MS patient and Golfun ambassador Lois Miller.

The day wrapped at around 6:30. Thanks to all who attended, Golfun raised \$19,000 for the CMSNRC.



The Foundation thanks all who took part and especially wants to thank sponsors including RBC Dominion Securities Inc., Cameco, Biogen Canada Inc., Foundation board member Heather Ryan, IG Wealth Management, Vassos Marketing, MNP, Pivotal Point Massage Therapy, Giles Midtown Auto Body, SaskTel, The Barn Playhouse, City Centre Bingo,

CTR Industrial Investments Inc., and Towriss & Associates.

For more photos of the day, visit [Facebook.com/GolfunSCHF](https://www.facebook.com/GolfunSCHF). 

**Golfun raised \$19,000
for the Cameco
MS Neuroscience
Research Centre.**



DR. RALPH AND MARGARET SCHNEIDER

Retired ophthalmologist donates securities to Foundation

Dr. Ralph Schneider enjoyed a long career as an ophthalmologist, moving in 1994 to Saskatoon City Hospital to the new Eye Care Centre.

His appreciation of the hospital led to him and his wife, Marg, donating \$25,000 in securities to the Foundation.

“We’re getting to an age at which we should decide what to do with our discretionary money,” he says. “Hospitals here are worthy beneficiaries, permitting them to do even more.”

Their gift was designated for the Transitional Care Unit. “A good friend was dwindling away with cancer and spent considerable time there. We were impressed with the good work being done. Our donation is directed to keeping the unit operating. We might one day find ourselves there so it’s important to us to support such a unit.”

Regina born, Dr. Schneider achieved his medical degree at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario. He was inspired to his chosen vocation by professor of ophthalmology, Dr. David Rosen.

He interned at Toronto General Hospital. His ophthalmology residency was done in the then new program at University Hospital, followed by successfully achieving Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada (FRCSC) in 1963. He trained as a retina specialist at many centres in the U.S.

Dr. Schneider’s career spanned almost five decades including the 1994 move of the College of Medicine’s department of ophthalmology from RUH to Saskatoon City Hospital. He retired in 2009.




Dr. Ralph Schneider during his days as a practicing ophthalmologist.

Dr. Schneider also served on the board of the Saskatchewan CNIB for nine years, and has been on the Saskatoon YMCA board since 2010.

“Technology in ophthalmology changed remarkably in my time,” he says, citing cataract surgery as an example. The operation has transpired from what was an invasive procedure requiring hospital admission of several days followed by recovery of several weeks to a day surgery procedure with almost simultaneous visual recovery.

Dr. Schneider met his wife, Marg, when she worked in the University Hospital’s pathology department. Under its head, Dr. D. F. Moore, she was a teaching technologist and his administrative assistant. She later was a lecturer in the College of Medicine. The couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2016. Daughter Joan lives in Toronto and son Michael in Hoboken, New Jersey.

The Foundation thanks Dr. and Mrs. Schneider for their thoughtful gift. 

MARK AND ERIN VAN HAASTERT

Cattle farmer blessed with MS doctor, nurse; raises money for them

Mark and Erin van Haastert are busy cattle farmers in the Bjorkdale area. Mark's life took a strange turn in 2017.

"I began having balance issues, dizzy spells, and often felt lethargic," he says, noting that those symptoms were all highly unusual for him. He thought it was just stress but the problems continued and even worsened – one day he actually passed out while driving.

"I went from being strong as an ox and weighing 250 pounds to just 190," Mark says, noting one other factor convinced him to see a doctor. "I couldn't skate so I couldn't play hockey anymore. If I couldn't play at all, that was a concern."

Fortunately, the physician he saw in Porcupine Plain, Dr. Gert Pieterse, recognized his symptoms. "He'd had other patients with MS and sent me right away for CT scans and an MRI."

Once the diagnosis was certain, Dr. Pieterse referred Mark to Dr. Michael Levin at Saskatoon City Hospital's MS Clinic. Dr. Levin has been the Saskatchewan MS Clinical Research Chair for more than two years. He sees patients at the clinic one day a week. "It's been a dream to work with Dr. Levin



Above: Mark and Erin van Haastert with Dr. Michael Levin. Below: The van Haasterts with nurse practitioner, Chantal Kahovec.

and his nurse practitioner, Chantal Kahovec," Mark says. "I hope others with MS have this same treatment."

He says the team at the MS Clinic was so supportive. "It felt good to know what I was dealing with. They've bent over backwards and made us feel they could really help. Dr. Levin and Chantal assured me I could lead a normal life and that's what I've been doing."

Mark and Erin were so thrilled with the care, they decided to raise money for Dr. Levin's work by auctioning off a cow.

Mark notes their goal "was \$3,000, a nice number for a heifer."

"The auctioneer who'd done similar fundraisers said we'd be surprised," Erin adds. They were. Instead of \$3,000, the sale and donations, made \$13,580!

Mark's parents matched with their own \$14,000 donation. Mark and Erin used a cash gift from Farm Credit Corporation and their own funds to bring the total to \$30,000 – 10 times their initial goal!

"We want to thank our friends and customers for the generosity," Erin says. "It helped that the money was staying in Saskatchewan and also that people are more aware of what's happening at the hospital for MS research and treatment."

"When we first met Dr. Levin, we were pleasantly surprised to deal with a research doctor," she continues. "Having those combined is huge. It helps because we see an actual person trying to understand this disease."

The Foundation is grateful for the van Haastert's kind gift. ☐





Above: Olga Cherniatenski with Foundation CEO, Steve Shannon. Below: Entertainment at one of Rick and Cheryl Leier's backyard parties to raise funds for the Breast Health Centre.

Octogenarian **Olga Cherniatenski** has been donating to the Foundation for more than 25 years.

This spring she wanted to ensure her name would be on the new donor wall near the hospital entrance. Accompanied by her daughter, Nettie, Olga brought a cheque for \$1,900.

It was an incredible gesture for someone from humble beginnings. Olga and her husband farmed a small amount of land in the bush at Junor, SK. They had one milking cow and sold cream for \$2.50 a can. In years to follow the family relocated to Meadow Lake for better opportunities.

Olga's visit was even more touching because she suffered a stroke in 2017 and was told she wouldn't walk or speak again. She proudly pushed her own walker and chatted ably with Foundation CEO Steve Shannon.

Thanks, Olga, for your astonishing generosity and spirit! □

After surviving breast cancer two years ago, **Cheryl Leier and her husband, Rick**, wanted to give back to the hospital's Breast Health Centre.

"My first biopsy was in 2015," Cheryl says. "It was negative but six months

later the mass was still there. So Dr. Pamela Meiers and I made the decision to remove it."

That mass was cancerous so Cheryl had surgery, chemo and radiation. "I've been cancer-free since May, 2017. That's why we wanted to do something." The Leiers held a backyard barbecue and encouraged their friends to donate.

"We'd been to another fundraiser and bought a backyard bash in the silent auction," Rick explains. "We did it thinking we could use it to raise donations for the Breast Health Centre, because of the care Cheryl got."

Rick says the parties put breast cancer at the forefront. "We called them Pink Parties and asked guests to wear something pink."

Cheryl was touched by the support of all but especially her family. "It was great to see Rick's dad and my dad wearing the same pink golf shirt."

The last two years saw country music star Codie Prevost donate his talent. The Leiers have had three barbecues, raising \$7,000, \$7,500 and \$8,000!

They're not too surprised, Cheryl says. "Our son put it best when he introduced a song he'd written for me. He said he had an aunt, a grandmother, a mother and friends affected by breast cancer. It touches so many people. Rick, I and our family are happy to do what we can to help others going through what I did." □

Helen Ebert is another breast cancer survivor who gave back to the Breast Health Centre. The Humboldt resident held a 'Boob Voyage' steak supper and fundraiser at the city's Bella Vista Inn.

"I had a silent auction, pink candies, but also had trivia contest with questions like asking people how much

(continued on next page)





my boobs weighed before they were removed,” Helen says.

With about 140 people in attendance, Helen says she was “floored” to raise more than \$5,200. Of that, she donated \$3,000 to the Breast Health Centre. “I’m an RN and, when I first heard the statistic that one in eight women will get breast cancer, I never thought in a million years it would be me,” she adds.

Almost two years after diagnosis, Helen is cancer free and loving life. “I’m so lucky when I think about how sick I could have been, but I kind of breezed through it. Boob Voyage was my way of helping others, especially the Breast Health Centre.” □

Humboldt Bronco bus crash survivor **Morgan Gobeil** spent months in City Hospital’s Rehab Centre. Several teammates also came for treatment.

That’s why the Broncos donated \$5,500 to the centre. Board rep Curtis Wacker says the funds came from an auction of jerseys coordinated by Morgan’s brother, Ryan. “Ryan works for the Swift Current Broncos. With that connection and history, a joint tribute jersey was created.”

Bart Hunter, Blaine Arnold and employees of Scotia Wealth Management donated funds for production, while Ritchie Brothers



helped with the online auction. The jersey bears a crest with the Latin words, “Celer Et Audax,” meaning “Swift and Bold.” Each of the survivors received their own, custom sweater.

The sweaters were worn by the Broncos and then auctioned off. The Humboldt Broncos shared the proceeds between RUH and Saskatoon City Hospital.

The most touching aspect of the donation was having the Gobeils at the cheque presentation and seeing the progress Morgan has made. □

Scott and Laurie Thomas have donated \$3,000 to the Rehab Centre. The funds come from the **Evan Thomas Memorial Trust**, established

in memory of their late son, who died in the Humboldt Bronco bus crash.

Scott and Laurie have endeavoured to support projects they know would have meant a lot to Evan. Because he was so well-rounded, they’re donating to a diverse area to ensure people are impacted positively in Evan’s memory.

The donation to the centre is to support programs that helped Bronco players in recovery, and to make the system better for others who must use it.

Like many, especially those affected by the accident, the Humboldt Broncos, Gobeil and Thomas families all have faced tragedy and persevered. In doing so, their first thought always was to help others. For this, Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation is truly grateful. □

Above left: Helen Ebert’s Boob Voyage party. Above right Rae Ann Thibault, Morgan Gobeil, Pam Gobeil, Mallory Gobeil. Lonnie Gobeil, Curtis Wacker (Humboldt Broncos), Ryan Gobeil, Justin Mutch (speech language therapist), Steve Shannon. Below: Scott and Laurie Thomas (centre) with Steve and SCHF board member Liam Mooney.





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& MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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IT'S EASY TO DONATE

It feels good to give. And it's easy, too, if you're wanting to give to Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation.

You can give in person at the Foundation office, next to the front entrance of Saskatoon City Hospital. You can also call 306-655-8489 or toll-free at 1-800-603-4464.

If you prefer online, you can give conveniently by visiting SCHFgo.com. You can see our latest equipment needs, check out donor stories, discover upcoming events, and view your options for legacy giving.

Finally, a great way to give is monthly giving. It saves you the trouble of writing and mailing cheques. Each month, a set amount is automatically deducted from your bank account or credit card and you receive one handy receipt at year-end. You can increase your donation or stop it anytime by contacting the Foundation.

IN MEMORIAM/ IN HONOUR

Donations were made from April 1 to July 31, 2019 in memory of the following people:

Marcella Balezantis
Merv Bodner
Tom Bodner
Alice M. Guttormson
Marjorie Henning
Ron Leschysyn

Audrey Mellquist
Vera Reineke
Tyler Saretsky
Elmer Schwartz
Marc Shokier
Morris Smolinski

Beverly Sutton
Lindsay Toles
Martin R. West
Barb Winfield
Violet Zabinsky

Donations were made from April 1 to July, 2019 in honour of the following people:

Allanville Farms Ltd.

Dr. Mark A. Ernst Medical Prof. Corp.

Amir Shenouda