

Inspire

SPRING 2021

STORIES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Family Gives Back *to Honour Wife and Mother*



Patricia and Brian Morsky at home

Humble, kind and generous, with a loving and warm smile. That's how anyone who was fortunate enough to cross paths with Patricia Morsky remembers her. Despite a long and arduous battle with cancer, Patricia's generosity and compassion shone through and were evident in her daily actions. These values continue to live on today through her husband Brian and four children; Bryce, Blake, Erica and Mark.

In 1999 Patricia was diagnosed with breast cancer. With her positive attitude never wavering, Patricia underwent multiple treatments for her cancer until her doctors believed that it had gone into remission. Unfortunately, 10 years after receiving the positive news of her cancer's remission, Patricia started feeling some discomfort once again. A follow up medical appointment would confirm

that her cancer had returned, but this time more aggressively. Patricia would undergo several more treatments and surgeries over the years, and through her strong will, unwavering spirit and resiliency, would fight the disease until her passing on December 20th, 2019.

"She was always thinking of others, and would often respond 'I'm fine. I'm okay. Don't worry about me.' when someone asked her how she was doing," Brian Morsky tells us. "Her unselfish, loving and giving nature is why we want to give back to Hospitals of Regina Foundation. If even one person can be helped by our gift, then Pat and all of us would agree it was worth it."

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Brian Morsky

Each year, the Breast Assessment Centre at Regina's Pasqua Hospital performs an average of 4,800 breast exams and 600 biopsies. After their own experience and upon realizing how many people depend on this Centre each year, in 2020 Brian and his family generously donated over \$100,000 towards the purchase of a new Digital Breast Tomosynthesis unit, also

known as 3D mammography. This technology is better able to detect smaller breast cancer tumors with more accuracy and fewer false-positives.

In order to help the Foundation raise the funds needed for this urgent technology sooner, the Morsky Family made a second pledge of \$100,000 in 2021 to match new donations from the community.

"Pat spent a lot of time receiving treatment at the Pasqua Hospital and it held a special place in her heart." Brian explains. "They treated her so well there over the years and despite being a patient, Pat always felt guilty for needing services and wanted to give back however she could. To know how many people this technology will help at the Breast Assessment Centre would have meant so much to her."

"The Foundation greatly appreciates the Morsky family, and their support of women's health care at the Breast Assessment Centre," says Jessica Rawn, director, development, Hospitals of Regina Foundation. "Their generous gift towards this essential technology will continue to help our health care teams deliver the best care possible to the people of southern Saskatchewan."



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2020 Pediatric Statistics

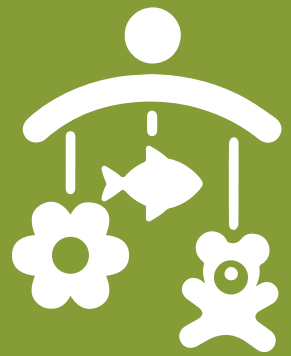


450

BABIES NEEDED
REGINA'S NICU

3,859

BABIES BORN IN
REGINA



2,559

VISITS TO THE
PEDIATRIC
OUTPATIENT PROGRAM

14,140

VISITS TO THE
CHILDREN'S PROGRAM AT
WASCANA REHAB CENTRE



Touch and Go Situation Ends Well in **NICU**



Finn LeBlanc

An unexpected event that would put your unborn child at risk is a worry that no expectant mother ever wants to go through. Unfortunately, this worry became a reality for Joy Beitel on May 25 2019, when she was involved in a car accident while 30 weeks pregnant.

“I was driving near the Regina General Hospital when I was in a car accident. It wasn’t super severe, but definitely jarring.” Joy recalls. “I can remember the airbag going off, the smell of the dust, and being shaken and dazed. With a background in nursing, I immediately started assessing myself for injuries and was clutching my belly, worried about my child.”

With the help of a caring stranger, Joy was immediately taken to the Regina General Hospital Emergency Room.

Fifteen minutes later, Joy was transferred to the Labor & Delivery Unit for monitoring and testing on her unborn baby. To Joy’s relief the initial tests came back normal, but six hours later obstetrician Dr. Eman Ramadan advised that the blood test showed something alarming. The blood from both Joy and her baby was mixing in what is referred to as a ‘concealed placental abruption’ which can be fatal to both mother and child. Joy required an immediate emergency C-Section.

“It was scary going from the accident, to thinking everything was fine, to needing an emergency C-section to save both our lives.” Joy tells us. “When baby Finn was delivered, he did cry but also needed help breathing, as he was so premature. Hours later I finally saw him and all I could think was this is not how it was supposed to happen. It was all extremely challenging.”

Finn required care in our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the Rawlco Centre for Mother Baby Care. His first week would prove very challenging and Joy describes it as “touch and go”. Baby Finn suffered a collapsed lung, needed assistance breathing and a lot of medical scans to monitor his conditions. Finn would eventually graduate from the NICU’s Giraffe Bed (a state-of-the-art incubator system which provides premature and ill babies with a controlled, stress-reduced environment, much like that of a mother’s womb) on to a ventilator, and finally to breathing on his own. On July 1st, after 37 days in our NICU, Finn was discharged from the Hospital and went home with his family.

“I honestly can’t say enough good things about the nurses and doctors in the NICU. The staff and the equipment they have access to, thanks to the Foundation, have saved so many lives.”

Joy Beitel

“I honestly can’t say enough good things about the nurses and doctors in the NICU. The staff and the equipment they have access to, thanks to the Foundation, have saved so many lives” says Joy. “They are an amazing group of professionals that genuinely care about what they do. They took the extra time to explain anything I asked about. Without them I wouldn’t have my son and I can’t thank them enough for that.”

“Joy and Finn’s story is a reminder of the importance of investing in our pediatric programs to provide the best care possible for children across southern Saskatchewan,” says Dino Sophocleous, president and CEO, Hospitals of Regina Foundation. “The generosity of our community allows the Foundation to invest in life-saving technology each and every year, helping the Beitel/LeBlanc family and others like them live better lives, while receiving the best care possible, right here at home.”

Regina Couple Supports Exceptional Health Care for Future Generations

Who decides to leave a legacy gift in their Will to Hospitals of Regina Foundation? Quite often, it is people just like Mike and Marianne Giesinger of Regina, a retired couple who have a first-hand appreciation of the quality of health care available at Regina's hospitals.

In 2019, Mike underwent a series of diagnostic tests, including an ultrasound and a CT scan. He also required cataract surgery on both eyes, an operation he underwent at the Eye Center at Pasqua Hospital - which sees over 18,000 patients a year.

Marianne's experience with our hospitals includes knee replacement surgery last year, and a hip surgically replaced in 2017. She also had cataract surgery at our Eye Centre in the same year.

"We certainly appreciate how important it is to have quality health care available when you need it, as close to home as possible" Mike explains. "That's why we decided to leave a part of our estate to the Foundation. No one should ever be left behind when they need help."

"The Foundation has really done a great job of giving our hospitals the latest technology," Marianne says. "If we can help them continue to do that in the future, we're very happy to do so."

Mike and Marianne have been supporting the Foundation since 1993. More recently, they decided to leave a legacy gift to the Foundation in their Will, to help ensure that future



Marianne and Mike Giesinger

generations receive the same excellent care they have benefitted from. They encourage others to make the same commitment.

"In the case of my hip surgery, I was really impressed with how efficiently everything was handled," Marianne explains.

"It's a great feeling to know we'll be able to help other people, even after we're gone," Mike says. "No one chooses to get sick, but sooner or later we're all going to be touched by illness, either directly or indirectly. If we can make that experience a bit easier for other families, we're glad to do it. We'd love for that to be our legacy to our community."

"The Giesinger's story is a wonderful example of the value our donors place on supporting the highest quality health care for future generations," says

Lisa Green, vice-president, development, Hospitals of Regina Foundation.

"Mike and Marianne's generosity is a great example of Saskatchewan's philanthropic spirit. Their legacy will help us deliver on our promise to the community of the best care possible, now and in the future."

"The Foundation has really done a great job of giving our hospitals the latest technology. If we can help them continue to do that in the future, we're so very happy to do so."

Marianne Giesinger

*Supporting
Excellence in*
**Women's
Health
Care**



The Kinsmen Foundation has been helping to improve the quality of life for the people of Saskatchewan since 1971. As a regular partner to Hospitals of Regina Foundation, the Kinsmen Foundation has supported some of our hospitals' most urgent needs in areas like trauma care, pediatrics, the Kinsmen Telemiracle Foundation Electrophysiology Lab in the Mosaic Heart Centre, and the Wolfe Stroke Centre.

When they were asked in early 2020 to help our Foundation invest in new 3D mammography technology for the Breast Assessment Centre at Pasqua Hospital, the Kinsmen Foundation generously matched early community support with a gift of \$75,000. The new technology is better able to detect smaller breast cancers with more accuracy and with fewer false-positives.

"The Kinsmen Foundation's mandate includes funding new and innovative medical equipment for the benefit of Saskatchewan people," says Kim Lowe, Kinsmen Foundation Board Chair. "Our Board of Directors was very pleased to help fund this new mammography technology that will benefit so many women in southern Saskatchewan."

"For the 4,800 women who receive breast exams and the 600 who receive biopsies each year at the Breast Assessment Centre, this technology is a crucial part of their health. We are so grateful to the Kinsmen Foundation for their significant contribution to the success of this campaign," says Lisa Green, vice president, development for Hospitals of Regina Foundation.

Making Lives Better, *Thanks to Canada Life*

When Canada Life agreed to partner with the Foundation on a key project to bring new mammography technology to Regina, we knew we were working with a company that truly believed in our goal of making lives better.

Canada Life's donation of \$50,000 will be used towards replacing older 2D technology with an advanced 3D mammography unit in the Breast Assessment Centre, at Pasqua Hospital. This partnership brings better health care to women in Regina and southern Saskatchewan.

"We're proud to support the Foundation as they help improve health outcomes

for Saskatchewan women," Debbie Down, Director, Community Relations, at Canada Life. "Regina's Breast Assessment Centre provides services that are crucial to women's health. With this innovative new 3D mammography technology, they're enhancing the quality of breast screening, leading to quicker, accurate diagnoses."

"I am thrilled by the support from the community and Canada Life for this project. When we look back 20 years from now, we will say that our mothers, grandmothers, daughters, aunts, friends and sisters received the best diagnostic breast cancer tests available. They didn't

have to leave their community to find the answers. The technology was right here in Regina" says Jessica Rawn, director, development for Hospitals of Regina Foundation.



2021 Spring Home Lottery

Bigger and Better in Every Way



50/50 Add-On winners, Ken and Brenda Hahn along with HRF CEO, Dino Sophocleous



Grand Prize Showhome winner Eunice Schneider and husband Wayne receiving keys to their new home from HRF CEO, Dino Sophocleous

Our Home Lottery programs continue to surprise and impress us through the great support of our amazing community. After a record breaking sell-out last fall, we have once again broken all records. And for the second time in the history of our 50/50 Add-On, the total has reached over \$1 Million! Thank you Saskatchewan for this amazing response. This proves, as we long suspected, that the people of this province are the most generous in the country.

All the funds raised by our spring lottery will, as always, stay in southern Saskatchewan to support local pediatrics and the greatest needs in Regina's three hospitals, which serve the entire southern half of our great province.

We are very pleased to announce the winners of our 2021 Spring Home Lottery. Eunice Schneider of Regina is the winner of the Ripplinger built \$1.4 Million Grand Prize Showhome and

\$30,000 CASH! Our Early Bird winner, Robert Randall of Regina gets to choose between a 2021 Mercedes-Benz e53 Coupe or \$100,000 CASH! And Ken & Brenda Hahn of Regina took home a whopping \$575,712.50 in yet another record breaking 50/50 Add-On. Once again, our largest ever.

Congratulations to all our winners, big and small. Your support continues to help us deliver the best health care possible and make lives better for everyone in Regina and southern Saskatchewan.

Our Home Lottery programs continue to surprise and impress us through the great support of our amazing community.



Pasqua Hospital's GI Unit Helps Southern Saskatchewan Man **Live a Better Life**



Herman Fenske at home in Theodore

Most people have no idea what an Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangio-Pancreatography (ERCP) procedure is, much less know that it's used to see inside a patient's pancreatic and bile ducts. It is particularly helpful in treating patients like 76-year-old Herman Fenske, who suffers from gallstones.

Herman has travelled from his home in Theodore, northwest of Yorkton, to visit the Gastrointestinal (GI) Unit at Regina's Pasqua Hospital multiple times over the past two years, and has undergone the ERCP procedure nine times.

"I retired about 15 years ago, and was in good health until March of 2018, when I suffered what I thought was a fairly routine gallbladder attack, despite the terrible pain it caused," Herman explains. "That passed, but it left me

pretty severely jaundiced, so I was sent to the GI unit at the Pasqua for more detailed diagnostic tests."

Those tests revealed the presence of gallstones in Herman's bile duct, at which point his first ERCP was quickly scheduled. The procedure uses a fluoroscopy machine, a type of real-time x-ray, and an endoscope, a slender, tubular instrument to find and treat problems in the pancreatic and bile ducts. The first ERCP determined Herman's bile duct had an unusual curve in it, which made getting the gallstones out much more difficult.

As a result of the unusual curve in the bile duct, it took six attempts before the gallstones were removed. However, they returned, requiring another two procedures, including the insertion of a

stent to open up the bile duct. The final ERCP procedure was performed in the spring of 2020 and Herman's doctor is confident the gallstones are gone for good.

"I'm certainly thankful for the outstanding team at the Pasqua Hospital, and for Hospitals of Regina Foundation for helping to provide the team with the best possible medical equipment and technology," Herman says. "Thanks to that combination, I'm feeling very optimistic about the future."

"Herman's story is just one example of the importance of providing our medical teams with the technology they need to deliver the best care possible, right here at home," says Lisa Green, vice-president, development, Hospitals of Regina Foundation. "The Gastrointestinal (GI) Unit at Pasqua Hospital is the only unit in the province with a dedicated fluoroscopy machine to do ERCP procedures. By investing in leading-edge technology for our hospitals, we're helping people just like Herman live better lives."

"I am certainly thankful for the outstanding team at the Pasqua Hospital, and for Hospitals of Regina Foundation."

Herman Fenske

Interested in hosting your own fundraiser? To find out how, visit our website at: hrf.sk.ca/Events/Host-An-Event, or contact us at hrf@hrf.sk.ca or (306) 781-7500.

A Big Thank You.



Despite the COVID-19 restrictions, two of our long-standing community partners found creative ways to help the Foundation raise funds for our hospitals. Tremendous thanks to the Evening in Greece organizing committee for their successful 50/50 raffle, which raised almost \$15,000. And once again, the team at Rawlco Radio, including retiring hosts CC & Lorie, pulled out all the stops for this year's pandemic appropriate Z99 Radiothon, raising a record-breaking, one-day total of \$416,938 in support of our NICU to help save babies' lives.



Virtual Four Seasons Ball

A HOSPITALS OF REGINA FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

JUNE 12, 2021

Join us for the Virtual Four Seasons Ball and help us support local health care for children in their greatest time of need. Yes, we've gone virtual, so now you can experience great local entertainment, shop the tremendous on-line auction and take part in the 50/50 for your chance to win, all from the comfort of your home.

Visit the Four Seasons Ball website at www.fourseasonsball.ca or follow our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/hrfdn> for more details.

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