

# Inspire



HOSPITALS of REGINA  
FOUNDATION

SPRING 2015

STORIES FROM OUR COMMUNITY OF GIVING

## A gift from the heart

*A generous donation from GMS (Group Medical Services) will improve care and services provided to cardiac patients in southern Saskatchewan*

Patients of Regina General Hospital's GMS Cardiac Rhythm Device Clinic will notice a big difference the next time they come in for an assessment.

"Thanks to recent renovations, we've improved our processes so patients won't have to wait," explains Vicki Ehrlich, Director of Cardiosciences at the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region. "The only time they'll spend in the department is the time required for their actual appointment."



"We know that thousands of our community members need access to high quality, specialized cardiac care services. We're thrilled to be a part of this," says David Blodgett, President and CEO, GMS (pictured, right, with Dr. Omar Sultan).

That's great news for the over 5,000 active patients and it's all thanks to a \$500,000 donation from GMS (Group Medical Services).

The donation funded urgently needed facility improvements to the clinic. "With the number of active patients increasing by about 550 every year, we had simply run out of space and were starting to assess patients in non-patient care areas. This donation lets us use space more efficiently so we can serve more patients in less time," explains Vicki.

The GMS Cardiac Rhythm Device Clinic monitors and assesses patients across southern Saskatchewan who depend on a pacemaker to regulate their heart rate, or an implanted cardiac defibrillator to provide life-saving shocks to keep their hearts in a normal rhythm. "Once a patient is implanted with one of these devices, they are followed for life," Vicki says.

GMS's generous gift also funded a new digital electrocardiogram (ECG) testing, file management and storage system. Once in place, the new system will give doctors instant access to accurate, current patient ECG records, which is crucial in emergencies.

"Our donation will not only accelerate the delivery of care, but will also save lives," says David Blodgett, President and CEO, GMS.

Vicki agrees: "GMS has helped us create capacity in the clinic so we can better serve our growing population, as well as to bring us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and have our ECGs stored electronically versus on paper. On behalf of the Cardiosciences Department, we really appreciate the generosity of GMS and we look forward to having them as a partner in our healthcare delivery."

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# What do farming and healthcare have in common?



South Country Equipment's donation allowed for the purchase of a new Gator emergency transport vehicle. Says Greg Watson (in the driver's seat), "South Country chose to support the Hospitals of Regina Foundation because they are an important driver behind advancing the medical services in our community." Also in the photo (L to R): Peter Desiatnyk, South Country; Cory Brossart, EMS; and Scott Koza, EMS.

Healthcare and farming aren't so different. Put leading-edge technology into the hands of farmers or medical professionals, and they'll work more effectively.

South Country Equipment, the John Deere dealership in southern Saskatchewan, has built a growing business for over 50 years by supplying

farmers and serious gardeners with state-of-the-art John Deere equipment through their eight dealer locations.

When they heard Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) team could save lives using an off-road transportation vehicle, they knew exactly what they needed – a customized John Deere Gator.

This Gator, equipped with a stretcher mount, allows EMS paramedics to get to people who are ill or injured in areas inaccessible by road ambulance. It can also be used for medical emergencies at outdoor events like the Big Valley Jamboree, the Queen City Marathon or Canada Day in Wascana Park.

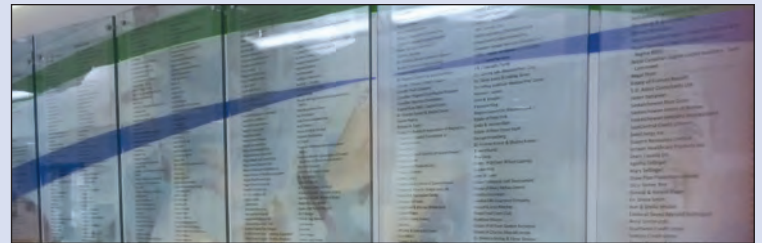
The specially adapted Gator allows paramedics to safely transport and care for people until they can transfer their patients into a regular ambulance for fast transport to hospital.

Says Greg Watson, General Sales Manager of South Country, "We liked the idea of supporting this off-road and remote access ambulance, as it will help improve the speed of response to medical situations in places where a full-size ambulance can't go."

## HALL OF HONOUR

*Refreshed Hall of Honour coming May 2015*

Our Hall of Honour in the Regina General Hospital pays tribute to Hospitals of Regina Foundation donors who have cumulatively given \$5,000 or more. Stop by to read some new inspirational stories after the wall is refreshed in May!



# THANK YOU!

## DONOR RECOGNITION LIST

*Paying tribute to our compassionate donors*

Visit [www.hrf.sk.ca/recognition](http://www.hrf.sk.ca/recognition) to view an updated list of HRF donors who give \$1,000 per year and more, and people whose memory has been honoured by In Memory gifts.

## ANNUAL REPORT

In mid-April visit [www.hrf.sk.ca](http://www.hrf.sk.ca) to read our 2014 Annual Report. For a printed copy please call the Foundation at **306.781.7500**.



# Increasing patient comfort and speeding up recovery time

## *Farm Credit Canada's thoughtful donation gives back*

In support of the Hospitals of Regina Foundation's 2014 Million Dollar Match Surgical Campaign, Farm Credit Canada (FCC) made a kind-hearted donation of \$10,000 through its FCC Regina Spirit Fund. Thanks to this donation, surgical patients can now benefit from two new pain pumps.

Pain pumps are used by people recovering from surgery to administer their own pain relief medication, when they need it most. Because the computerized pumps are programmed to deliver precise prescribed amounts over a specific period of time, patients will only receive safe amounts of medication. This keeps them comfortable and speeds up their recovery time.

By putting patients in control of their own pain management, medical staff are freed up to attend to patients who are in need of immediate care.



"We want to help build a healthier and more vibrant community for this generation and generations to come," says Corinna Mitchell-Beaudin, Executive Vice President and Chief Risk Officer, FCC.

## The Power of Pink:

### *Bi-Annual Event Helped Create a One-Stop Breast Diagnostic Centre*

One in nine women develop breast cancer during their lifetime. Regina resident Pam Klein, President of Saskatchewan advertising agency The Phoenix Group, is one of those women.

"When I received my diagnosis," Pam reflected, "I explored care in Manitoba and Alberta. What I found was there is great care right here at the Pasqua Hospital.

"In 2005, I created The Power of Pink, a fundraising event to raise funds for technology and services supporting early detection and breast health awareness.

We hold the event every two years and have raised more than \$300,000 to help fund the Pasqua Hospital's Breast Assessment Centre. And we expect that number to keep climbing!"

Over the past 10 years, The Power of Pink transformed the Breast Assessment Centre into a one-stop diagnostic centre by funding state-of-the-art breast imaging, biopsy, and diagnostic equipment. This event also supports the Lymphedema Clinic, which treats problems that can arise following cancer treatment.

Today, southern Saskatchewan's women can get all their testing done in one place, often in one day.

Test results are also delivered much faster – sometimes the same day, rarely more than a few days. This lessens the overwhelming anxiety and, if treatment is necessary, gives women the care they need sooner.

We are so appreciative of the dedication and hard work of The Power of Pink team and the excellent local care it allows Saskatchewan's hospitals to deliver!



The Power of Pink founder Pam Klein (front, centre) and her amazing team of volunteers stage a sold-out bi-annual fashion show featuring outstanding local designers, exotic appetizers and desserts, and an irresistible collection of donated high-quality silent auction items. April 2015's event marks the 10th anniversary of The Power of Pink, whose funds support the Pasqua Hospital's Breast Assessment Centre and Lymphedema Clinic.

# Our community of giving



On November 29, 2014, Regina fashion designer Dean Renwick hosted the Moustache Bash, a fundraiser and joint launch of the Dean Renwick Design Studio and Colin O'Brian Man's Shoppe Spring 2015 fashion lines. Guests were delighted by live entertainment, a runway show and glitzy after party. The event raised \$10,000 for the Pasqua Hospital's Prostate Assessment Centre.



# Inspired Legacy

*Margaret Craig's generosity will bring comfort for years to come*

Margaret Craig took care of things that mattered to her. She lovingly tended her garden, advocated for her neighbourhood, and keenly watched her investments. When she became a patient in the Palliative Care Unit at the Pasqua Hospital at the age of 92, Margaret made the selfless decision to take care of her hospital.

“Margaret often visited friends at the Pasqua Hospital and was very impressed with the care she and her friends received,” explains Margaret’s friend and executor, Charles Michel.

Margaret passed away in August of 2014 and left a generous \$100,000 bequest to the Hospitals of Regina Foundation in her will. She dedicated her gift to enhancing care and providing comfort to Pasqua’s Palliative Care patients.

“Margaret’s gift will buy equipment like high-quality mattresses and walkers, and help create additional workspace for nurses,” says Tricia Engel, Director of Palliative Care. “As we fulfill our privilege of caring for people in their final days, we will always remember Margaret’s generosity and be thankful.”

If you wish to make a lasting difference of your own, please contact the Foundation at 306.781.7500. A gift in your will supports patient care in Regina’s hospitals.

*“It is difficult to find words worthy of the gratitude we feel for this generous gift.”*

*Tricia Engel, Director of Palliative Care*

# You do it 20,000 times a day; you probably take it for granted



When describing a skill you're good at, you might say, "It comes as naturally to me as breathing."

But for many people, breathing doesn't come naturally at all...like prematurely born babies, whose lungs aren't fully developed.

People with sleep apnea often stop breathing during the night, and wake up exhausted. Others paralyzed by neck injuries or illness may only be able to breathe with the help of a ventilator.

And every breath – all 20,000 a day – can be a painful struggle for those who have suffered a collapsed lung in a bad car accident; or, those with bronchitis, emphysema, cystic fibrosis, muscular

dystrophy, severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or lung cancer.

*Nothing is more basic to life than breathing, yet most of us take it for granted.*

Regina's three hospitals provide specialized care to people who have problems breathing. Often every piece of equipment that diagnoses and treats breathing problems is in use. Some pieces are so old they're beyond repair if they break down.

That's why the Hospitals of Regina Foundation is focused on raising money to buy urgently needed respiratory equipment.

Newer equipment is more comfortable for patients, and new technology immediately alerts staff of any unsafe breathing changes.

For critically-ill patients who must get diagnostic MRI scans, two ventilators with non-magnetic parts are needed to replace 15-year-old models that don't adapt to each patient's individual needs.

Clinical Supervisor of Respiratory Services, Mark Murray, puts portable ventilators at the top of his wish list. He explains: "When our patients are so ill they can't breathe on their own, they often spend weeks or months in one of our hospitals. Portable ventilators can give them the freedom to escape the confines of the hospital and feel the sun on their face again. Or they can attend a special party and reconnect with family and friends. These ventilators help people feel more human again, and that's a wonderful gift."

**Can you make a gift today to the Hospitals of Regina Foundation, so we can buy a variety of leading-edge respiratory equipment?**

You can with the enclosed reply form and postage-paid envelope, or at [www.hrf.sk.ca/donate](http://www.hrf.sk.ca/donate).

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