



Impact Report 2021-2022

MEDICINE  
HAT  HEALTH  
FOUNDATION

**Over the last few years and through historic difficulties, the people of Medicine Hat have shown amazing resilience. As our foundation celebrates its 25th anniversary, we are so inspired to continue dreaming with this incredibly supportive community for the benefit of all. To everyone that has contributed to our cause throughout these difficult times, we thank you for your commitment toward improving healthcare in southeastern Alberta, and we are so excited to share the impact you've made.**



In this report, you will not only see the year's biggest highlights. You will also see the countless small, profound acts of care and kindness that you have made possible. This is all the more meaningful because of how easily it could have been different – to say that our community rose to the challenge of the pandemic is an understatement.

This year was our most successful fundraising year ever, thanks to the response to our mental health campaign (which won an award for social good!) and others. These funds allowed us to improve the quality of care, upgrade failing equipment, enhance our physical spaces, and so much more. We could say thank you for the next year to come, and it still would not feel like enough.

This year also saw the return of popular event fundraisers, like the Royal LePage Breast Cancer Golf Classic tournament, and the development of new ones, such as the “We Love Pets” room at the


hospital. We are so glad to be interacting with our community again, and to be able to connect in person with the people who make our work possible.

With all that said, welcome to the 2021-2022 Donor Impact Report, celebrating 25 years and so much more. It would be impossible to summarize everything that you have done for us, and much of it could never be put into words at all – but we will do our best! Thank you for every gift, generous act, and genuine investment back into the health of your community.

We know they may not always be visible, but they are forever meaningful and appreciated.

**Nick Punko**  
Board Chair

**Heather Bach**  
Executive Director



Thanks to immense community support from individuals and organizations alike – including Pipeline Grazing, Methanex, TELUS, Cancarb, CNRL, and Pembina – the Medicine Hat Health Foundation has been able to make great improvements to mental healthcare in the community. As part of a record-breaking fundraising year, the Giving Hope for Mental Health campaign has brought in just over \$400,000 of its \$500,000 goal.

### What Your Donations Did

The Medicine Hat Recovery Centre has received new mattresses, an all-season walking path, yard furniture, and newly landscaped areas.

- Your donations funded a recumbent bike and summer programming at Palliser Adolescent Services (PAS), a day program for youths in grades 7-12 experiencing mental health and/or addiction concerns.
- Renovations and safety upgrades have begun on the new dedicated mental health room in pediatrics, allowing youth in crisis to have a safe space. A new mental health bed has also been purchased for the room.
- At the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital, the adult inpatient psychiatric unit has received funding for 31 chairs for patient rooms, a new patient washing machine, a tub lift, a recumbent exercise bike, and patio furniture.

They have also purchased the first two specialized mental health beds for the unit.

Medicine Hat artist Paintergirl created a custom mural for the hallway leading into the inpatient psychiatric unit. These uplifting pieces welcome patients and families with imagery of the Saamis Tepee, Police Point Park, and the South Saskatchewan River.

*The manager of the unit is beyond thankful for your support and the awareness that this campaign is providing.*

- Through your donations directed to Addictions & Mental Health, the Health Foundation continually ensures that the mental health programs have often-overlooked but important items – things like journals and stationery for patient therapy needs, and personal care/comfort items like toiletries, socks, slippers, and distraction tools.



Direct Mail Appeals





During the year, we send out periodic information on specific needs within the hospital, the recovery center, and community health. We are so grateful for your donations in response to these mailouts, which allow for the funding of these equipment needs.

### **Vital Signs Monitors/Rolling Stands**

COVID-19 practices highlighted the need for additional vital signs monitors and rolling stands, allowing the equipment to be moved to a patient's bedside quickly and easily. These stands also make it easier for the monitors to access patients in their beds. Thanks to the donors who responded to this appeal, the hospital purchased this much-needed equipment and put it to great use.

**"Thank you so much on behalf of all the 4 West staff, and most importantly, our patients. This generous donation is greatly appreciated, more than you know."**

— Sheila Burkhart  
4 West Nursing Manager

### **Exercise Mat Table**

At the end of last summer, we highlighted the hospital's need for a new motorized exercise mat table for the therapy room in 2 North. For patients who have experienced strokes, broken legs, paralysis, or decreased mobility, this table is a very important piece of equipment during the rehabilitation process. The adjustable height keeps both the patient and the therapist providing the treatment safe and secure.

Our BioMed department had serviced the motor of the current table for the past 20 years, but it finally gave out. As a result, we were thrilled to advise therapists in 2 North that new equipment had been funded through your donations.



### Smile Cookie Week

Tim Horton's Smile Cookie Week raises funds from the sale of special "Smile Cookies" to positively impact children's health in our community. The campaign brought in \$13,512 for the MHHF, enabling the purchase of two jaundice meters for newborn bilirubin testing.

These meters allow the hospital and community health to continue testing babies for jaundice, without the need for a lab visit and needle. The results are transferred directly to the baby's computer chart.

In an amazing act of generosity, a donor funded the purchase of two additional meters. Thank you to everyone who made this happen!

### We Love Pets Room

In May 2021, the "We Love Pets Room" in the Pediatrics department of the hospital was completed. Spearheaded by community member Kristina Segall, this fundraising project let individuals submit photos of their pets along with a set donation. These photos were integrated into a fun wrap along the room's bulkhead.

The change to the room is dramatic and has had a positive impact on our younger patients and nursing staff. The room was occupied within hours of completion, and even now it is rarely empty.



### Gift Cards for Frontline Workers

Last fall, we saw how many healthcare workers were experiencing fatigue from 18 gruelling months of COVID-19. We put out a call to the community to help us honour these heroes, and individuals and businesses came together to show their support. These donors purchased hundreds of gift cards from our local restaurants and cafés, which were distributed to over 900 deserving healthcare workers. This initiative was a true win-win as it also supported many businesses in our community.

Thank you so much for your donations, showing our healthcare heroes how much you support them.

### Royal LePage Breast Cancer Golf Classic

In-person fundraisers were finally back this year! This 24th annual golf tournament raised funds for the hospital's Margery E. Yuill Cancer Centre, with the donation facilitated through the Health Foundation. The event, held at the Medicine Hat Golf & Country Club, raised \$53,600, with funds matched by the Yuill Family Foundation for a record-breaking total donation of \$107,200.

The funds raised at the event stay here in our community, used by the Cancer Centre to meet patient care, comfort, and equipment needs.

“Being in end-stage renal disease and coming to dialysis several times a week is challenging; therefore, comfort and safety are paramount. The equipment received through these generous donations has made a profound impact for our patients.

Patients dialyze for 4 hours in a chair that is both comfortable for the patient and functional for the staff. The bikes are compatible with the chairs. Patients can exercise while on dialysis, optimizing their health and treatment. One of the new and exciting pieces of equipment is a body composition monitor. This specialized machine allows staff to accurately assess a dialysis patient’s fluid status with the precision we have never had before. It also allows us to safely adjust the patient’s weight without the risk of side effects.

The staff and patients of the Alberta Kidney Care program in Medicine Hat are grateful for the donations received and their tremendous impact.”

— Cheryl Carleton  
Unit Manager, Alberta Kidney Care (South)

The Cactus Rose Quilters Guild and the Schuler/Hilda Quilting Group regularly donate quilts for distribution to patients in the hospital and through community services. These in-kind gifts are sentimental and valuable contributions that go to deserving recipients. We are honoured to deliver them to various

departments, witnessing firsthand the joy that each one brings.

If you are planning (or would like to plan) a fundraiser to benefit the hospital, please connect with us at:

**[info@ourhealthfoundation.ca](mailto:info@ourhealthfoundation.ca)**



As we age, it's only natural to think about the impact we will leave behind. We want to take care of our loved ones, but we are compelled to leave an enduring mark upon the world, too. Leaving a gift in your will is a way for you to achieve both.

The Medicine Hat Health Foundation has been a grateful recipient of many legacy gifts over our 25 years of operations. We've used these gifts to grant ongoing wishes in honour of the donors and helped many local people live healthier, more fulfilling lives. We can leave something that lasts much longer than a lifetime by choosing legacy giving.

**This year, Kidney Care had \$45,000 of wish list items fulfilled by two donors, including one who left a gift in their will:**

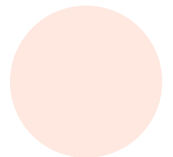
- 3 dialysis treatment chairs and 4 specialty cushions for comfort
- 6 bike attachments so patients can "cycle" while undergoing treatment
- Stethoscopes, thermometers, and over-bed tables
- A body composition monitor which determines individual fluid status and body composition, as fluid overload is a common condition for dialysis patients
- 4 portable vital signs monitors, and 4 portable pulse oximetry monitoring systems





**Unit 2 North**, which has an average length of stay of three months and focuses on the care and treatment of geriatric & rehabilitation patients, had several smaller needs funded over the past year. With raised funds at the highest level we've ever had, the unit was able to purchase a new patient washer & dryer, a bariatric lift, and thermometers. They also received flowers for the outdoor patio, which are planted by patients in the unit as a rehabilitative activity.

**The Treasure Chest**, located in the Emergency Department and the Carry Drive Lab, is filled through donations by Golden K Kiwanis, as well as donations from members of the public. The treasures are given to young children to help distract and comfort them during visits that can be scary and disorienting.



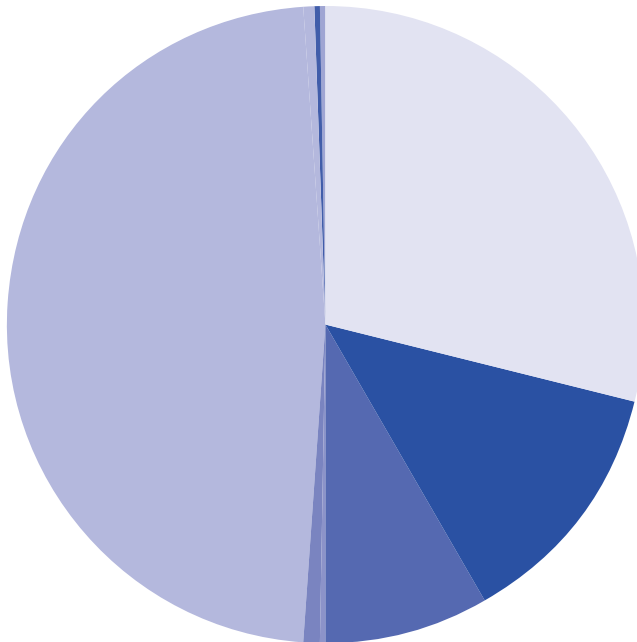
### **Children's Allied Health**

Children's Allied Health maintains a clinic that provides strategies for parents to manage behavioural issues in their children. Thanks to the record-breaking donations from long-time Foundation supporters over the past year, we were able to complete renovations on the Behavioural Department's family room. These include upgraded audiovisual equipment and new aesthetic improvements to artwork and furniture. As a result, families and especially children now have an environment where they can feel comfortable and cared for.

## Echocardiography

An echocardiogram is an ultrasound of the heart. It provides a visualization of the heart's chambers and valves, as well as how the blood pumps through them.

Thanks to your donations, the Foundation allocated \$246,000 in funding for the Diagnostic Imaging (DI) department. These funds purchased inpatient echocardiography equipment at the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital, which we can even bring directly to patients' bedsides. We are so grateful for your support in making this happen and aiding DI in improving access to this important diagnostic procedure.



## Donations

Here's how funds received over the 2021 fiscal period were designated by donors:

|        |                            |
|--------|----------------------------|
| 27.46% | Addictions & Mental Health |
| 12.22% | Cancer Clinic              |
| 7.77%  | Children's Health          |
| 0.43%  | COVID-19/Frontline Fund    |
| 0.58%  | Designation Equipment      |
| 45.42% | Greatest Needs             |
| 0.63%  | Men's Health               |
| 0.22%  | Senior's Health            |
| 0.07%  | Women's Health             |

### **A Bright Future for the Foundation**

As we wrap up our most successful year of fundraising ever – a perfect way to celebrate our 25th anniversary – we are already looking forward to the future. We're ready to keep this momentum going, and we're enthusiastic about all the exciting things we have on the horizon.

From a special Christmas campaign and donor recognition events to further upgrades at the hospital and other regional care centres, we will proudly continue our work of improving healthcare in our corner of Alberta. Thanks to the generosity and gigantic hearts of the people around us, we know that even more dreams will become a reality in 2023 and beyond.