WELL AWARE

SUMMER 2026



Saskatoon City Hospital
FOUNDATION
It starts here.

WELLAWARE

SUMMER 2026

PRODUCED BY:
Saskatoon City Hospital FOUNDATION
It starts here.



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Back row: (from left): Tracy Kendel, Greg Clark, Chris Lambiris, and George Foufas (Vice-Chair).

Missing: Leah Hipperson, Jacquie Lehmann, Alora Arnold

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Our People

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Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation is committed to maintaining the confidentiality of our donors. All personal data provided is secure information. We do not lend, exchange, rent or sell our donor lists to other organizations. We do like to publicly recognize our donors but, if you prefer to remain anonymous, please let us know.

Contact Us

306-655-8489 info@SCHFgo.com

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Accredited
IMAGINE CANADA

A message from our CEO: Steve Shannon

You can reImagine healthcare — and lead the change that turns it into reality.

Thanks to the generosity of you, our donors, Saskatoon City Hospital (SCH) is entering one of the most important chapters in its history, as it evolves to meet the growing healthcare needs of our community.

Now over a year into the transformative Acute Care Expansion, your support continues to help ensure patients receive timely, high-quality care today and well into the future.

As you know, announced in March 2025 by the Saskatchewan Health Authority, this expansion will add 109 new acute care beds, including 60 medicine beds, 15 high-acuity beds, a 22-bed acute rehabilitation unit, and a 12-bed dedicated unit for patients with acquired brain injuries.

The impact will be profound. Increasing capacity, easing pressure across our healthcare system, reducing wait times, and ensuring patients receive the care they need when they need it most.

Acute care touches every one of us because medical emergencies don't wait for the "right" moment or place.

Emergencies don't discriminate by age, location, or circumstance. A fall, stroke, infection, or accident can affect any of us or someone we love without warning.

When those critical moments arrive, this expansion ensures



patients are met with capacity, compassion, and specialized expertise.

By investing in acute care, you aren't just supporting a hospital service. You are strengthening a lifeline for your entire community. Your neighbors, your loved ones, and yourself, creating a safety net we all hope we never need, but are very grateful to have when we do.

This progress is possible because of donors like you.

Your generosity turns possibility into reality. Your gifts help ensure our hospital continues to meet the needs of patients today and in the years ahead.

You don't just support healthcare. You help **shape it.**

You don't just give. You help **lead.**

As we move forward in this exciting era of healthcare in Saskatchewan, I would like to sincerely thank you.

For more than forty years, you have helped shape Saskatoon City Hospital and shared in the commitment, innovation, and progress that have built a hospital that grows stronger and more capable of serving every patient that walks through our doors.

This is your hospital. Your community. Your impact. It starts **here.** It starts with **you.**

Thank you for your continued support.



Acute Care Expansion: A new era of care

At Saskatoon City Hospital, the transformative Acute Care Expansion is set to change the future of rehabilitation for patients living with acquired brain injuries in Saskatchewan.

At its heart are 22 new beds supporting low-intensity rehabilitation and a new specialized 12-bed Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) unit, designed to provide patients and families with the focused care they need at one of the most vulnerable times in their lives.

For Dr. Ronelle Calver, Clinical Lead for ABI and physiatrist at Saskatoon City Hospital, the expansion represents more than additional beds — it represents the fulfillment of a long-held vision.

Originally from Saskatchewan, Dr. Calver completed her medical training locally before pursuing residency training at McMaster University. "Coming back home, it has been my dream that we would have this specialized brain injury unit for the people of Saskatchewan that has never existed here before," said Dr. Calver. "I am so excited to be a part of this expansion because I see how important it is. This is about giving people the care we would want for our own families."

The new 12-bed ABI unit will create a dedicated space where individuals recovering from brain injuries will receive targeted care tailored specifically to their recovery.

"Having a specialized brain injury unit makes an enormous difference," Dr. Calver explains.



Rehab is critical to support patients with their recovery.

"Every brain injury is unique. When you bring together a team with specific expertise aligned around the patient and family's goals, you can truly change outcomes and enhance care.

Specialization matters

An acquired brain injury can happen to anyone — young, old, or previously healthy. It can result from car accidents, falls, medical events, or other sudden incidents. Often, it arrives without warning and alters the course of a person's life in an instant.

Carmen Valle, Inpatient Rehabilitation Coordinator and Occupational Therapist at SCH, says that unpredictability is precisely why this unit is so important.

"Brain injuries don't look the same from person to person," she explains. "Some patients struggle physically, others face cognitive or emotional challenges that aren't always immediately visible, or it could be a combination of things. Our goal is to meet each person where they are and build care around their specific needs."

The expansion will offer coordinated access to occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech-language pathology, recreation therapy, social work, psychology, dietitians, specialized nursing and therapy assistants. This interdisciplinary approach ensures patients are supported holistically.

Equally important is the mental health component. Brain injuries often bring significant emotional changes for both patients and families. Dedicated psychological and social work support ensures that recovery addresses not only the body, but the whole person.

The power of timely rehabilitation

Timely access to rehabilitation is critical.

Acute Care Expansion: A new era of care

The expansion will increase capacity and reduce wait times, resulting in better patient care and easing the strain on the healthcare system.

"It's about getting the right patient to the right place at the right time," Dr. Calver says.

Increased capacity means earlier intervention, leading to better patient outcomes.

Improving patient flow

The benefits extend beyond individual patients. By increasing capacity and creating a specialized pathway, the expansion improves patient flow across the healthcare system.

Patients who are ready for rehab can transition more efficiently. This not only supports better outcomes but also helps free beds for others, ensuring more people can access the care they need.

Building community and connection



Treatment is tailored to the needs to the needs of the patient.

Recovery from a brain injury can be isolating. Individuals can appear physically well, but struggle with invisible cognitive or emotional changes.

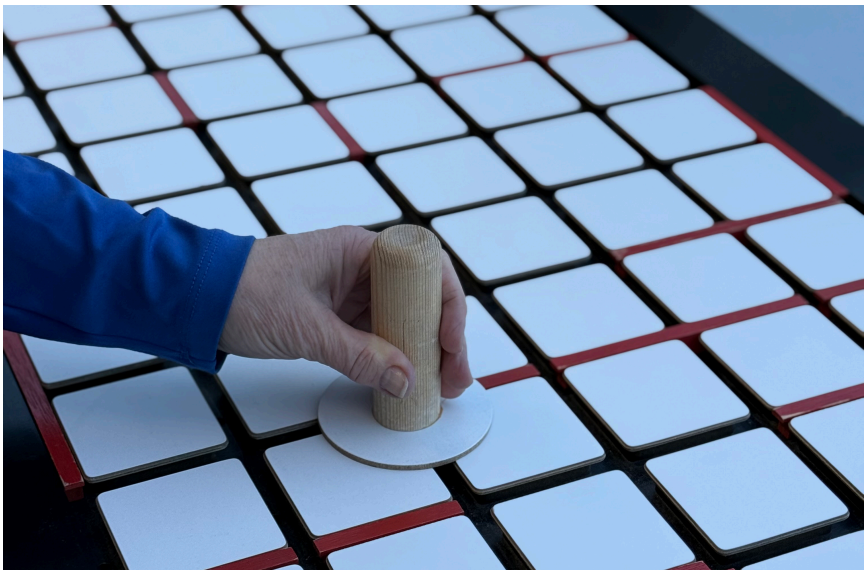
A dedicated ABI unit fosters connection among patients and families who share similar experiences. Peer support and shared understanding can be powerful components of recovery.

"Community building is incredibly important," says Dr. Calver. "It can feel very isolating when you're experiencing something like this, so to be in a specialized unit with other patients and families who can relate, is very important."

Small wins, life-changing impact

Success looks different for every patient. Sometimes it's a person brushing their teeth independently. Other times it's returning to work, volunteering, regaining a driver's license, or caring for their children again.

Dr. Calver, who follows many patients throughout their recovery journey, sees the long-term impact. "To watch someone, move from the earliest stages after injury to living their life, that's why we do this work. Big or small, a win is a win," says Dr. Calver.



One of the many different types of therapy equipment used in patient care.

Continued on next page...

Acute Care Expansion: A new era of care

Investing in the Future

The Acute Care Expansion is about more than infrastructure. It's about elevating care and ensuring Saskatchewan residents have access to specialized services close to home.

The expansion represents a commitment to providing the right care, at the right time, in the right place.

With services like the ABI and Rehab units, one thing is clear: specialized care, when you need it most, it starts **here.**

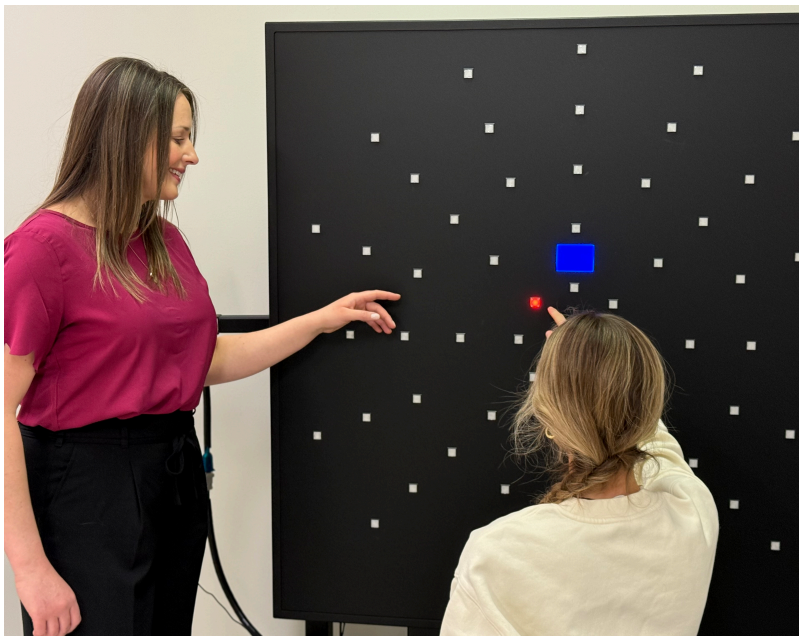
To lead change and be part of this pivotal time in healthcare, visit **SCHFgo.com** to donate.

You can also donate in person at the Foundation office, adjacent to the front entrance of City Hospital, or by calling **306-655-8489.**



Dr. Calver and Carmen with Doria, demonstrating use of rehab equipment.





The Dynavision Training System and the The Bioness Integrated Therapy System (BITS®) is used by occupational therapists to help patients improve visuomotor response time, visual scanning, attention, coordination, cognition, motor skills, and balance.

Foundation events

The Foundation had a very successful event season! The Foundation reported in the last issue that the **BHP Enchanted Forest** drew 87,520 visitors, with more than 25,800 people who walked through during the Blue Cross Light Walks.

The Foundation is also pleased to announce the final numbers for the **2025 Festival of Trees,** which also marked its 40th anniversary. The nine-day event saw 27,148 people in attendance and proceeds of $150,140. Thank you to the organizers and all involved for a fantastic year!

The **2026 Supplement World Swinging with the Stars** dazzled attendees with a completely sold-out evening of entertainment and generosity. The Foundation is thrilled to announce the event raised a record-breaking over $462,000 in support of the Acute Care Expansion campaign.

With a "Broadway" theme, dancers embraced their moment in the spotlight, delivering show-stopping performances worthy of a standing ovation; but It was their dedication off stage that truly defined this historic year. Through months of rehearsals, creative campaigns and additional fundraising events leading up to show night, dancers went above and beyond, rallying friends, family and colleagues to help push this year's total to new heights.

Congratulations to our Crowd Favourite Champions, **Colton Wiegers and Nicole Clinkard,** who shattered the previous record and raised the most ever by a champion in the history of the event — an incredible $170,000.



Attendees of the BHP Enchanted Forest enjoyed the beautiful and festive displays.



The Festival of Trees celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2025!

Their relentless commitment and community leadership set a new benchmark for Swinging with the Stars.

Congratulations as well to our Edna Adams Judges' Choice Award winners, **Dr. Chloe Woo and Dr. Olivia Woo.**

Their Michael Jackson inspired routine brought the audience to its feet and showcased the talent and heart that make this event so special.

This year also marked the debut of a surprise award. Congratulations to the inaugural Star Power Award winners, **Scott McQueen and Shayla Davies.**

Created to recognize the pair who embodies the spirit of Swinging with the Stars, this award celebrates dancers who go the extra mile to unite and inspire the community.

Continued on next page...

Foundation events

We also applaud the outstanding efforts of all competing pairs:

Sanja Jovic-Filipovic and Davin Kuemper; Kailyn Adamson and Dion Florida; Ricky Iula and Sarah Longpré; Ellen Nasser and Maegan Marshall; and Jenelyn Santos Ong and Julenne Florida.

Each team demonstrated extraordinary commitment — not only mastering their routines but championing the cause through tireless fundraising efforts that made this a record-breaking year.

The Foundation extends heartfelt thanks to our sponsors, organizers, committee members, voters, attendees and everyone who tuned in via livestream.

Because of your generosity, Swinging with the Stars has now raised more than $1.6 million for the hospital since 2017.

Stay tuned for details on dancer recruitment and ticket sales for the 2027 Swinging with the Stars!



The Supplement World Swinging with the Stars dancers and pros took to the stage at TCU Place on Jan. 31.



Your 2026 Supplement World Swinging with the Stars champions, Colton Wiegers and Nicole Clinkard.



Your 2026 Supplement World Swinging with the Stars, Edna Adams Judges' Choice Award winners, Dr. Chloe Woo and Dr. Olivia Woo.



Your 2026 Supplement World Swinging with the Stars Star Power Award Winners, Scott McQueen and Shayla Davies.



Star dancer, Sanja Jovic-Filipovic and pro dancer, Davin Kuemper.



Star dancer, Kailyn Adamson and pro dancer, Dion Florida.



Star dancer, Ricky Iula and pro dancer, Sarah Longpré.



Star dancer, Ellen Nasser and pro dancer, Maegan Marshall.



Star dancer, Jenelyn Santos Ong and pro dancer, Julenne Florida.

Foundation events

Nutrien Black Tie Bingo took place on March 21 at the Sheraton Cavalier. The Foundation is excited to announce that over $100,000 was raised for the Acute Care Expansion campaign!

The sold-out crowd of over 400 attendees dressed to impress at Saskatoon's favourite high-fashion event.

Bingo prizes this year included a beauty package, a staycation package, trips to Kelowna, Japan, and Rome, and a stunning gold and diamond bracelet from GMG Jewellers.

There were lots of fabulous silent auction items and the live auction raised over $18,000!

The Foundation thanks Nutrien for its fourth year of title sponsorship, as well as all other sponsors, prize donors, volunteers, and the organizing committee.

Thank you to all our attendees! Your excitement had this event sold out in January. Check out SCHF's social channels for photos from the night!



The Hospital Home Lottery $2.3 million grand prize show home.

The spring **Hospital Home Lottery** was also a huge success, selling out early at the end of March.

The grand prize was a $2.3 million 4,529 square-foot show home built by Hometown Homes and $50,000 cash. The Early Bird prize offers a 2025 Corvette and a seven-night vacation for two to the Caribbean or $125,000 cash. Other top prizes include a 2025 Toyota, and vacation packages such as a four-night stay in Tofino for two, a Mediterranean trip for four, and cash prizes.

The 50/50 Add-On jackpot was over $1.3 million, meaning the winner took home over $655,000. The VIP and bonus draws took place on March 25th, and the grand prize draw on April 22nd.

To see a complete list of winners, visit HospitalHomeLottery.org.

This year, all Foundation events supported the Acute Care Expansion campaign. Your efforts, attendance, purchases, or sponsorships are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support in creating a new legacy of care!





Black Tie Bingo took place at the Sheraton Cavalier on March 21, 2026.

Scrubs to Spotlight

When Sanja Jovic-Filipovic walks into work at Saskatoon City Hospital as an operating room (OR) nurse and equipment resource technician, she never quite knows what the day will bring.

Sometimes that means sourcing specialized instruments. Other times, it means facilitating a unique bone implant shipped from another country. Recently, it meant being asked to swap her scrubs for the spotlight as a star dancer for Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation's Swinging with the Stars fundraiser.

She describes her job as very busy, dynamic and never boring, which is exactly why her decision to participate in the event surprised even her.

Between a demanding hospital role, her photography business and leadership within Saskatoon's Serbian cultural community, Sanja's schedule was already full.

"I truly went in wanting to say no," she admits. "I didn't think I had the reach to fundraise the way others might. And I don't love asking for help," said Sanja.

Her hesitation wasn't about stepping onto a stage — it was about stepping outside her comfort zone to ask people to give. But once she committed, her community responded in a way she never expected.

"It felt like a morale injection upstairs in the OR," she says. "Everyone was excited. Everyone wanted to be part of it."

With the support of her community, Sanja raised $17,830 for Swinging with the Stars, benefiting the Foundation's Acute Care Expansion campaign at Saskatoon City Hospital.



Sanja Jovic-Filipovic is an OR nurse and equipment resource technician at SCH.



Sanja Jovic-Filipovic and her partner, Davin Kuemper, during their 2026 Supplement World Swinging with the Stars Performance.

Sanja channeled her creativity into creating a unique calendar featuring OR staff. What began as a lighthearted idea quickly turned into a successful fundraiser, with calendars "selling like hotcakes." The team is already planning to make it an annual initiative, with proceeds continuing to support the Foundation.

She also hosted a karaoke night, cooking for guests herself and rallying friends, bakers and community members to contribute food for the event. Despite her packed schedule, she says the extra effort never felt like a burden.

Scrubs to Spotlight

"It was busy. Very busy," she says. "But it was so much fun. I was paired with my incredible pro, Davin Kuemper, who supported me every step of the way"

Balancing rehearsals with work was challenging, yet the challenge became part of the reward.

On event night, they shared excitement backstage, the nerves, laughter and camaraderie among participants, made every rehearsal worthwhile.



"We were all in the same boat," she says. "There was this giddiness and this happiness that we shared. It was such a welcoming environment."

For Sanja, events like Swinging with the Stars are about more than entertainment. They create connections between colleagues, communities and between donors and the cause.

"You can talk about fundraising all day," she says. "But when you bring people together in a room like that, when they're laughing and celebrating and cheering, they understand what they're part of. It's incredible."

Working in the OR gives Sanja a clear view of where donations go. From advanced anesthesia machines to microscopes and lasers, donor-funded equipment is used daily at Saskatoon City Hospital.

"There are no words to describe the gratitude we have for what the Foundation has done," she says. "I see the impact every day and it's critical to ensuring the best care for patients."

She recalls a recent patient, a healthy man in his 30s who tore his Achilles tendon in a simple misstep on his way to work. That evening, he was in surgery.

"You never know. Any one of us could need this care," said Sanja.

That reality fuels her message to donors.

"With every dollar you donate, you're investing in yourself and your loved ones. What could be better than that?"

Sanja sees her participation in Swinging with the Stars as a celebration of community. A blending of her professional life, her cultural community and her friendships. Even her family tuned in to watch the livestream, sharing in the moment from Serbia.

Would she do it again, even with her already packed schedule?

"I would probably say no at first," she admits. "But in the end, I'd be very grateful for the opportunity."

For Sanja, the long days, the rehearsals and the fundraising were all part of something bigger: proof that when a busy community comes together for a cause, incredible things happen that make a lasting impact.

Sanja, thank you for your support and your participation in Swinging with the Stars!

To learn more about Swinging with the Stars and how you can get involved in one of Saskatoon's favourite events, visit **swtsyxe.com** or call the Foundation office at **306-655-8489** for more information.

Equipment Report

As you know, access to the right equipment is essential to ensuring patients receive the care they need, when they need it most.

Thanks to your generosity, the Foundation continues to invest in innovative tools and technologies that support our healthcare teams and improve patient outcomes.

We are pleased to share a few examples of the meaningful impact your support is making.



The lateral arm biopsy attachment.



Pediatric ophthalmology examination chairs at the Eye Care Centre.

Lateral Arm Biopsy Attachment - Irene and Leslie Dubé Breast Health Centre

Your support has helped bring advanced capabilities to the Irene and Leslie Dubé Breast Health Centre through the addition of a lateral arm biopsy attachment.

This specialized equipment enables clinicians to perform biopsies on patients with smaller breast thickness.

The attachment allows for a side or lateral approach, removing concerns about whether there is sufficient tissue thickness to accommodate the biopsy device.

Compatible with both upright mammography units currently in use, this addition expands access to timely, accurate diagnostic procedures and enhances the overall quality of care for patients.

Pediatric Ophthalmology Examination Chairs - The Eye Care Centre

Upgraded pediatric ophthalmology examination chairs are transforming the experience of care for pediatric patients and their families.

Designed with both comfort and precision in mind, these chairs offer features such as full reclining capability and adjustable positioning, which are essential for safe and effective pediatric eye examinations.

The new, fully reclining chairs allow children to lie comfortably during procedures such as dilated eye exams.

This not only reduces anxiety but also eliminates the need for parents to physically support their child during the examination.

Improved positioning enhances clinical accuracy while also reducing physical strain for both families and healthcare providers.

In addition, the chairs offer smoother, quieter operation—an important consideration in pediatric settings where minimizing noise can help reduce discomfort.

This often leads to more efficient exams and can decrease the need for more invasive techniques.

Your generosity is directly improving the quality, safety, and comfort of care for patients of all ages.

Thank you for helping make these advancements possible!

Huskies Play for a Cure Fundraiser

Thank you to the University of Saskatchewan's (U of S) Huskie Women's Hockey Team for raising more than $19,000 for the Irene and Leslie Dubé Breast Health Centre (BHC) through their Play for a Cure fundraiser!

Each year, the team selects a charitable organization that matters to them. This year's choice was deeply personal for player Emma Backman.

In 2025, Emma's mom, Kerri, was a grateful patient at the BHC following a breast cancer diagnosis. Today, Kerri is cancer-free and doing very well — a powerful reminder of the impact specialized, compassionate care can have on a family.

Inspired to give back, Emma and her teammates turned their gratitude into action.

Emma, along with Bronwyn Boucher and Paris Oleksyn designed a custom jersey that was auctioned off to support the fundraiser.

"I got my iPad out and we just sketched everything out," said Paris.

The final design featured a pink breast cancer ribbon and Emma's mom's initials — a meaningful tribute woven into every stitch.

The team also hosted a silent auction, organized a raffle and collected cash donations to help maximize their impact.

For the Huskies, giving back is part of the culture. "It feels like an important responsibility that is passed down to us," said Bronwyn.



From left: Steve Shannon, CEO, SCHF; Emma Backman, Paris Oleksyn, and Bronwyn Boucher, U of S Womens Hockey team; and Nicole Semko, Director of Development, SCHF.

"You see people older than you taking on that role, and then you get to that point where it becomes your turn to fill those shoes."

"I think it's about making an impact on those younger than you and giving them something to look up to," added Paris.

"Seeing the fundraising efforts throughout the years and my mom's experience it really made me want to give back," said Emma. "I love being able to help others."

Thank you to the Huskies for your leadership and incredible support of the BHC.

Thanks to you, and donors like you, patients and families will continue to receive the care they need, close to home.





Teammates Emma Backman, Paris Oleksyn, and Bronwyn Boucher designed a custom jersey in honour of Emma's mom.

SCHF welcomes Annual Giving & Stewardship Manager

The Foundation is excited to announce a brand-new role!

Robin Scott will transition from her position as Executive Assistant to the role of Annual Giving & Stewardship Manager.

The Annual Giving & Stewardship Manager leads the foundation's annual giving and stewardship programs, driving donor engagement, strengthening recognition efforts, and building meaningful relationships that advance the Foundation's mission.

Born and raised in Saskatoon, Robin has been with the Foundation since 2023 and has experience in finance, sales, event planning, and foundation work.

"I'm really excited to take on this new role. Over the last few years in my position as executive assistant, I have had the opportunity to really get to know a lot of our donors, hospital staff and patients," said Robin.

"I truly believe that Saskatoon City hospital provides incredible care and I've really enjoyed getting to hear directly from these individuals about how much of an impact our hospital has on our community," she said.

"I'm looking forward to fostering new and current relationships and continuing the incredible work of SCHF."

Robin enjoys spending time with her husband, her two sons and her dog.

She strives to always grow her skill set by learning new things, loves spending time at the family cabin, and is a true "people person."



Robin Scott
Annual Giving & Stewardship Manager

The Foundation is grateful to Robin for her dedication as executive assistant and is very excited to see all the incredible things she will achieve in this new role!

IN MEMORIAM

Donations were made from **Dec. 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026,** in memory of the following people:

Bohdan A. Bayda
Eileen Bonnor
Rosalie Cornish
Albert Empey
Tom Grummett
Alice M. Guttormson
Roberta Hodge
Ella Hoffer
Loretta Kolbinson
Ron Leschyshyn
Reilly Marchand
Gerald Mengering
Jack Moldenhauer
Ron Muench
Ricky Palahicky
Olga Perrick
Abe Reddekopp
Neil Richardson
Lindsay Rose
John Royal Munro
Meiyan Song
Dale Soroski
Robert Spenst
Irene Stakiw
Jean & Goff Strachan
Lois Tervo (Ledding)
Leona Turner Kingston

IN HONOUR

Donations were made from **Dec. 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026,** in honour of the following people:

Dr. Dorothy Barrie
Veronica Cowell
Joan Fox
Nancy Johnson
Steve Shannon (Lipsit)
Dr. Pally & 3rd floor staff
The nursing staff on 3300 ward for their exceptional care
Judy White

Grateful patient testimonials



"Thank you to each and every one of you for your part in taking care of the many patients that pass through SCH doors each year!"

"I have received top care at City Hospital in past years from the Eye Care Centre, the orthopedic surgery team, and the physiotherapy team. Thank you!"

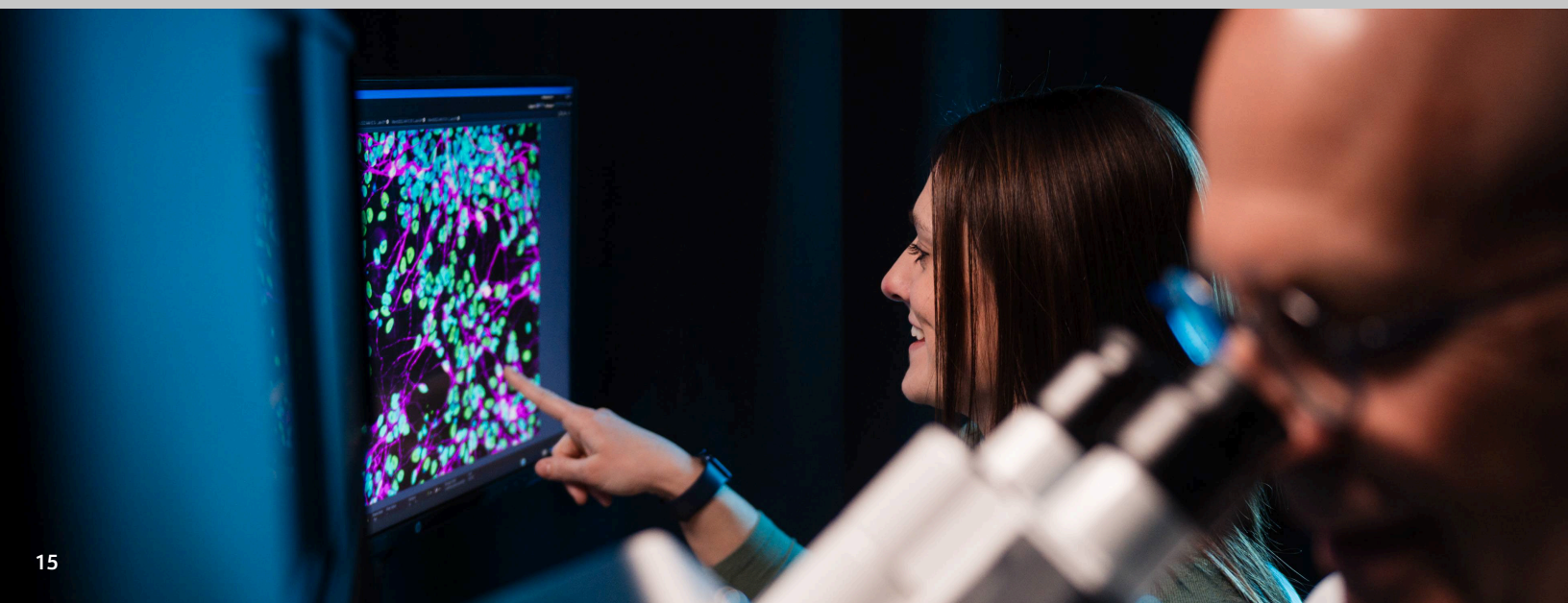
"Thank you to the team at the SCHF office for your work and support!"

"Saskatoon City Hospital is the best hospital in Saskatoon. I had two knee replacement surgeries in 2025 and was treated exceptionally well. Best staff throughout."

"Thank you for the wonderful work that you do every day!"

"The Gift Shoppe has such lovely items and I really appreciate that my money is going back into the hospital."

"The staff at the Breast Health Centre are truly exceptional. They are kind, caring and went the extra mile to make me feel cared for at my appointments. I am so grateful!"



Your hospital.
Your community.
Your impact.

It starts here.



Donate at SCHFgo.com

Saskatoon City Hospital
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