



PARTNERS

OF THE SAANICH PENINSULA HOSPITAL & HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

WINTER 2025

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**HOSPITAL CARE BUILT
AROUND PEOPLE**

**A MESSAGE
FROM OUR CEO**

FROM THE BOARD

SPIRIT GALA SUCCESS

**COMMUNITY
FUNDRAISING**

RESIDENT STORY

OUR MISSION

To provide up-to-date facilities, innovative programs, and proactive solutions, to support the health, wellness, and sustainability of the Saanich Peninsula and the Southern Gulf Island communities.



Hospital Care Built Around People

A hospital is so much more than a building and medical equipment. It is a system built around people: patients seeking care, and the healthcare professionals – and extensive team of support staff – who care for them.





Partners is produced by the Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation.

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Heather Edward, CEO

Ph: 250.656.2948

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The Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation (SPHMF) believes that one way to ensure excellence of care is through access to training and education. Each year Saanich Peninsula Hospital staff are invited to apply for The Florence Yong Scholarship. This scholarship opportunity supports staff members who wish to pursue professional development that represents a major educational undertaking, such as the upgrading of professional designation (i.e. LPN to RN) to enhance or change a career path, or to learn new advanced techniques.

Since the Florence Yong Endowment was established with a major gift donation in 2019, \$160,000 have been paid in scholarships to Saanich Peninsula Hospital staff. In addition, the invested fund continues to grow, ensuring a legacy of education and personal growth into the future. It's a wonderful tribute to Mrs. Yong from her family. They describe her as compassionate, thoughtful, curious and full of love. She had a desire for greater knowledge and understanding, and always wanted to learn more.

One of this year's scholarship recipients is Ernesto Jr. Valdez.

Upgrading professional designation from Health Care Aide (HCA) to Registered Nurse (RN)

"I have been working at Saanich Peninsula Hospital Extended Care Unit as an HCA for over five years now. My journey as an internationally educated nurse pursuing certification in Canada has been filled with numerous challenges. Upon arriving in Canada, I quickly realized that the process would not be easy. I encountered obstacles such as language proficiency exams, complex paperwork, and the need to complete additional training to meet Canadian standards. The financial burden of these additional requirements was also a significant challenge. Moreover, balancing the responsibilities of being a husband, father, and student while adapting to a new healthcare system and culture added to the emotional strain.

Despite these challenges, I remained determined and resilient. I sought support

from community organizations and mentorship programs for internationally educated nurses. Through hard work and perseverance, I am on the path to finally obtaining my nursing certification in Canada.

Looking back, I am proud of how far I have come and the obstacles I have overcome. My nursing journey has been a testament to my passion for patient care and my unwavering commitment to making a difference in the Canadian healthcare system.

I am incredibly grateful for the bursary provided by SPHMF. This generous support has significantly alleviated the financial burden of pursuing my nursing education. It has allowed me to focus on my studies and practical training without being overwhelmed by financial stress. I am sincerely thankful for the opportunity to be a recipient of this bursary and am committed to making the most of it as I continue my nursing journey."

Ernesto Jr. Valdez

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A Message from our CEO

Heather Edward, CEO

As 2025 begins, our team at SPHHF would like to take the opportunity to reflect on the positive impact we were fortunate to celebrate over the last year for our hospital and healthcare thanks to you, our community of generous donors.

Acute Care Unit Renovation (ACU) Campaign

Fifteen million dollars was a big fundraising goal for our community and the small but mighty SPHHF team and Board. With big hearts, steadfast dedication and unwavering determination from all, SPHHF launched our ACU campaign with the knowledge that our caring community of dedicated donors would come together and raise the funds. 2024 was the first full year of an aggressive campaign for the much-needed ACU renovation at SPH. As the ACU has remained relatively unchanged since it first opened in 1978, the renovation was identified as a community need to increase patient safety and comfort, improve infection control and meet medication standards of practice. The renovation benefits will also include providing staff with a modern and efficient workplace.

In November of 2024, SPHHF launched the second year of our ACU campaign with a resolute dedication and continued determination to achieve our fundraising goal. Thanks to community fundraising events, our Spirit Gala, corporate sponsors, legacy gifts and most importantly you, our donors, we are pleased to share we have collectively raised over \$11.5 million as of December 2024. With only \$3.5 million to raise to hit our goal, we want to thank our past, current and future donors for your continued support! It is an honour to be able to support our hospital and healthcare in our community on your behalf.

In having the pleasure of engaging with many of our donors, I heard you asking when the positive impact of your donations to the ACU campaign will be seen. At the SPHHF Spirit Gala in November 2024, the CEO of Island Health, Kathy MacNeil, announced to our community the renovations of the Acute Care Unit at SPH will commence during the summer of 2025. Exciting news!!!!

To ensure the ACU can remain open to service and provide the community with a place to heal and recover,

the renovations will take a staggered approach, renovating one section or room at a time. Compassionate care and clinical excellence will remain the norm at the ACU during renovations. We are following the implementation and progress of the project closely and look forward to sharing updates as our community's extraordinary generosity transforms the ACU vision into reality.

Improving Access to Care

Looking to the year ahead, not only will 2025 see the ACU renovations begin, but the SPHHF will continue to advance and advocate based on our donors' shared primary concerns: having a family physician and emergency department hours at SPH. First, the SPHHF has launched a new evolving initiative called the Healthcare Assist Recruitment Program (HARP) that currently includes the retention of a local recruiter to support family practice clinics in the Saanich Peninsula region recruiting new physicians. As of January 2025, we are pleased to share we have secured five new physicians who will be joining the Saanich Peninsula in the fall of 2025.

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All new physicians will be taking people off the Health Connect registry who are currently without a family physician; up to 4000 people. We are still welcoming clinics who would like our support to participate in the current HARP initiative. (Please note that SPHMF is not involved in the process of attaching patients to physician lists.)

Second, the SPHMF is also proud to partner with Island Health in supporting the first pilot program for Physician Assistants (PA) in British Columbia. PA's have the ability to diagnose, consult and prescribe medications while working under a supervising physician and with all members of the emergency department team. This month two PA's, Fred and Eric, will be joining the team at the SPH Emergency Department. Through the donations provided by our donors, SPHMF was able to support the recruitment of the new PA's through funding incentives and funding education to enhance the PA's clinical practice.

Every gift or donation we receive from our donors will continue to show how our community cares for and supports each other. If you would like to donate further to any of our programs or campaigns see any of our team at either of our locations, or online. I always enjoy engaging with our donors. If you would like to connect in person, please feel free to contact me at info@sphf.ca or 250.656.2948.

Happy New Year and here's to a healthy 2025. ■

Thank you Sue and welcome Jessica



At the AGM in September there were a few changes to the SPHMF Board of Directors. After many years of dedicated service Sue Hodgson left the Board – we thank her sincerely for all the commitment and support she has shown to our hospital. We were very grateful that Jessica O'Brien Cameron was nominated and elected to the Board of Directors. Welcome Jessica! ■

New office location

Please note that we have moved to a new office location in Sidney.

You can find us at A2-9769 Fifth Street, Sidney, BC V8L 2X1. Our hospital office remains open. We will continue to rotate the SPHMF staff team through both locations. We always welcome donors to visit in person! ■



Barb Menzies

Board Member Spotlight

I was born and raised in Atlantic Canada but have lived in beautiful North Saanich where I have worked and enjoyed living for the past 43 years. This makes me truly “bi-coastal!”

My background as an educator on the Saanich Peninsula for 35 years gave me the opportunity to connect with many families on the Saanich Peninsula.

As a SPHMF director, I bring my past experience in governance and analytical decision making, both as a Saanich School Board trustee and, currently, on the North Saanich municipal Board of Variance.

Over the years I have been profoundly grateful for the service and professional care offered at SPH. Three generations of my family have experienced the timely care and convenience offered by the Emergency and Acute Care units. My first husband Doug passed away in Palliative Care in 2004, when the TLC of the staff

and volunteers made all the difference. More recently, I have trained as a Palliative Care volunteer and had an opportunity to support the staff, patients and family members in the same unit. We are so fortunate to have the variety of services offered by our Peninsula community hospital!

These personal experiences at SPH motivated me to “pay it forward” by serving as a Foundation Director. Our generous donors have enabled us to make a crucial difference in continuing to maintain and expand these vital healthcare services and facilities in our community. The success of these campaigns speaks to the value that we all place on timely care in a welcoming, well-resourced atmosphere. I am dedicated to using my time, energy and expertise to help the Foundation Board accomplish these goals, now and in the future. ■



THANK YOU TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Dream in Gold

SAANICH PENINSULA HOSPITAL & HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

SPIRIT GALA

PRESENTED BY  **PENINSULA CO-OP**

THANK YOU to the community and our generous sponsors, for helping us raise **over \$450,000** at this year's Spirit Gala!

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Victoria Symphony

Spirit Gala Success

A VISION OF GOLD AND WHITE / ELECTRIFYING BIDDING FRENZY / INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY SUPPORT



TOP: Stunning *Dream in Gold* table setting

LEFT: Emcee Paul Haysom entertains the room

RIGHT: SPHHF CEO Heather Edward and Dr. Ambrose Marsh

Thank you to our whole community for the huge show of support for our 2024 Spirit Gala. We asked you to *Dream in Gold* with us as we recognised 50 years of the Saanich Peninsula Hospital, and you truly helped us achieve a night to remember.

The Mary Winspear Centre was transformed into a vision of gold and white; guests wore their finest (and sparkliest) outfits; we were entertained with music, surprises and enjoyed a delicious meal. The support for the Saanich Peninsula Hospital was felt throughout the night and through the incredible donations and pledges made.

We had been excited to receive a donation from **PavCo and the BC Place Community Benefit Program** of two tickets to the SOLD OUT Taylor Swift Eras Tour concert in Vancouver. The tickets were a feature lot in our online Silent Auction



allowing the whole community (and Swifties everywhere) to place a bid. As the minutes ticked down to the Silent Auction close at 8.30 pm it was obvious that there was fierce competition to be the final bidder, but we didn't realise that one of those bidders was in the room with us! The whole room cheered when we learned that the winning bidder, at \$10,000, had decided to turn the tickets over to the Live Auction so that someone else had a chance to bid again!

Our Auctioneer kept the total rising and there were cheers again when they sold for \$10,000! No one could have anticipated what happened next... yes, that winner turned the tickets back to auction

and they were the subject of another hot contest. The final winning bid for the two Taylor Swift tickets was \$10,250 from a local business owner and SPHHF supporter. In total that generous donation of tickets raised \$30,250 towards our evening's total!

Another stand out moment during our cash appeal was the announcement of a \$100,000 donation from the Dan-On Foundation to our Acute Care Campaign – thank you to Mr On who wasn't able to attend the event in person for this significant gift, the first of a total half a million dollars pledged to the campaign.

Through ticket sales, sponsorships, the Silent and Live Auctions and cash pledges, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of sponsors, guests and supporters **our 2024 Spirit Gala raised over \$450,000!**

You can browse photos from the night on our website: sphf.ca/2024-spirit-gala-success. ■

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Shelby Cyr Florence Young Scholarship recipient

Shelby Cyr received the Florence Yong Scholarship this year to support her education goals.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program

"I am beyond grateful and relieved to be selected for the Florence Yong award this year. This financial assistance will allow me to focus on my studies without the distraction of financial stressors.

Currently I'm enrolled in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program at Camosun, where I will be studying for the next two years. I have always been dedicated towards helping people and am very excited to be able to further my education in health care and at Saanich Peninsula Hospital.

I am appreciative for your generosity and confidence in myself and my future."

Shelby Cyr

Through the establishment of the Florence Yong Endowment fund Dr Yong and his sons have enabled SPH staff, like Ernesto and Shelby, to aspire to greater education and expanded possibilities. They have also established a rich legacy that will impact many individuals for years to come. Board Director Michele Holmes explains: "This fund is fundamental in encouraging and aiding the hospital workforce to improve their skills, which in turn improves the quality of work they do at our hospital. It also promotes retention and self-confidence within the workforce."

We are all so grateful for the legacy of excellence created in honour of Mrs. Yong. ■

Community Fundraising

Thank you for all your initiative!

Fundraisers come in all shapes and sizes and we were grateful to be the beneficiary of many unique new events last year.



L to R: Bren Moroz-Pettyjohn, Stephanie Staples and April Prinze

Stephanie Staples raised over \$8,251.53 from the generous audience at her 'Love, Laughter and the "Try" Angle' event, including a \$1000 donation match from **April Prinze**.

A new annual event, Toast to the Coast, took place at Kildara Farms in North Saanich. Thank you to **Sarah Cruikshank** and **Fresh View Events**, this delightful afternoon of sipping and sampling local produce contributed a generous \$3,000 donation.

An ongoing CFI was launched in 2024, thanks to **Metropolitan Hospitality**. SPH patients receive a 10% discount for staying at Motel 6 - Airport, Holiday Inn - Elk Lake or

the Holiday Inn Express, 5% of each stay is donated to the Foundation.

Gale Wealth Advisors and **O'Brien Investment Group** held a scrap metal drive with Brentwood Auto & Metal Recyclers. It was a fun, farm-feeling event at O'Brien's Big Ol' Barn where people dropped off their recyclables into a large truck. \$6,080.74 was raised.

Pemberton Holmes Sidney held a community event outside their Sidney Garden Court office – a Summer Barbeque! The by-donation event raised \$1,177.40.

Abbeyfield House Sidney hosted local bird expert Ann Nightingale

at the Mary Winspear Centre for a talk about *Fall & Winter Birds of Vancouver Island*. Entrance was by donation, raising \$650.

Dan-D-Pak's 35th Anniversary was celebrated with a community event with proceeds from sales to be donated. Thanks to this event an incredible pledge from the **Dan-On Foundation** of \$500,000 was made to the Acute Care Unit campaign.

We are excited to see what innovative ideas our community has for 2025! If you are interested in organizing your own Community Fundraising Initiative find information and support on our website: sphf.ca/community-fundraising-initiative. ■



Gale Wealth Advisors and O'Brien Investment Group



Abbeyfield House Sidney



Jack Schofield

Writer in Residence

Our community is full of people with unique and interesting lives, and the residents of Saanich Peninsula Hospital's Long-term Care are no different.

One current resident has a special talent for storytelling. He's been doing it his whole life and hasn't let the move into SPH prevent his most recent book from being published. It's even on sale in the SPH Gift Shop! I had the pleasure of spending some time with Jack Schofield to learn more about this writer in our midst, and how he transitioned from pilot to author.

When you're in your nineties there's a lot of history to tell, but a very brief synopsis of Jack's life so far sees him learning to fly after belonging to the Royal Canadian Air Cadets; flying

Cessna float planes to remote BC communities; founding Orca Air in North Vancouver Island; working as a commercial pilot, but also known as a writer, some-time painter, entrepreneur, editor, aviation expert, publisher and award-winning author.

Jack is very well-known in the BC aviation world (look up his entry in the BC Aviation Hall of Fame for more background) but I was particularly keen to learn about his career as a writer and publisher. Jack told me that he'd always liked writing, even as a boy. When, after a long career as a pilot, he had the chance first to work at and then buy a small

When you're in your nineties there's a lot of history to tell.

aviation magazine, it was too good an opportunity to pass up.

For a while Jack wrote almost every article in *BC Aviator*, using different pseudonyms! He was well placed then to turn to helping other writers realise the dream of telling their stories, when he eventually sold what had by then become *Aviator Magazine* to start a small publishing company.

Through Coast Dog Press Jack has sent dozens of books off to print. Already the author of three beautiful books of his own that tell tales of float plane adventure and BC Aviation history, Jack has now turned his hand to fiction. Actually, he describes his latest book, *The Dangle*, as "non-fiction fiction" because this tale of espionage and intrigue is based on true WW2 and Cold War events. It's an exciting next venture in a long lifetime of adventures.

We have a signed copy of *The Dangle* available for one lucky reader. Let us know the answer to this question for your chance to win it!

Q. What famous plane recently made its final flight to Pat Bay before being displayed at the BC Aviation Museum? Answers by email to info@sphf.ca or give us a call: 250.656.2948

Good NEWS & Thank You's

We are starting the New Year filled with gratitude for the support of our generous community.

Gifts come to us in a variety of ways, and we are extremely grateful for each and every donation. Thank you to everyone who donated in 2024. The Donor Wall in the main entrance of Saanich Peninsula Hospital is regularly updated to include new donors and contributions.

In December we received an extraordinary gift from the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Auxiliary. In recognition of the fiftieth year of the Saanich Peninsula Hospital they generously donated \$50,000 to our ACU campaign. The presentation was made at the Auxiliary's Christmas Lunch and gratefully received by Board Chair Chris Straub.



It was an honour for the SPHFF team to be invited to attend a holiday party at the local home of Dan-D Pak

owner Mr. On. Through his Dan-On Foundation Mr. On has made a donation of \$100,000 towards our ACU campaign (announced at the Spirit Gala in November) and pledged a further \$400,000 to make a half million dollar commitment. We are so grateful for this support.



January 8 was an exciting day at SPH as two new Physician Assistants began their orientation before taking up their new roles in the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Emergency Department. We are extremely proud to be the pilot site for the introduction of PAs in British Columbia. We are also thankful that donor funding enabled the Foundation to provide funding for recruitment initiatives and required education. ■

Dates for the 2025 Calendar

Friday January 31 – Peninsula Panthers Hospital & Healthcare Game Night

Join the SPHFF team and staff of the Saanich Peninsula Hospital at the first ever Peninsula Panthers Hospital & Healthcare Game Night at Panorama Rec. Thanks to the Panthers hockey team for hosting us! There will be a fundraising 'chuck-a-puck' game in the intermission and opportunities to celebrate our local healthcare workers. Tickets available on the door, the puck drops at 7:30 pm.

Saturday November 15 – Spirit Gala

Our Spirit Gala takes place at Mary Winspear Centre on Saturday November 15. Tickets for this event sold-out in 2024, make sure you get your tickets early! Tickets on sale mid-June. ■



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I would like info on how to make a gift to SPHMF in my will
Or contact directly: Bren Moroz-Pettyjohn

Legacy Giving & Community Engagement Manager

Bren.moroz-pettyjohn@sphf.ca

All donations of \$20 or greater will receive a SPHMF charitable receipt.
BN 11913 0540 RR0001

Please email me my receipt in lieu of a mailed tax receipt

Donations gratefully received by mail:

Hospital Office:

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Saanichton, BC V8M 2B2

Ph: 250-652-7531

Sidney Office:

A2-9769 Fifth St

Sidney, BC V8L 2X1

Ph: 250-656-2948

Online donations: www.sphf.ca

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NLWIN25

