

## Every Minute Counts. Every Second Counts. Eight Portable ECG Machines in Ambulances: \$24,860 each

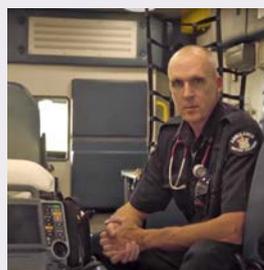


*“It is very exciting for us – our seven internists, the entire ICU and our Emergency teams – to make this service available to our patients. When I’m on call, I see, on average, one to two STEMI patients per week. This is a fantastic initiative and a great example of innovative collaboration. To quote a slogan from the Society of Critical Care Medicine, **This will truly provide the Right Care. Right Now.**”*

*Dr. Danie Roux,  
Head – Department of Medicine, VJH*

**F**or critical heart attacks, the quickest response is the best. The faster a patient can access the right medical care, the better the projected outcome. Soon, in our region, as part of a ground breaking pilot project between Interior Health and the BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS), every single ambulance in proximity to a heart cath lab will be equipped with the devices required to perform tests on patients to determine if their symptoms are due to a heart attack. Ambulances will be equipped with portable electrocardiogram (ECG) machines, giving patients immediate access to state-of-the-art care.

Thanks to the kindness of philanthropic individuals, families and organizations from Lake Country, Predator Ridge, Vernon and Armstrong, a total of eight portable ECG machines are being purchased for our region. As a result, the Okanagan Valley will be the first area in British Columbia where an ECG machine will be readily available to measure electrical activity in the heart for patients experiencing chest pain under the care of a paramedic.



*“When patients are experiencing a heart attack, restoring blood flow is paramount as heart muscle tissue does not regenerate when it dies. Within the first hour of onset of symptoms, you lose about 50 per cent of the available heart muscle tissue being supplied by the affected artery. Within three hours you’ll lose two thirds of it. It drives home how important it is to have a diagnosis as soon as possible, in order to have a healthy heart after a heart attack.”*

*Trevor Campbell,  
Advanced Care Paramedic Practice Educator, BCEHS*

Currently, when patients present with chest pain, they are brought to VJH where an ECG is performed. If the chest pain is diagnosed as a STEMI – a serious form of heart attack where the coronary artery is blocked and a large part of the heart muscle is unable to receive blood – they are stabilized and transferred to the Cardiac Cath Lab in Kelowna. In a STEMI, the risk of permanent damage is grave. Time is of the essence, and transport

of the patient to the most appropriate receiving facility is critical.

With ECG machines in every ambulance, and BCEHS providing training to all primary care paramedic crews located within a certain radius to a cath lab, paramedics will transmit ECG results directly to the hospital where medical teams can conduct preliminary assessments. Paramedics will give advanced notification from the

ambulance to the receiving hospitals in order to shorten the time to appropriate treatments. If a STEMI is identified, patients will bypass VJH and be transported directly to the KGH Cardiac Cath Lab, providing expedited treatment and direct access to the appropriate interventions.

Additionally, the new machines provide advanced vital sign monitors and defibrillators. Paramedics will be conducting ECG tests in the field and also have the ability to acquire advanced vital signs and perform non-invasive blood pressure monitoring. These tests help paramedics provide the most appropriate care outside the hospital. The test results are immediately transmitted to emergency room physicians who can then establish preliminary diagnoses so that medical teams are more prepared when patients arrive. These machines will benefit every single patient seen by paramedics in our region.

Online training for the paramedics has now been completed and one-on-one training will commence in March.

## An Outstanding Success *Virtual Golf Tournament*

### THE 19<sup>TH</sup> HOLE

Hosting an in person golf tournament was unfortunately not an option for the annual Charity Classic fundraiser in 2020. However, in its place, an incredibly successful virtual event – The 19th Hole – was created instead. This digital event was new for the Foundation and for most of the golfers,

but that didn't stop the participants from supporting our community in an amazing way. Together, sponsors, past participants, volunteers and donors raised more than \$339,500 for vital equipment in emergency, cardiac and ICU care in our region, including the eight ECG machines for our ambulances, in addition to the equipment described below.

## New Critical Equipment Makes a Major Impact

### **Mobile Patient Lifts:** \$5,711 each

*(1) in Nuclear Medicine, (1) in Emergency*

When patients arrive at the hospital, the Emergency Department is usually their first point of entry. Having the correct equipment to use at the right time is crucial for those with mobility challenges.

Two new mobile patient lifts have been acquired and are now in use in the Emergency Department and in Nuclear Medicine, enabling the medical teams to safely transfer patients from a stretcher to a hospital bed, or from their hospital bed to a bath, chair or surgical table.

These portable lifts not only increase safety by keeping patients secure, but also reduce the risk of injury to caregivers.

### **Defibrillators with Pacemakers:**

\$12,429 each

*(2) in Intensive Care Unit (ICU)*

As with most things, pieces of hospital equipment also reach an end of service life – where a manufacturer no longer provides maintenance parts or services and stops selling that exact piece of equipment. When this happens, it's crucial that new equipment is sourced and acquired.

In the past year, two of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) devices used in the ICU at the hospital reached their end of service life and had to be replaced. These AED's are often used when a patient is unresponsive or not breathing normally. By sending an electric pulse to the heart, these devices can help prevent or correct an arrhythmia – a heartbeat that is uneven or that is too slow or fast – and help to restore a normal heartbeat.

### **HoverMatts:** \$4,786 each

*(2) in Medical Imaging, (3) in Emergency*

The safety and comfort of patients and staff is always a priority. With the purchase of five new HoverMatts for the Medical Imaging and Emergency Departments, both of these goals are achieved. The HoverMatts empower caregivers to safely transfer patients throughout their hospital journey – from surgical tables, to stretchers, to beds. These mattresses filled with air reduce the number of staff required to move a patient, while also increasing the patients comfort and safety during transfers.

### **1 Portable ECG Machine in Hospital:** \$25,750

When an inpatient requires an ECG, the situations are often urgent and having access to the right equipment in a timely manner is crucial.

With the purchase of a portable ECG unit for the 6th floor of the hospital, staff now have more mobility, enabling them to react to situations quicker. On-unit nursing staff can now conduct this critical testing immediately, resulting in faster results and better patient care.



## Comfort and Social Connections for Seniors

### **Enderby Adult Day Services:** \$8,056

When seniors living independently in the community, with assistance from caregivers, require additional support, the Granville Getaway Adult Day Services (ADS) program in Enderby has been there to help since 2003.

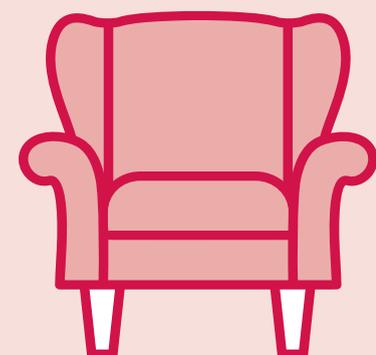
Adult day services are supportive community programs which operate primarily for seniors who are at risk of losing their independence and who would benefit from engaging with others in a social setting. Operating with up to 12 clients per day, the clients and caregivers are supported by recreation therapists and activity workers. These programs are designed to help individuals remain living on their own by providing a range of health, personal, social and recreational services in a safe and caring environment.

Recently, thanks to the generous support from the Armstrong Spallumcheen Healthcare Auxiliary (ASHA) and the VJH Foundation, the Granville ADS program acquired some much needed equipment and furniture upgrades.

Eight new stacking chairs are now ready to be used for active games and exercises, while five comfortable wing back chairs have been delivered to the lounge area for use in programs such as discussion groups, trivia, reminiscing and word games.

Additionally, a new power lift recliner has replaced a broken one in the lounge, ready for clients with impaired mobility to rest and regain their strength in comfort. These new purchases were made with client safety in mind; they are all fully wipeable and meet IH infection control standards.

In addition to furniture, ASHA also supported the purchase of a new iPad for the Granville clients. The iPad is a wonderful resource for group and individual programming. Clients can search where they grew up on Google maps and note how it looks different now, or they can settle in and listen to music or relaxation apps. For group programs, it can be connected to the TV for a wide variety of uses, from bingo to armchair travel programs that take them anywhere in the world, bringing much joy on a daily basis.



## The Hospital Department You Didn't Know You Needed

### Critical Biomed Equipment Acquired



Dave Cross, Biomed Supervisor, VJH

The use of technology in today's patient care has grown exponentially; from basic diagnosis, to treatment, to prolonging peoples lives, technology and machines play a vital role. Biomedical technologists – the people that provide service and support for the equipment that is used every day by medical professionals – often play a behind the scenes, but incredibly crucial, role in technology and healthcare.

“The job of a biomedical technologist is akin to the aircraft service industry in that our repairs, inspection and oversight of medical equipment play a critical role in the success of savings one's life and minimizing risk,” explains Steve Hook, Manager, Services and Support, Biomedical Engineering for Interior Health. “We support our clinical teams by ensuring that the medical equipment they use daily operates every time and results can be trusted.”

The testing and calibration of equipment is the backbone of the biomed team's work. Using standard engineering principles they repair, inspect and have oversight of medical equipment functionality, ensuring that it is working according to design specifications before being released for use in the hospital with patients.

“The satisfaction in our job is knowing that our clinical teams are empowered by the highly reliable equipment the biomed

team oversees, enabling them to provide the best possible care to our patients,” continued Hook.

In partnership with the Foundation, the biomed team has inspired the minds of two donors that understand the crucial work that goes on behind the scene in our hospital – not only for patient care – but also for the safety and efficiency of our medical teams. With their support, we have added a variety of new testing equipment to the biomedical department's repertoire.

#### Electrosurgical Tester QAE III: \$13,610

Electrosurgical units, or ESU's are used in every operating theatre in the hospital in nearly every surgery. These units use a high frequency electrical current that generates a heating effect, causing tissue destruction and coagulation of blood. Using an electrosurgical tester, the biomed team maintains, analyzes and inspects the output circuits and safety features of ESU's, ensuring accurate calibration and function. Testing these units on a regular basis and after any service event is paramount for patient safety.

Now, with an additional electrosurgical tester, there is increased capacity to ensure the ESU's are working optimally, getting them back in the operating room for our skilled surgical teams to use.

#### Vital Signs for Vital Times

Constant monitoring of vital signs is essential during a hospital stay, with patient monitors found in all departments of modern hospitals such as ER, ICU and Operating Rooms. These critical pieces of equipment measure everything from respiration, temperature, oxygen saturation and electrical activity of the heart – your vital signs – so our medical teams can keep track of your health and get you on the road to recovery sooner. The biomed team ensures that these essential monitors are working accurately and efficiently. In order to do this, additional equipment was required.

#### Physiological Monitor Tester ProSim 2: \$3,650

With so many monitors in the hospital that require regular testing, it is easier for the biomed team to go to the equipment, rather than transport the monitors to the lab. With these new physiological monitor testers, the team is able to do just that. They are portable and light-weight, giving accurate readings on the go. This mobile testing decreases downtime, supporting patients much sooner.

#### Multi Parameter Simulator ProSim 8: \$25,215

When a patient monitor needs more in-depth testing, the unit is removed from patient room or area and is taken to the biomed lab for service. Once in the shop, a trained technician can use the new multi parameter simulator to mimic patient vital signs, enabling them to test scenarios in a controlled environment, ultimately leading to better maintenance of the equipment.

#### Portable Lead Shield: \$5,615

When producing x-rays from imaging equipment, proper protection for both the patients and technicians is important. This also holds true for the biomed teams. Currently when portable x-ray units require testing at VJH, the biomed team takes up a room within the Imaging Department where there is proper protection, or they borrow a heavy lead shield from a different department. However, this system creates downtime for all departments involved and a better solution was created to maximize efficiency. With this purchase, biomed technicians can now safely test x-ray units in their shop, increasing effective workflow and minimizing equipment downtime.

## Automation Supports Patient Care

### Cancer Centre Automated Medication Dispensing System: \$37,031

Managing medications is one of many critical components to supporting patient care, especially for patients undergoing cancer treatment. A proper system to dispense and store these medications is important for patient safety, and also for efficient work practices for staff.

Recently the staff at the McMurtry-Baerg Cancer Centre informed the Foundation that their existing medication storage was a locked cupboard in a high traffic entryway, which was inconvenient to access and made dispensing medication difficult. VJH Foundation was pleased

to support the Cancer Centre's effective solution, with the purchase of an automated medication dispensing system for the department.

This system is a computer-aided, robotic cabinet that helps automate the dispensing process, reducing the potential for human error and inventory shortages or waste. It is safe and secure, while also more easily accessible for Cancer Centre technicians and clinicians, giving them more time to focus on what matters most – providing the best care for patients at VJH.

## A Good Night's Sleep Strengthens the Road to Recovery

**Bariatric Bed and Mattress: \$4,988**

When you're facing an ailment, recovering from an injury, or suffer from mobility issues, a good night's rest is essential and a proper bed is a priority. However, when a patient is in the hospital or long-term care facility where beds typically come in standard sizes, a good night's rest is not guaranteed. And when a patient requires a bed that has additional capacity for weight, a bariatric bed is needed to help ensure that essential rest is attained.

Patients living with obesity can come into healthcare settings at significantly

higher risk of complications and injury due to inadequate equipment or facilities. However, with the recent purchase of an additional bariatric bed for use as required in long-term care facilities such as Pleasant Valley Manor, Park View Place, Noric House, Gateby and Polson, rest will be easier to achieve.

This new bed, which offers the flexibility and adaptability to better support a person's physical size, can reach up to 54 inches wide and 88 inches long, offering increased comfort for these patients.

In addition to the bed, a new bariatric mattress was also purchased. This mattress has been designed with a special pressure distribution system to help prevent injuries and bed sores. Additionally, this non-allergenic mattress has a unique core and topper combination that allows the body to be cradled in memory foam with temperature control, helping to alleviate heat build up and sweating, offering dignified care for plus-sized patients.

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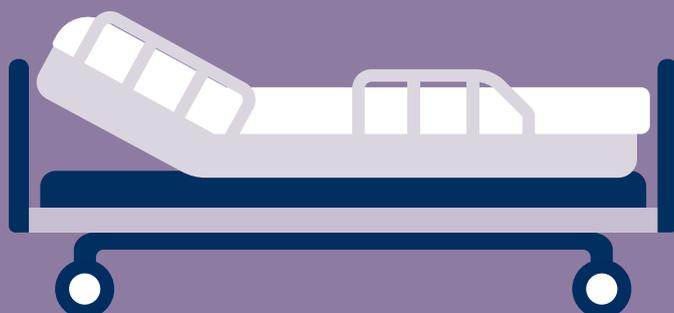
## A Preventative Approach to Bed Sores and Wounds

**Wound Care Mattress – Polson Extended Care: \$3,393**

We all know that when you have an injury, taking care of it is essential. And when you are a patient in a hospital or long-term care facility, the treatment of that injury is even more important. Often, patients that spend long periods of time in bed or are unable to turn themselves are subject to getting skin ulcers, also referred to as bed sores and wounds. Without proper care, a wound can turn into a serious infection. A quality mattress is one of the most integral factors in preventing this from happening.

Our Polson Extended Care facility recently acquired two new wound care mattresses for residents thanks to a number of generous donations. While Polson sometimes acts as an interim home for those waiting for single room facilities in the North Okanagan, patients and their families often form strong bonds with residents and caretakers during their stay. As a way of showing gratitude, families that provide financial gifts to the care home help purchase items that increase the comfort of patients.

These new mattresses provide relief by maximizing body weight distribution and minimizing pressure by automatically adjusting the internal air pressure in reaction to body movements. Patients will enjoy an increased sense of health and well-being knowing that they have reduced risk of skin breakdown and can achieve a better nights rest.

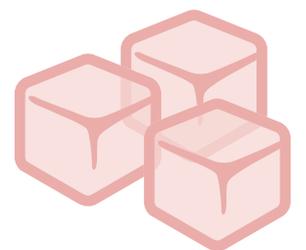


## Your Body Depends on Water

**Ice Machine for Kidney Patients: \$9,684**

Every cell in your body requires water to maintain its function and for overall good health. For a person undergoing kidney dialysis, regulating fluid intake is essential. For patients at the Vernon Community Dialysis Unit, it's very important for them to have the right amount of fluid balance in order to feel comfortable before, during and after their dialysis sessions.

Recently, thanks to generous donors who wish to remain anonymous, the Dialysis Unit took ownership



of a brand new ice and water dispensing machine, replacing one that had been in use for the past 16 years. There are up to 48 patients with renal insufficiency receiving treatment at the Unit three to four times per week, sometimes up to four hours per visit. The loss of this water machine was critical; they needed water now.

This new machine offers a number of advantages to the patients, including hands free ice and water dispensing. Thanks to the integrated sensor that detects movement beneath both the dispensing spouts, patients can dispense as much ice and water as needed without ever touching the unit, ensuring a clean, hygienic surface at all times. The cubelet ice that the machine dispenses combines qualities of both flake ice and square cube ice, making the choice of a small, soft, and easy to chew ice a favourite amongst patients while treating their chronic disease.

In addition to the machine for the Dialysis Unit, VJH Foundation also received an estate gift that was designated to purchase new ice and water dispensing machines on every floor of the hospital, ensuring all patients have ready access to hydration when they need it.

## Light a Bulb Increasing Cardiac Care

There are up to 1,200 people in the North Okanagan on the wait list to have an image taken of their heart. With current equipment, it could take up to a year for some of those individuals to get that test and receive a diagnosis. However, thanks to the generosity of our community in the 2020 Light a Bulb campaign, more than \$340,000 was raised to bring back an integral program which will keep our cardiac patients right here at home and significantly reduce wait times.

In addition, the campaign success and the surpassing of the fundraising target means the VJH Foundation can support the purchase of additional critical equipment for our hospital.

### Echocardiogram Ultrasound

When patients are experiencing heart troubles, often a doctor will perform an echocardiogram to get an understanding of any underlying issues. This echo ultrasound report helps determine a patient's current heart health by taking moving pictures of their heart. These images help find the source of unexpected chest pain, pressure or shortness of breath. In addition, they can indicate signs of heart disease, determine how well a heart is pumping blood and can assess how well the heart valves are working. An echo ultrasound report is also the first time a doctor can confirm that a heart attack has occurred. These are all important factors that medical teams use to support their diagnosis of cardiac concerns and determine next steps in treatment.

There are currently two echocardiogram ultrasound machines at VJH. Now, thanks to this year's Light a Bulb donors, a third machine is on its way. This addition will mean that wait

times for those in need of an echocardiogram ultrasound will be reduced by up to half.

### Transesophageal Echocardiography (TEE) Probe and Program

For the past ten years, if doctors in our hospital needed to look more closely at someone's heart, the patient was sent to Kelowna General Hospital for a detailed transesophageal echocardiogram exam (TEE). However, with the new echocardiogram machine comes two new probes for the Medical Imaging Department, enabling these TEE tests to once again be performed at VJH.

In traditional echocardiograms, the machine is placed on top of the chest and pictures are taken externally. With the new equipment, the TEE probe is inserted through the mouth into the esophagus and pictures are taken internally. The heart sits right

against the esophagus, so by taking pictures in this fashion, medical teams can see it with much more clarity. The probe uses sound waves to take pictures of heart muscles, chambers valves and blood vessels, enabling the doctor to see problems in the heart's structure and function. These high quality close-up images produced by the TEE probe help make the most accurate diagnoses and can be vital in deciding medical therapies and planning heart surgeries.

Dr. David Spicer, General Internist and echocardiography, is thrilled to have recently completed training on this new device at Royal Columbian Hospital in the Lower Mainland. His training, combined with this purchase is enabling VJH to once again offer a TEE procedure at the hospital. Now, thanks to our amazing donors, cardiac patients will not have to travel to Kelowna, receiving this test right here at VJH.



Dr. David Spicer, General Internist and Echocardiography, VJH (right) with Justin Tait, Cardiac Sonographer, VJH

## Recumbent Bikes Support Active Lifestyle and Rehabilitation

### Enderby Seniors in Motion/ Healthcare Centre: \$3,538

Just because a person is getting older doesn't mean that they want to be less active. In fact, our senior population often wants to focus on their fitness in order



to feel stronger and more confident on their feet. The Enderby Seniors in Motion program now has two new recumbent bikes for low impact workouts, allowing the participants to get a good cardio workout while having less pressure on their joints.

The program, which boasts a physiotherapist, occupational therapist and rehab assistant, provides instruction and supervision on how to improve strength, balance and agility. As people age, a traditional bike can become less appealing as they can put strain on hips, knees and joints and are often hard to balance. However, riding a bike doesn't have to be painful; using a recumbent bike enables user to sit comfortably and enjoy bike riding without straining joints and muscles – ideal for patients with arthritis and joint pain.

Patients have been overwhelmingly positive about the new bikes, commenting on how easy the control screen is to use and how comfortable the adjustable seats are compared to the older bikes in their program.

### VJH Physio Department: \$3,538

Outpatients recovering from recent surgical procedures will be delighted to learn that a new recumbent bike has been added to the repertoire of rehab equipment at VJH. This new bike helps users regain mobility and strengthen muscles during the recovery process. Patients find that the bucket seat is more comfortable than a traditional bike, putting less strain on the knees, back, hips and joints, allowing them to strengthen their muscles with less trauma to their joints.

Stroke patients particularly appreciate the recumbent bike, as it allows them to get in a cardio workout without having to worry about falling off a traditional bike seat.

## Rehab Equipment Enhances Quality of Life for Patients

After a hospital stay or injury, regaining the energy and strength to do what used to come naturally is the key to patient rehabilitation. One of the most effective ways for a person to recover from specific injury, stroke, trauma or chronic pain is to work with trained therapists and specialized equipment, allowing the highest chance of recovery.

### EVA Support Walker for Pleasant Valley Manor: \$1,855

Retaining independence and mobility are important considerations for many patients. It can be challenging at any age, but is often particularly difficult for the elderly. However, with the recent purchase of additional rehabilitation equipment for Pleasant Valley Manor (PVM), residents are improving their general health and mobility.

A new support walker is bringing increased functional mobility to residents who otherwise would often not have the ability stand or walk. The walker is used daily by a multitude of residents at PVM, giving a sense of purpose and gratitude for continuing an activity most of us take for granted – walking. The walker is ideal for elderly patients experiencing changes in balance or strength, as well as for those who were just discharged from hospital, giving the users support in taking their steps.

### Shuttle Physio Machine: \$7,005

A new recovery machine is assisting patients both in and out of the hospital with their rehabilitation journeys. A new leg press machine has been acquired in the Physiotherapy Department at VJH, enabling the rehab teams to focus on improving patients' confidence and abilities in their rehabilitating and exercise programs.

The Shuttle is used for patients who are ready to add strengthening to their exercise regime after having had an ACL repair or a knee or hip replacement. It provides a unique transition from rehab exercise to a community gym exercise program, allowing the specialists to safely monitor and challenge a patient's progression.

### Platform Walker: \$1,855

Patients that require assistance with mobility, walking and balance can now utilize a new platform walker that has been purchased by the Foundation for the VJH rehabilitation team.

This new walker has a specialized hydraulic walking frame with platform arm supports designed for use by individuals who are recovering from injury, by the elderly, or for those that need additional stability to maintain their balance while walking. With an easy to adjust height, the walker bears some of the weight, placing less overall stress on the body.



## Community Donations .....

### Subway

Local Subway owners/ operators kindly donated \$10,000 to the Light a Bub Campaign, helping the Foundation achieve a record fundraising goal for 2020.

*Left to right: Kate McBrearty, Tanya Crowder, Raj Jaswal, Gurjit Jhaji*



### Starlight Comfort Kits

Designed for babies to teens to parents, Starlight Comfort Kits offer comfort, distraction and entertainment for the whole family and bring a little bit of softness to a stressful situation. The Foundation was pleased to distribute numerous kits throughout VJH this winter.



### Canadian National Railway

Thanks to the generosity of The Canadian National Railway Pensioners Association, Kamloops/Okanagan E4, the Foundation was presented with a cheque for \$700.



### Vernon Pro Life Gift Shop

A \$2,000 gift from the Vernon and Area Pro Life Society was given to Women's and Children's Health Services at VJH from funds raised via thrift shop sales.



### Desert Cove Homeowners Association

Desert Cove residents showed the value of collecting, sorting, and donating funds generated from recyclable containers, presenting a gift of over \$3,410 to the VJH Foundation.

### Share-a-Bear

This year the Vernon Jubilee Hospital Foundation received over 150 Share-a-Bears from BC Liquor Stores to be distributed to patients young and old within the hospital during the holiday season.



### Tim Hortons Smile Cookies

Since 2003 local Tim Hortons owners/ operators Dan and Jamie Currie have supported the Vernon Jubilee Hospital Foundation through their cookie sale initiative. With \$1 from every cookie sold impacting excellence in healthcare each year, local donations from their campaign now total over \$378,000 in the North Okanagan.

