



## A huge and heartfelt thank you.

We're grateful for your generosity and kindness.  
You've played a critical role in the health of our  
Annapolis Valley community over the past forty years.



*Healthcare for you.  
Healthcare for the next generation.*



**Valley Regional  
Hospital Foundation**

150 Exhibition St  
Kentville, NS B4N 5E3  
902-678-5414  
vrhfoundation.ca



**Valley Regional  
Hospital Foundation**

**20** Report to  
**25** Community

***Care grows here. These are the stories of hope, healing, and the power of coming together — and the community that makes it possible.***

Inside these pages are your stories, written by your generosity and the hands of those who live, work, and heal alongside you.

Exceptional healthcare isn't defined by the size of a hospital, but by the strength of its people. Here, care is personal. From the volunteer who greets you, to the nurse who comforts you — these are your neighbours, family, and friends.

This is the heartbeat of healthcare here in the Valley: a promise that healing happens *together*.

At Valley Regional Hospital Foundation, we are deeply proud to partner with you to keep exceptional care close to home.

This past year, your support helped sustain the programs, technology, and compassionate teams that make our hospital more than a facility—it's a lifeline.

We welcome you to share the successes with us and see the difference you've made. This is your legacy: a healthier, more resilient community, built by and for the people who call it home.





## Operating with compassion: How our community transformed surgical care

In 2023, Valley Regional Hospital Foundation faced a bold challenge: raise \$2.5 million to revitalize six operating rooms—the lifeline of surgical care for not just the Annapolis Valley, but South Shore, and South West Nova Scotia.

Today, we're not just celebrating a goal met; we're celebrating how it happened. Neighbours, businesses, clinicians, and donors came together with a shared belief: world-class care belongs here, in the Valley.

### The Result?

- **Six Operating Rooms reborn**, equipped with 35+ state-of-the-art tools.
- **Faster healing, closer to home:** More patients can now receive critical care without traveling far from family and support.
- **Enhanced patient care:** Behind every piece of equipment is a person reclaiming their health, time, and dignity.
- **A decade-defining leap** for our hospital, ensuring our teams have what they need to serve for years to come.



### This Was a Team Victory

Every gift—no matter the size—wrote this story. Some upgrades, like the APC, are transforming lives in minutes. Others ensure surgeries happen closer to home.

Thank you to:

- **The donors** who turned "impossible" into "mission accomplished."
- **Local businesses, service clubs, auxiliaries, and foundations**, who hosted fundraisers, donated proceeds, and rallied their networks.
- **Clinical teams** whose input guided every upgrade to match real patient needs.



### A Legacy Beyond Equipment

This campaign was never just about new technology; it was about trust. Trust that the care will be there for you when you need it. Trust that together, we can achieve extraordinary things.

**What's next?** The momentum continues! Join us as we build on this success—because when our community unites, every corner of the Valley, and every corner of Valley Regional Hospital, grows stronger.

### Grants and gifts from community organizations at \$10,000+

Annapolis West Health Foundation

EKM Health Foundation

Greenwood Health Auxiliary

J & W Murphy Foundation

Municipality of the County of Kings

Rotary Clubs of Kings County Charitable Foundation

The McCain Foundation

Valley Regional Hospital Auxiliary

Western Kings Memorial Health Society

*Pictured: (Previous Page) Operating Room team with new Urology Table and Cystoscopes; (Top Left) Dr. Himmelman with Logan Morse, Craig Parsons, Sue MacArthur; (Top Right) Marsha Burbidge, Andrena Hull, Debbie Hennigar*

## Operation Enhancement: The equipment

Valley Regional Hospital added 35+ new tools to enhance care in our six operating rooms, ensuring more patients in the Annapolis Valley can receive life-changing treatment close to home. From cancer care and joint replacements to emergency trauma surgeries, this equipment transforms outcomes. Every piece represents hope, healing, and your unwavering support in action.



*Pictured: Operating Room healthcare team with the Percutaneous Nephrolithotomy (PCNL) equipment*

### **Orthopedic Power Tools (\$175,000)**

Used in all arthroplasties and many orthopedic trauma cases

### **Urology Table (\$477,000)**

With new built in x-ray to allow surgeons to visualize urinary systems while operating

### **Urology Cystoscopes (\$256,000)**

Fifteen new sets to help diagnose and prevent men's prostate cancers

### **Argon Plasma Coagulator (\$25,000)**

Helps stop persistent bleeding after radiation, gastric by pass, or GI issues

### **ENT Nerve Monitoring (\$43,000)**

Used during thyroidectomy and neck/throat surgical procedures to identify nerve structures

### **Glidescope Video Laryngoscope (\$42,000)**

Helpful in airway management, especially during difficult intubations

### **Rapid Infuser (\$56,000)**

Designed to warm and actively administer large fluid volumes quickly and can be life-saving during surgery

### **PCNL Equipment (\$83,000)**

Used for kidney stones that are large, very firm, or resistant to other forms of stone treatment

### **Electrosurgical Unit (\$31,000)**

Continuously used during procedures to seal off tiny blood vessels to stop bleeding during surgery



## A quiet revolution in care: How donors brought healing home

Sometimes medical equipment arrives with fanfare. Other times, it comes in quiet, meaningful ways, like the Argon Plasma Coagulator (APC) now at Valley Regional Hospital.

For years, patients suffering from chronic internal bleeding—whether from radiation proctitis, gastrointestinal complications, or liver disease—faced an exhausting reality: long drives, overnight stays, uncomfortable procedures, and the silent burden of managing the stigma and symptoms alone.

Traveling to Bridgewater, Yarmouth, or Dartmouth wasn't just costly (upwards of \$500 per trip); for those dealing with fecal incontinence or pain, it was deeply distressing. Now, thanks to donor generosity, healing happens here—in minutes.

### The Impact of Five Minutes

The APC works swiftly, often in a single five-minute session. But its ripple effect? Immeasurable.

- **For prostate cancer survivors** grappling with radiation proctitis, it means freedom from isolation. No more planning life around bathroom access.
- **For patients with chronic gastrointestinal tract bleeding**, it means fewer transfusions, fewer trips to Emergency, and far fewer sleepless nights.
- **For our hospital**, it means seamless care, closing a critical gap in Valley Regional's renowned urology services.

Since its arrival, the APC has been in near-constant use and the need is growing. Word is spreading that Valley Regional offers this lifeline locally, sparing patients the physical, emotional, and financial toll of travel.

*"Fifteen years of referrals, solved in five minutes," says Dr. Bruce Musgrave. "People with radiation proctitis were housebound; socially isolated. This equipment has had an immediate impact – it's given them their life back."*

Every gift to the Foundation fuels quiet revolutions like this one: unglamorous, essential, and transformative. Because behind every APC treatment is a person reclaiming their comfort, their confidence, and their place in the world.

*"This isn't just equipment. It's patient-centered care, made possible by this community."*

And that's something worth celebrating.

*Pictured: Dr. Bruce Musgrave*





## Donna's story: Healing on her terms

Retirement on their Wolfville farm was supposed to mean slow mornings and grandkids' laughter—not a breast cancer diagnosis. But when Donna's routine mammogram revealed a shadow in November 2024, her life took an unexpected turn.

After anxiously awaiting the results, the word *cancer* hung in the air. Yet Donna faced it with the same steadiness Valley folks are known for. "I thought, *Alright, what's next?*"

What came next was a lumpectomy procedure. Donna's pre-surgery prep was simple: a quick visit to Valley Regional to place a rice-sized device to mark the tumor, then home to rest.

On the day of her scheduled lumpectomy, she walked into Valley Regional Hospital without the dread of last-minute needles or delays. By that afternoon, she was back in her home, recovery already underway.

"I didn't even need the pain meds," she marvels. **But what stayed with her most was the compassion.**

*"Everyone is so good over there at the hospital. The healthcare teams really know what they're doing, I truly felt cared for," she says.*

Four months later, at 74 years old, Donna is back to playing with grandchildren and tending pastures, her strength unshaken.

Her story isn't just luck, it's leadership. Because donors like you brought MOLLI to Nova Scotia first, right here at Valley Regional.

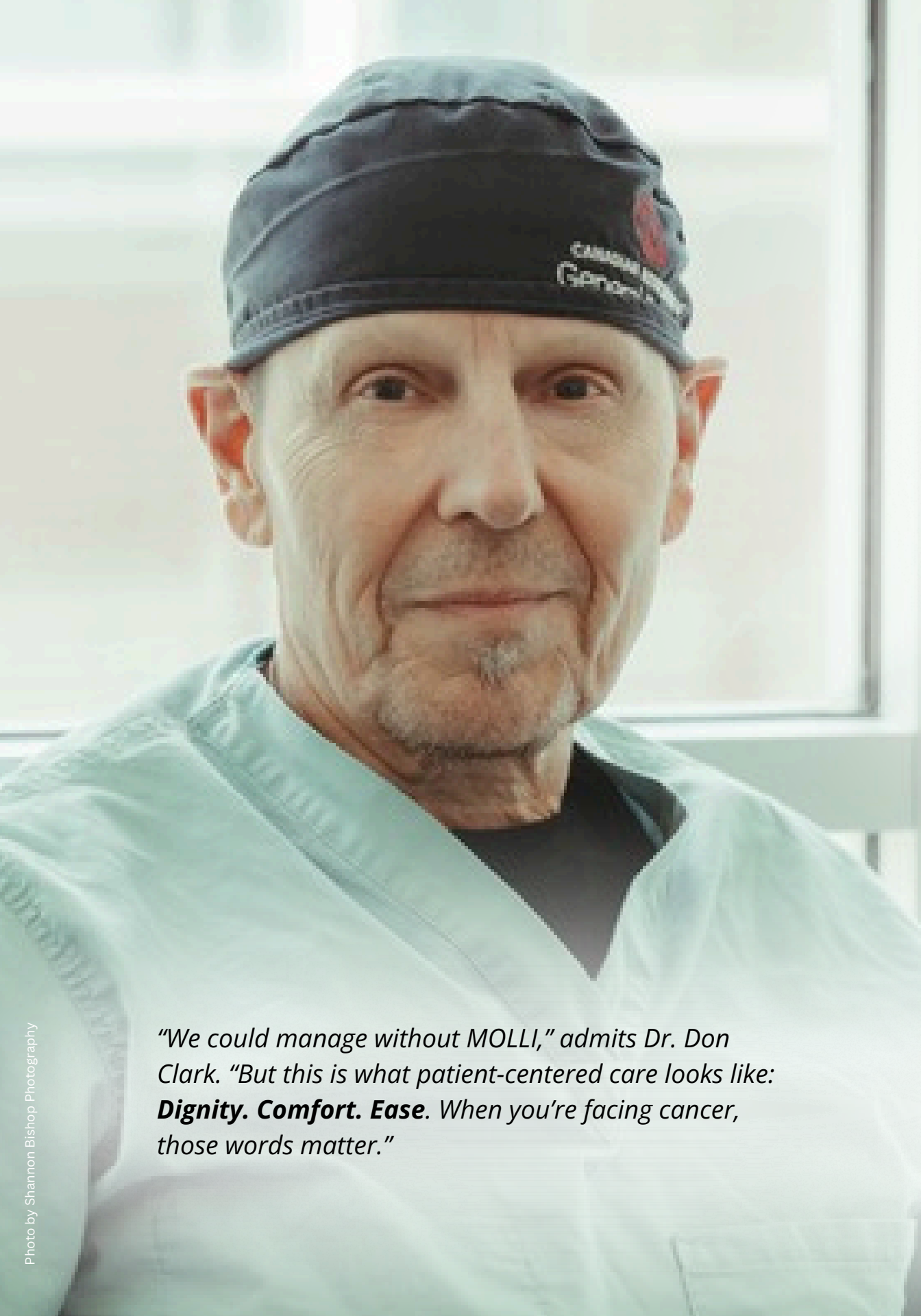
Unlike older methods of using a precarious hook and needle to localize the lesions, MOLLI allows for precision and ease for both healthcare teams and patients.

Donna may have been one of the first women in Nova Scotia to meet MOLLI and countless women after her will feel the impact. They will be able to face cancer on their terms: with dignity, precision, and the quiet confidence of coming home the same day.

*Donna's journey was possible because of MOLLI — a technology that's redefining breast cancer care. Read on as Dr. Clark gives an overview on how it works.*

*"From my diagnosis to being cancer-free took exactly four months. **That's extraordinary care,**" Donna Levy reflects.*





*"We could manage without MOLLI," admits Dr. Don Clark. "But this is what patient-centered care looks like: **Dignity. Comfort. Ease.** When you're facing cancer, those words matter."*

## Precision, dignity, and ease: a new standard of care

Breast cancer treatment should be about healing, not logistical hurdles, unnecessary stress, or compromises in dignity. Thanks to donor support, Valley Regional Hospital is now home to MOLLI, a revolutionary technology that transforms how women experience breast cancer surgery.

### The Problem That Needed Solving

For women with non-palpable breast lesions (cancers too small to feel), surgery day was often as taxing emotionally as it was physically.

On the day of a lumpectomy surgery, patients would endure a mammogram or ultrasound, followed by the insertion of a needle and hook to mark the lesion—a fragile guide that could slip or dislodge before they even reached the operating room. The process was fraught with challenges:

- **For patients**, it meant hours of stressful, fragmented care.
- **For surgeons**, it introduced uncertainty in locating the exact tissue to remove.
- **For the hospital**, it created scheduling bottlenecks, straining staff and resources.

### A Better Way Forward

MOLLI changed everything. This tiny, reusable marker—about the size of a grain of rice—can be placed by a radiologist weeks before surgery, eliminating the need for same-day localization.

MOLLI stays securely in place, giving surgeons a precise target while allowing women to prepare for their procedure without last-minute delays or added anxiety. But the impact goes far beyond convenience.

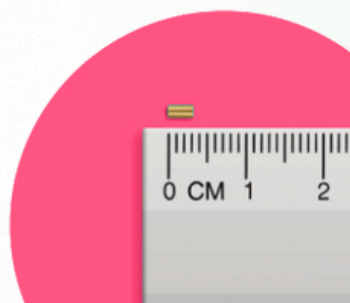
- **More breast tissue preserved.** MOLLI's precision means surgeons remove only what's necessary, improving cosmetic outcomes.
- **Fewer repeat procedures.** With clearer margins, the likelihood of follow-up surgeries drops significantly.
- **A smoother recovery.** One recent patient underwent a bilateral lumpectomy at Valley Regional and went home the same day—no drains, no extended hospital stays, just healing on her terms.

### A First for Nova Scotia—A Legacy of Leadership

Valley Regional Hospital didn't just adopt MOLLI; we pioneered it as the first hospital in the province to use this technology. That's the power of donor-supported innovation; care that doesn't just meet needs but redefines them.

Every gift to the Foundation fuels innovations like this—unassuming, profound, and deeply human. MOLLI isn't just a medical device. It's a promise that healing can be as compassionate as it is cutting-edge.

*Pictured: (Left) Dr. Don Clark; (Right) MOLLI marker*







## Millie's last gift

Millie Whiston was the true embodiment of a mother. She raised 12 children in a modest home filled with hard work, love, and hand-washed clothes on the line. Life wasn't always easy, but she met every challenge with determination and grace—even when the loss of her husband meant working extra hard to pay off the house and car on her own.

Millie led by example, showing those around her that hard work and kindness were not just gestures, but a way of life.

She never stopped doing for others and she always had a gift for everyone: an afghan or mittens knit lovingly by hand; a favourite meal hot off the stove; a chocolate bar tucked thoughtfully inside a well-chosen mug; and for her grandchildren, always a hug.

Making sure there was a gift for everyone was no small feat, especially in recent years, when her gift list grew to include 27 grandchildren and 36 great-grandchildren! Still, she'd have it no other way.

Valley Regional Hospital Foundation was on the receiving end of Millie's gift giving, too. For decades, she quietly supported various appeals and later became a monthly donor.

The hospital had a special place in Millie's heart. It's where she gave birth to many of her children, where she rushed with worry and left with relief on different occasions, and where she knew that her family would continue to find care in years to come.

At age 99, it's also where Millie took her last breath in March 2025. And where, two weeks later, her 37th great-grandchild was born.

Aubrey's birth is a perfect, tiny reminder that Millie's story hasn't ended. Her legacy lives on, not only because her family continues to grow, but also because years ago Millie made plans for another special gift—a donation to the hospital in her will.

This last gift was to all of us. Now everyone who receives care at the hospital will feel what so many already knew: that Millie Whiston was a remarkable woman who always gave from the heart.



*Pictured: (Left) Millie Whiston, (Right) baby Aubrey*





# How small change creates lasting change

Some legacies are measured in grand gestures. Sheila McKay's was built on toonies.

As founding member of the Mud Creek Rotary Toonie Toss in 2013, Sheila spent 16 years proving that small acts of generosity could change a community. What began as a simple 50/50 draw grew into a \$5 million force for good — one toonie at a time.

It has been said, that when it's time to say goodbye, the example of a beautiful life still guides the way for those left behind.

When cancer took Sheila from us in 2023, her Rotary family knew the perfect way to honour her memory: by easing the financial burden for others facing the same battle.

For patients undergoing treatment, the financial strain can feel overwhelming:

- Gas for daily hospital trips
- Groceries when energy is low
- The quiet stress of choosing between prescriptions and essentials

The Sheila McKay Cancer Care Legacy Fund launched last year with a transformative \$50,000 from Rotary Club of Wolfville - Mud Creek with an extraordinary promise of four years of matching gifts up to \$25,000 annually.

The Sheila McKay Cancer Care Legacy Fund, working in partnership with the Patient Cancer Navigator, addresses need through practical support like gift cards — ensuring patients can focus on what matters most: healing.

We're proud to share that our first-year match has been achieved! Thanks to generous donors, \$25,000 in matching funds has been granted - doubling every dollar's impact for cancer patients at Valley Regional Hospital.

*"The matching gift means Sheila's legacy of compassion keeps multiplying - just like she would have wanted."*

*Stacey Scott Nykolyshyn, Rotary Club of Wolfville - Mud Creek President*



*Pictured: (Left) Volunteer counters for the Toonie Toss; (Right) Sheila and Todd McKay*



## Honouring a legacy of kindness: the Lloyd and Wilma Ward Legacy Fund

No one should have to choose between accessing healthcare and paying for groceries or medication. But for many of our neighbours, it's a daunting reality.

Thanks to a generous gift made in memory of Lloyd Ward, that burden is now lighter for those in need.

Lloyd's life was rooted in community, kindness, and quiet generosity. Growing up on the mountain in Canning, he began working on local farms and in the woods at just nine years old, learning the value of hard work and the importance of helping those around him.

After serving in the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps, he married Wilma, the love of his life. Together, they raised three daughters while running the family farm and driving a school bus.

For those who knew Lloyd, what always stood out was his spirit of *neighbours helping neighbours*.

Lloyd shared generously with others; his mechanical mind, a tow, plowing out a snow-filled driveway, offering the fruits of his labour including fresh produce from his garden, and his famous biscuits, never expecting anything in return.

In his final chapter, Lloyd faced a 10-month battle with complicated health issues, during which Valley Regional Hospital became a second home. Lloyd received services both as an inpatient and outpatient at Valley Regional Hospital.

It was during those hours that his family sat by his bedside, that it became clear to his youngest daughter Mary Lou—who has been involved with fundraising both personally and professionally—to give back to the community in which she and her husband Mark were so deeply rooted. When Lloyd passed away at home in September 2024, Mary Lou shared with her family what she felt called to do.

They say children learn by example, and as a young girl she noticed that when someone would drop by with something for her parents they got tenfold in return. Of course, it wasn't until she became an adult that it all made sense. Her father gave her many lessons not by sharing the word, but by his actions.

As Wilma was very much a part of the life they built together, she wanted to include her mother in this legacy gift. To share in the joy it brings to really make a difference in the community and help those who need a little "extra" so they can concentrate on healing.

This wasn't just a gift; it was a heartfelt tribute to a man who lived by the simple but powerful belief that *kindness matters*.

And so began the Lloyd and Wilma Ward Legacy Fund.

Through both the family's initial contributions and future gifts, this special memorial fund will help patients in financial distress access the care they need as they navigate their own health journeys.

The fund currently supports those in **palliative care at home, cancer care, and dialysis, with potential to expand further**. Patients receive assistance, in working with their healthcare support team, through:

- **Gas or grocery gift cards**
- Coverage for uninsured **medications and services** (coordinated with local pharmacies and providers)

Last year alone, patients received more than **\$53,000 in support**.

Lloyd's legacy lives on through this fund, echoing the spirit of generosity across the mountains and valleys he called home. Because of his family's thoughtful tribute, his belief in helping others continues to make a difference, one patient at a time.

*Memorial gifts are a special way to remember a loved one by caring for others. Last year, you trusted us with 357 gifts in memory of someone special. Thank you for this honour.*



# Spiritual care and wellness: a legacy of compassion

For nearly 30 years, the Chaplaincy Endowment Fund has been a quiet cornerstone of care at Valley Regional Hospital. Established in 1996 by visionary donors, this \$1 million fund was created to ensure that patients, family members, and staff could access spiritual support in perpetuity—a commitment that continues to adapt and grow with our community's needs.

Rev. Dr. Debra Orton, spiritual care coordinator, embodies that mission. Whether offering solace during a crisis, guiding interfaith conversations, or collaborating with clinical teams, Debra meets people where they are. Spiritual care is as diverse as the people who seek it. And when Rev. Dawn-Lee Greer stepped in for part of the year, this valued service was maintained.

## Beyond Hospital Walls: The Ripple Effect of Compassion

When a Code Blue rings through the hospital, the emotional toll extends far beyond the patient's room. That's where Team Lavender steps in.

As the only program of its kind in the province, this interdisciplinary group, including our spiritual care coordinator, clinicians, social workers, and peers, provides critical emotional and psychological support to staff after traumatic events. From group debriefs to one-on-one conversations, Team Lavender ensures no one walks through hardship alone—another example of the Chaplaincy Endowment Fund's continued legacy.

Through solid investment practices, the Chaplaincy Endowment Fund continues to yield an annual grant of \$50,000 to support spiritual care and wellness at Valley Regional.

In 2025, we've also committed an additional \$10,000 to support program enhancements. We're proud to uphold the endowment's original vision while evolving to meet community needs—inclusive care, resilient staff, and a community supported through every chapter of life. And we're so grateful to the donors who make it possible.



*"You know, we're a family of healthcare workers and we need, as a family, to keep our eyes on one another and support one another," Orton says. "I think that's what helps to get us through tough times."*

Pictured: (Here) Deb Orton, Spiritual Care Coordinator; (Left) Members of Team Lavender





This year, that energy inspired something new: **BIG Valley Give**, a fresh chapter in our shared story. But one thing hasn't changed—the Valley's unwavering belief that exceptional healthcare starts with all of us. Every corner of the Valley, supporting every corner of Valley Regional Hospital.



## When our community rallies, healthcare thrives

Great things happen when the Valley comes together with passion and purpose. Last May, our annual Radiothon became a powerful testament to that spirit—sparking a wave of community-led events that raised an unprecedented **\$236,000 for local healthcare**.

From parades (Apple Blossom, Natal Days, and beyond) to golf days and creative business initiatives, the momentum never slowed.

Thousands of little moments in your community made one big impact—every coffee sold, every donation jar filled, and every cheer at the parade reminded us: when this community commits, lives change.



## Local love in action

Whether it was a percentage of sweater sales, a flower bouquet, or a dessert crafted for the cause, Valley businesses stepped up in ways big and small. Because here, healthcare isn't just a service—it's a shared priority.

A heartfelt thank you to the businesses, volunteers, and donors who turned goodwill into real impact. Below, we celebrate the top community-led fundraisers—and everyone who made them possible.

Radiothon, sponsored by AVR and Canadian Tire New Minas

Valley Harvest Marathon

Paragon and Berwick Heights, Swing FORE Healthcare

Island Green Golf Club, Golf fore the Cure

Two Birds One Stone Farm, Mother's Day bouquets

Heather Lohr Art Gallery, open house

Berwick & District Lions Club, Community BBQ

Old Orchard Inn, Coat Check for a Cause

Giant Tiger Greenwood, donation collection at registers

Valley Girl Boutique, sweater sales proceeds





## Throughout your hospital

The impact of your support was felt widely throughout the hospital this year. Donor generosity allowed healthcare teams to acquire a large selection of new equipment to help deliver the best care possible. We're thrilled to report on some of the items that arrived during the year and were put quickly to work for better patient care and staff wellness.

### **Mechanical Lift - Med B (\$7,200)**

Prevents staff injuries and improves patient confidence when transferring; prevents pressure injuries and improves cardiovascular outcomes

### **Resus Tower - ER (\$11,500)**

Improves organization of trauma ready supplies for high acuity patients

### **Physicians Lounge (\$6,000)**

New furniture (daybed, microwave, desk) for the on-call lounge to provide comfort and respite to physicians

### **Language Line - Women & Children's (\$4,000)**

A communication tool that allows patients to receive care in their primary language

### **Freezer - Laboratory Services (\$11,800)**

Allows for a controlled environment to store specimens at -20 degrees with 24-hour temperature monitoring, key for lab samples referred outside the Western Zone

### **Bariatric Wheelchairs x2 - Rehab (\$5,800)**

Accommodate patients with mobility issues who require a larger frame chair

### **BiPAP Unit x2 - ICU/Respiratory (\$9,000)**

After patient stabilization in the ICU, patients can now be put on bedside BiPAP to allow for transfer out of the ICU while still having oxygen

### **Trauma Course - ER (\$4,200)**

A provincial program course to incorporate effective communication between team members during a trauma

### **Vein Finder - ER (\$8,400)**

Helps to mitigate multiple IV attempts and aids in first try success of blood withdraw; decreases staff time and impacts patient's safety and satisfaction

### **MOLLI - Oncology (\$100,000)**

New method for localizing tumors in breast cancer patients that preserves dignity and eases system bookings

### **Physio Step (\$4,200)**

### **Teraband Wall (\$1,000)**

### **Staircase Pass Through (\$1,275) - Rehab**

Equipment used to allow patients to gain confidence, strength, and/or cardiovascular exercise post-surgery

### **Height Adjustable Sink - MDR (\$23,000)**

Eases shoulder and back strain of healthcare team that sterilizes hospital equipment

### **Aivro 3 High Flow - Respiratory (\$16,715)**

Delivering respiratory support and airway hydration. Allows high flow delivery on patients as small as 1kg and with a battery that allows patient to stay on oxygen for transfers

### **Raised Garden Bed - Recreation Therapy (\$400)**

Allows for therapeutic gardening practices, improving mental health and overall well-being; the bed is raised with V-shaped trough to allow wheelchair access



## A gift of trust. A legacy of impact

Every gift we receive is incredibly meaningful. But when it's \$2.8 million from a fellow charity, it is truly profound. This year, the Kings County Children's Foundation (KCCF) chose to transfer their assets to us as they prepared to wind down after 40 years as a charity.

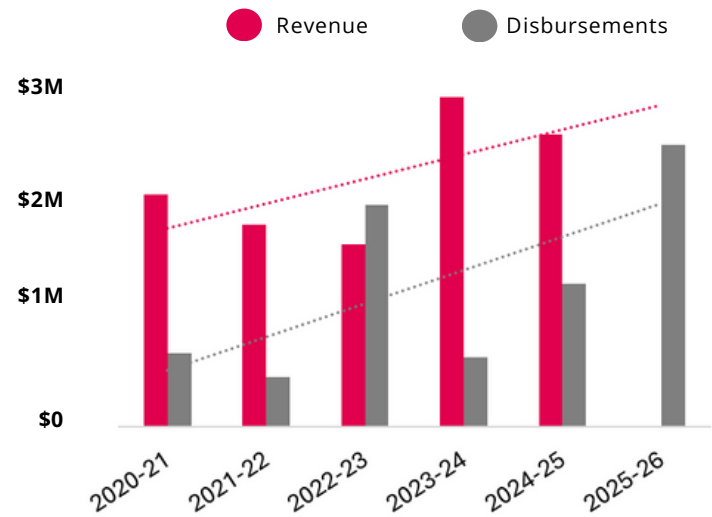
Founded in 1981 by Dr. Barbara Chase Archibald, KCCF filled critical gaps in early childhood support, helping children with special needs thrive. Over the decades, KCCF provided hundreds of thousands of dollars for vital early intervention support while growing its assets through thoughtful stewardship. Now, through our new Children and Youth Wellness Fund, we'll honor their mission—continuing their partnership with Valley Child Development Association while expanding support for young people facing social, emotional, educational, or physical challenges.

While the transfer of assets from KCCF took place after our fiscal year-end and, therefore, isn't reflected in the revenue charts to the far right, we couldn't let the opportunity pass without highlighting such a monumental gift.

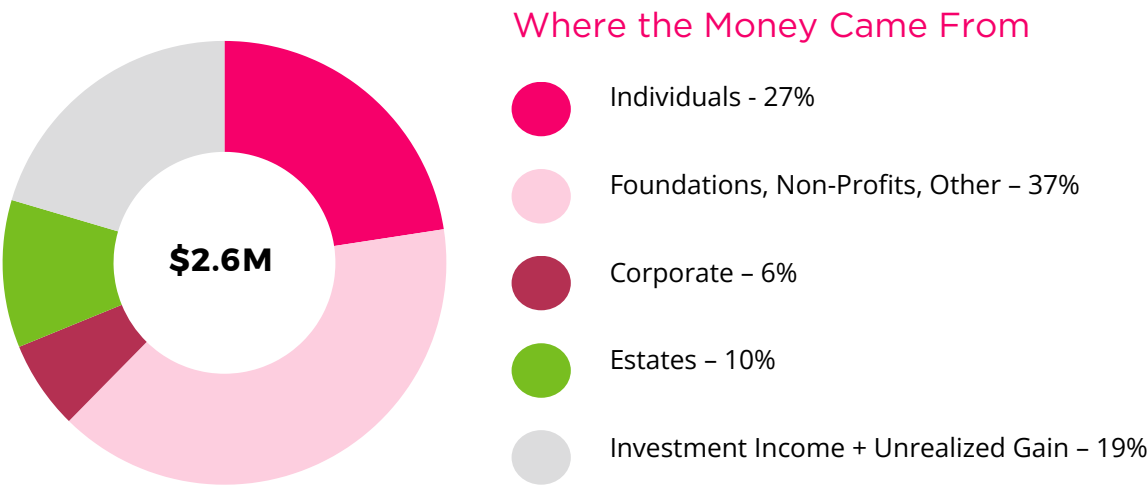
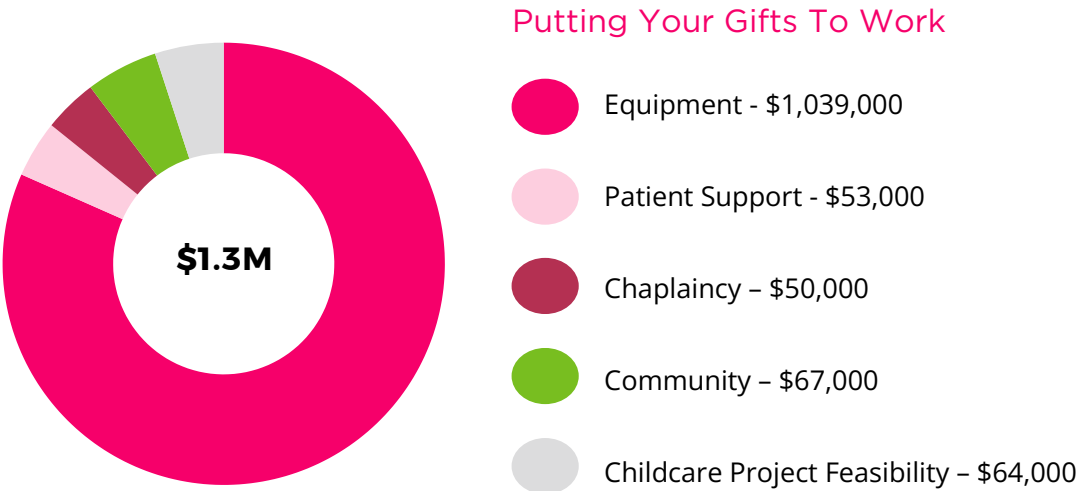
## Impactful upward momentum

The chart below shows a healthy growth pattern in both donor support and our resolve to put that generosity to work for the health of our community. Revenue dropped slightly in 2024-2025 (due largely to a few exceptional bequests in 2023-2024) but continues to track above previous years.

Disbursements doubled (due largely to the arrival of many equipment purchases through the Operation Enhancement campaign) and next year we expect disbursements to be even higher, as we ended the year with outstanding commitments of \$2.5 million in approved equipment purchases yet to be completed.



## 2024-2025 Financial snapshot



Our audited financial statements can be found on our website at [vrhfoundation.ca](http://vrhfoundation.ca).



# A message for you, with thanks

This past year, I have been reminded time and again of the incredible generosity, compassion, and trust that exists within our community.

The kindness people show by prioritizing healthcare—by choosing to give, advocate, and share their stories—speaks volumes. Whether through a heartfelt donation, a like or comment on our social media, or showing up to one of our events, the growing level of engagement has been truly inspiring.

We are deeply grateful for the confidence our donors place in us. Stewarding these gifts with responsibility and intention is a role we do not take lightly.

This year, our Foundation disbursed close to \$1.3 million in healthcare equipment and programs. The impact of this support is visible every day throughout Valley Regional Hospital—Nova Scotia’s largest regional hospital on the mainland. In 2024 alone, the hospital recorded:

- 135,000 outpatient visits
- 53,000 emergency visits
- 8,000 inpatient days
- 6,200 surgeries
- And an incredible 3.5 million lab tests, with VRH serving as the regional lab for the Annapolis Valley and the referring lab for the entire Western Zone.

Behind every one of those numbers is a story—a grateful patient, a dedicated nurse, a relieved family member. And behind every story is a community like ours that refuses to give up on improving healthcare for all.

As a Board, we’ve continued to prioritize good governance and thoughtful leadership. I’m proud of how our team developed a public call for board members this year—and even prouder of the enthusiastic response it received. It affirmed what we already know: people care deeply and want to contribute to healthcare in meaningful ways.

A unique project for the Foundation this year was a childcare feasibility study funded through a government grant. Recognizing the need in our community and for supporting healthcare staff, we continue to explore the potential of this project and look forward to keeping our community updated.

To our Board members, thank you for your ongoing dedication. Your commitment to fiduciary responsibility and strategic governance has been especially evident as we returned to in-person meetings this year. The synergy, collaboration, and momentum we’ve built are powerful—and energizing.

As we look ahead, it’s clear that our work is far from done. Our hospital is bustling—serving more patients, handling increasingly complex cases, and facing challenges that mirror the broader issues across our province’s healthcare system. But I believe that we are ready. Because what defines this Foundation isn’t just what we’ve done—it’s what we’re willing to keep doing.

Fall 2025 will mark 40 years since the Foundation’s incorporation as a registered society.



That’s four decades of community spirit, advocacy, giving, and progress. There’s so much to celebrate. And while we’ll take time to honour that legacy, we know we can’t take our foot off the gas. Because every day, someone new walks through the doors of Valley Regional Hospital needing the best possible care—and we intend to be there, ready to help.

To our donors, healthcare workers, volunteers, and community champions—thank you. Your generosity, passion, and trust continue to power everything we do. Together, we are shaping a healthier future for the Annapolis Valley.

Thank you for being part of our story,

Logan Morse, President 2024-2025

## 2025-2026 Board of Directors

- Logan Morse, Past President & Treasurer
- Meghan Sabean
- Mike Landry, President
- June Granger
- Kathleen Mulherin
- John Smith, Secretary
- Andrena Hull
- Brittany Traynor, Vice President
- Phil Warren

Not Pictured:  
Oonagh Proudfoot  
Rick Ramsay  
Gerald Walsh

A special thank you to outgoing members:  
Debbie Hennigar  
Ian Blenkarn





## Connect with a member of our team

Looking to make an impact on  
the health of your community?  
Reach out at 902-678-5414 or [info@vrhfoundation.ca](mailto:info@vrhfoundation.ca).  
We'd love to hear from you!

Stacey Floris, Communications Specialist  
Taylor deVries, Events & Community Giving  
Hillary Webb, Fund Development Manager  
Lisa Mitchell, Office Manager  
Angela Mansfield, Finance Manager  
Karen Theriault, CEO