Medicine Hat Health Foundation

30 Anniversary

Together We Can



From The Executive Director

I started my journey with the Medicine Hat Health Foundation because the community inspired me to give back. I believed in the idea of neighbours helping one another, of people coming together to create positive change, and the promise that we could achieve seemingly impossible things with enough dedicated effort.

Many years later, those same ideals still hold true. I still find fresh hope in the endless support of new donors, contributors, and volunteers. I feel the same rising excitement when I realize another goal has been reached and another piece of vital equipment is on the horizon for the hospital. My passion for this community continues to grow, and it is entirely due to the strength that we choose to give to one another – again and again, time after time.

This report is not just a summary of what the Foundation has done this year. It's a testament to all that our region has accomplished, and it is proof that when we collaborate and commit, amazing things will happen.

Thank you for being here and everywhere else you are needed.



Heather Bach
Executive Director

From The Board

Looking back from 2026, it's hard to believe how far we have come in just a few years.

Coming out of the COVID pandemic that strained many resources to their limits, in 2024 the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital faced a critical shortfall of cardiac monitors. This required the creation of a fundraising effort beyond anything this Foundation had ever done. It felt impossible – but here we are, riding a wave of unbelievable public support that met and exceeded our original goals and expectations.

With these monitors - and many other pieces of cutting-edge equipment and technology - funded, more lives are being changed, more families are kept together, and more patients can go home with a second chance at a full life.That's no accident. That's a direct result of our donors and supporters banding together to make it possible.

In the last year, Foundation supporters have given a staggering $2.3 million to enhance local healthcare – funding that has already started making a difference for those who need it most. You gave thousands of hours of volunteer time at the hospital and beyond. You gave your talent, your money, your blessings, and your confidence, and we take none of it for granted.

Your trust and your steadfast support is what keeps our work going, even when the goal seems impossible. It is solely due to you that I cannot wait to look back on this message several years from now and see how much farther we have come since.



Nick Punko
Board Chair


agnostic
ging/X-Ray
MARVIN L. CHAMBERS
KEEP YOUR DISTANCE



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Board Member
Troy Wason, MA
President, Axxess Point Paralegal & Investigative Services

A Fresh Look Forward



You've probably noticed a new look and feel to the Medicine Hat Health Foundation this year. As we recently celebrated 30 years of operations, the time was right to update our branding, mission, and messaging to ensure total alignment for the future.

While our logos and visual language have been refreshed, one of the most important changes was to bring all of our different endeavours under one parent brand. Now, it's clear at a glance that different elements – like the Grateful Patient Program, the Community Cares Gala, the 50/50 raffle, and more – are all part of the same collective cause.

We also refined our communications around our core values, focusing fully on how public support fills existing gaps and creates real, ongoing change. To sum it all up in one statement: we believe in exceptional healthcare, and in the power of people to make it a reality.


$5,000,000.00
Thank You
YUILL
FAMILY FOUNDATION
Bringing Hearts Home
The Road to Southern Alberta's Cardiac Centre of Excellence
Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation
Medicine Hat Health Foundation

Your Impact In Action

Time is of the Essence: Cardiac Monitors in the Emergency Department

In June 2025, the Yuill Family Foundation gave a historic $5M donation in support of better cardiac care in southern Alberta. Tied to the Bringing Hearts Home campaign in Lethbridge, this gift also allowed our hospital to purchase a Central Monitoring System and 20 Cardiac Monitors for the Emergency Department.

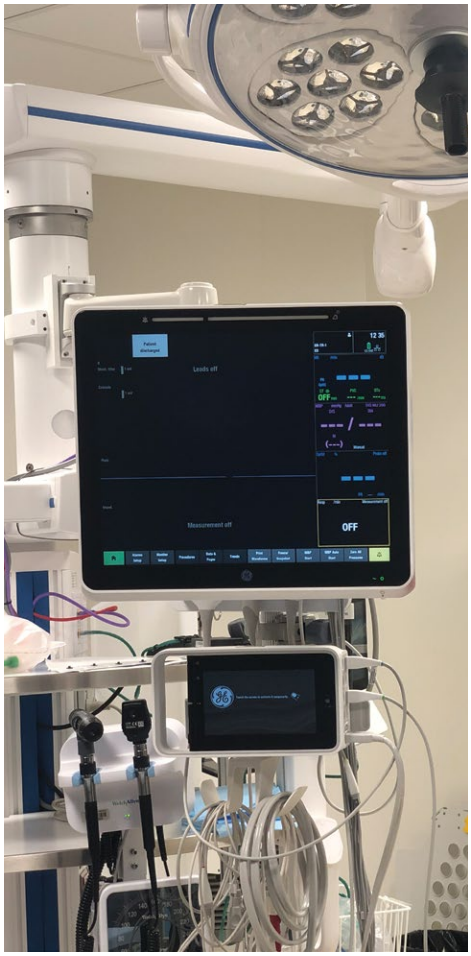
Like the ICU, the ED deals with cardiac patients every single day and this dedicated system vastly improves their ability to do it effectively.

Standardizing the units allows medical staff to move patients continuously between departments – such as from the ED to the surgical suite or ICU – without having to switch out machines during the move.

"Having these cardiac monitors impacts the outcome for patients. We are extremely grateful to have these monitors. They allow our department to better help patients. When it comes to cardiac care, and being in the emergency unit, time is of the essence.

I can't think of a piece of equipment we use more in our department.

Every bit of information we need about patients is available to us through this technology. It was very generous of the Yuill Family Foundation to support this. They are used so much here, and we can't thank you enough."
- **Valerie Schoonderbeek**
Manager, Emergency Department





Living a Better and Healthier Life: Kevin's Story

Our Foundation had the chance to sit down and speak with Kevin Friesen, a Medicine Hat local and cardiac patient. We got to learn more about the experience of cardiac patients, and how much of a positive impact advancements to cardiac care make.

"October '24, I suffered a heart attack at work. I came into the hospital that morning and was in for about a week. It was what they considered a minor heart attack, but I guess at the time you never think about it that way. The hospital was outstanding! Obviously, there's a little bit of trepidation and scaredness, but the staff here put me at ease pretty quick. The best equipment you have, the best care you're going to get. When I was here for that whole week, I thought every piece of equipment they used was outstanding. I went to Calgary for a test, and they didn't have them! So, it was more of a hassle and more difficult trying to get results. But I found the equipment here in Medicine Hat was the best. It was scary when it first happened. For 64 years of my life, we never had any heart conditions in my immediate family. My mother and father both had strong hearts, so when I got my heart attack at work, it really shook me. It was something I was not expecting, I thought I was in fairly good shape, but you never know. I think it's the aftermath that is more questionable – trying to deal with day-to-day stuff. Should I be doing this, should I not be doing this? It's kind of in the back of your mind at all times, and it's still to this day a little bit scary.

Prevention can be the number one key. Any time you're dealing with the heart, it's a serious matter. I had a minor heart attack at that time, my wife and I didn't think it was minor. It's to the extreme when you're involved in the situation. I think any time you can surround patients with the best care, the best staff – which I think Medicine Hat has – I think it obviously is going to improve your chances. Not only your recovery, but living a better and healthier life down the road."

– **Kevin Friesen**, Cardiac Patient



CHIP IN AGAINST CANCER GOLF CLASSIC

Chip In Against Cancer: Josh's Story

In August of 2025, Trish and Josh Helman hosted their second annual Chip In Against Cancer Golf Classic in support of our Foundation. Thanks to the Helmans, and everyone who came out to play golf that day, a total of $35,355.00 was raised for our Cancer Patient Financial Assistance Program!

"We wanted to keep our funds just one hundred percent local to Medicine Hat," says Trish on why proceeds went to the MHHF. "It means that families can get the support they need. You never know when you could be in that position, and the Medicine Hat Health Foundation is near and dear to our hearts."

"In early 2023 my husband, Josh, was diagnosed with Large B-Cell Lymphoma and was given a very optimistic diagnosis. This was to be cured with 6 rounds of Chemotherapy in Medicine Hat at the Margery E. Yuill Cancer Clinic. Unfortunately, after two rounds of Chemotherapy, further test results came back from a biopsy that was done on his tumor and it showed that he had Double-Hit Lymphoma. This was devastating news, but we were given a new plan of action and hopeful that we would see the best possible outcome. Josh had two separate hospital stays at the Tom Baker Cancer Center in Calgary to receive High-Dose Intensive Chemotherapy, and an Autologous Stem Cell Transplant. Josh fought hard for his life and showed tremendous courage while he went through this process. I am beyond proud of him and how well he managed.

An amazing family, that we did not directly know, offered their home to us while they were on vacation. Josh and I moved our young family to Calgary for his first hospital stay, along with his mother and my parents. We wanted to keep our family together as much as possible and this allowed us to visit Josh every day. During his second hospital stay, two of our kids were returning to school and we did not want to disrupt their routine. My parents moved into our home in Medicine Hat and took care of our three children so that I could be in Calgary to support Josh during his final treatment. Josh's aunt and uncle opened their home to his mother and myself.

From the moment we found out about Josh's tumor, we had support from everyone. Family, friends, and strangers stepped up for us in amazing ways. Generosity was shown in so many different forms during this time; it was shown through prayer, love, visits, housing, food, child-care, and donations. We are forever grateful for the support that was given to us, and we now want to pay it forward in our community. Josh is currently in remission and has a new appreciation for life."

– Trish Helman



A Meaningful Difference

The purchase and implementation of two hospital-grade Medela Symphony breast pumps for Public Health were made possible by UCT Medicine Hat.

"Your support in providing these pumps will make a meaningful difference in the lives of many families within our community. This pump program will allow parents the opportunity to establish and increase breast milk supply, particularly in the critical early days following birth. It will also provide essential support for families who are separated from their infants due to medical needs, helping them maintain lactation and continue providing breast milk during the challenging times.

We are deeply grateful for your commitment to supporting maternal and infant health in Medicine Hat.

Your contribution strengthens our ability to provide compassionate, high quality care and empowers families during some of their most vulnerable and important moments."
– Alicia Maser, RN BN IBCLC,
Medicine Hat Community Health



Looking Ahead to Breast Health

Thanks to the support of our donors, in September of 2025 we were able to implement a Trident HD Breast Specimen Imaging Unit in our Diagnostic Imaging department. This diagnostic tool is utilized during breast-conserving surgeries (lumpectomies) and biopsies to verify tissue samples directly inside the operating room. It allows surgeons and radiologists to verify on the spot whether the targeted calcification and tumor makers have been fully captured. This equipment minimizes the time a patient spends under anaesthesia.

"The most beneficial part about having the Trident is its speed. It decreases the patient's time under anaesthesia and being open in the operating room, so it decreases the risk of infections. It also increases surgeon awareness. The equipment can be used to help in the detection of lymph nodes, breast cancer, and with the implementation of Magseed, it will be crucial in identifying affected tissue in a timely manner."
–Lynzee Marsh, General Radiology Supervisor, Diagnostic Imaging

Connecting With The Community

While it's important to have updated technology, a full holistic health strategy involves more than that. Through our community connections and programs, we invest and raise funds for other initiatives that also provide wellness benefits to people of all ages.



Supporting Local Youth

Our Foundation helped create a Wellness Hub at Kickstand last summer in support of local youth and mental health. We recently caught up with Kickstand to see how the organization has thrived since its grand opening.

"We have been incredibly grateful for the Health Foundation because they have sponsored our hub. This room helps us to be able to provide services to youth. They get connection with youth that are their age and going through things that they are going through, even though they might not be in the same school. Youth come back every day and connect with one another. It's an easy, warm hand-off to service providers in our community."
– Anna, Peer Supporter

"We have a variety of programs like art, cooking, and social opportunities. It helps youth in the community because it gives them a place to drop by and make new connections without having to sign up. My favourite thing about Kickstand is that youth are really involved. They have a voice in what happens here. It benefits youth because it gives them a place to belong and there's no discrimination."
– Ben, Youth Boost Advisory Committee



Gathering for Gratitude

Thank you to our incredible donors, board members, and community who attended Gathering for Gratitude. It is our way of showing our appreciation for your continued support of our Foundation in our pursuit of advancing community health.

We celebrated the achievements that were made possible by our generous donor community, including the success of our cardiac campaign Seconds Save Lives.

We were also happy to award members of our community for their outstanding contributions to the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital – not only through donations, but through innovative programs and commitment to fostering a community dedicated to quality local healthcare.



Home for Christmas

We wanted patients and staff who had to spend the holidays in the hospital to feel like they were home for Christmas, so we invited everyone in Medicine Hat to join us in providing the comfort of a caring community!

We stuffed stockings with the team at Todd Homes Limited Re/Max and received a generous donation toward our Clothing Drive from Metz Insurance Agency. We also had Santa Claus visit the hospital to bring Christmas cheer to patients and staff, and found beautiful tributes, messages, and memorials hung on our Tribute Tree by the Medicine Hat Community.

The Medicine Hat Tigers returned for their annual Tigers Teddy Bear Toss Hospital Tour. Patients and staff alike were beaming as they received stuffies and holiday cheer from the Tigers. Go Tigers Go!



An Impact That Adds Up

We cannot thank our community of supporters enough for the impact they make on the lives of patients at the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital. From capital equipment purchases to updates that transform and humanize spaces, your generosity is the reason why a patient improved, smiled, and lived.



New Equipment Purchases and Hospital Updates

In the 2025-26 fiscal year, our Foundation spent $1.7 million in equipment and gifts reinvested back to the hospital, including:

- TENS Machine – Labour and Delivery (LDR)
- Newborn Resuscitation Cart – LDR
- EMS Teddy Bears, EMS – made possible by Big Marble Farms
- Holter Monitors – Cardiac
- Volunteer Programs – Volunteer Resources
- Flower Beds, 2 North – made possible by the Irvine & District Lions Club
- Waiting Room Blinds, 4 West – made possible by Carla and Randy Adam
- Breast Cancer Lymphatic Mapping Probe – Surgical Suite
- 4 Mental Health Beds – 5 North
- AAC Device, Children's Allied Health – made possible by the Elks
- Vein Finder – Dialysis and Kidney Care
- Vein Finder, Surgical Suite – made possible by AECON
- Waiting Room Blinds, 5 East – made possible by the Medicine Hat Firefighters Charitable Association
- Bladder Scanners, ER – made possible by Paterson Grain
- Nature-Themed Room, Pediatrics – made possible by PJs for a Purpose and Medicine Hat College

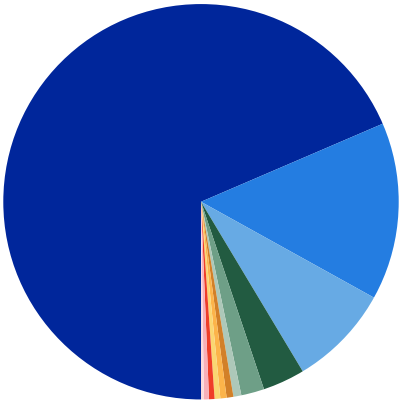
Volunteers:
Our Greatest Allies

We couldn't function for a day, let alone all year long, without the undeniable contributions of our volunteers. From our board members and Gift Shop cashiers to the dozens of assistants at various community events, each one embodies the true spirit of community and selflessness that we cherish so much.

Volunteer Stats:
2025-2026 Fiscal Year

3,352	Volunteers gave 3,352 hours in the Gift Shop
77	They spent 77 hours dedicated to the Gift Shop Cart
3,429	3,429 total hours were donated to the Foundation

The Destination For Your Donations



In 2025-26, the vast majority of donations went to Greatest Needs, an area that includes the Seconds Save Lives cardiac campaign. The next most supported programs were the Cancer Clinic, Children's Health, and Women's Health. Altogether, donations totaling $2,586,396 were reinvested back into equipment and programs between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026.

Department	Given	Number of Gifts
Greatest Needs (incl. Seconds Save Lives)	$1,765,848	1,152
Cancer Clinic	$375,285	58
Gaming	$215,887	509
Children's Health	$90,643	343
Gift Shop	$46,222	NA
Addictions & Mental Health	$19,837	53
Designated Equipment	$13,477	11
Sponsorship	$12,905	11
Women's Health	$11,531	58
Senior's Health	$10,578	19
Kidney Care	$10,572	18
Personal Care Program	$7,000	1
Monthly Giving	$5,225	144
Men's Health	$727	4
White Rose Program	$386	12
Treasure Chest Program	$103	1
Snack Program	$100	1
Craft Program	$70	7
Gifts in Kind	NA	119
TOTAL	**$2,586,396**	

Data from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

Your Collective Impact

We continue to be extremely impressed, grateful, and humbled by the support we receive from our community. Even as costs rise and many people face economic uncertainty, hundreds of you still consider our cause worth contributing to – with nearly half of those as new donors.

1,184

Donors

489

New Donors (41% of total)

1,749

Number of Gifts

$1,326

Average Gift

$2,586,396

Total Raised


Alberta Cancer
FOUNDATION
Ambulatory Clinics
Public Elevators
Margery E. Thrill Cancer Centre
EXIT

A Community That Cares

As we close out another year, one thing is abundantly clear: every achievement we celebrate has been made possible by the generosity of our community. Whether through a donation, sponsorship, volunteer effort, or simply by championing our mission, you have helped strengthen healthcare for patients and families across southeastern Alberta. For that, we are sincerely grateful.

While this report highlights what your support has accomplished, it also reminds us that healthcare is never static. Medical technology continues to advance. Equipment reaches the end of its lifespan. New opportunities emerge to improve patient care, expand services, and support the ongoing education and training of our healthcare professionals. The needs of tomorrow will not be the same as the needs of today, and our commitment must continue to grow alongside them.

That is why the work of the Medicine Hat Health Foundation is never truly finished. Together, we will continue investing in the tools, technologies, and people that help deliver exceptional care close to home. Thank you for being part of this journey and for believing in what is possible when a community comes together with a shared purpose – because better healthcare isn't built in a single year.

It's built by a community, year after year.

Thank you,
The Medicine Hat Health Foundation

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