



# 2.7 MILLION thank-yous!

Emergency Department Staff at the Comox Valley Hospital gather to thank Foundation donors.



COMOX VALLEY  
HEALTHCARE  
FOUNDATION

## 2025 Impact Report



Foundation Board of Directors:  
RaeAnn Hartman, Darrell Jones, Susan Auchterlonie, Sandy Dreger, Dylan Kozlick, Brian Wise, Pieter de la Rey, Aubrey Lively  
Missing from photo: Harvey Silverstein

## Message from our **BOARD CHAIR**

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This past year was a powerful reminder of what's possible when generosity and community spirit come together to support local healthcare.

Because of your incredible contributions, over 200 new pieces of equipment have been funded across the hospital, Community Health Services, Cumberland Lodge, Glacier View Lodge, and Providence Living at The Views.

Together, we've invested in new technology and empowered healthcare professionals through research, innovation and education. We invite you to read more about your collective impact on local healthcare in the pages that follow.

We are truly grateful to you, our donors, partners, volunteers and caring community. Your support is building a healthier and stronger Comox Valley where neighbours, families, and friends can access great care, close to home.

On behalf of the Comox Valley Healthcare Foundation board and staff, thank you for your continued commitment to high-quality care.

With heartfelt gratitude,



*Susan*

**Susan Auchterlonie**

Board Chair  
Comox Valley Healthcare Foundation

“Gifts of all types and amounts reflect both generosity and vision. They demonstrate a deep commitment to our mandate and an understanding of how thoughtful financial stewardship amplifies impact. Thanks to your kindness, more resources can be directed to what matters most—patient care and exceptional healthcare.”

**Pieter de la Rey, CPA**

Treasurer-Secretary,  
CVHF Board of Directors



Foundation Staff:  
Cally Sykes, Rhonda Stevens, Avry Janes, Marcie Dumais, Lauren Klaus

## YOUR GENEROSITY in numbers

Reflecting on the year behind us, we are filled with gratitude for the extraordinary collaboration that strengthens local healthcare. Every gift represents a moment when someone in our community chose to care for another.

Whether you made a contribution in honour of a loved one, plan to leave a gift through your estate, transferred a gift of stock, or donated a non-monetary gift, the impact of your kindness will be felt for years to come.

With your support, our hospital teams have access to vital equipment, enhanced spaces, and resources that help them deliver compassionate, high-quality care—from emergency and diagnostics to seniors’ care, palliative services, and beyond.

We continue to be inspired by the generosity of our community and the dedication of our healthcare professionals. Thank you for believing in local healthcare and supporting this important work.

Warmly,



**Rhonda Stevens & Avry Janes**  
Co-Executive Directors  
Comox Valley Healthcare Foundation

**\$2,728,476**  
raised in 2025

**3,460**  
donations received

**1,716**  
donors

**137**  
monthly donors

**> \$200,000**  
donated through estate giving

**\$1,175,636**  
donated through securities

# Comox Valley HOSPITAL

In 2025, your generosity brought advanced equipment and innovative technologies into the hands of our care teams. These donor-funded investments improved diagnostic accuracy, reduced wait times, and ensured more patients receive high-quality care close to home. Your gifts helped local healthcare professionals deliver safe, responsive, and accessible care. Here are a few examples of how your donations made a difference:

## Medical Imaging Ultrasound Fleet

Six new ultrasound machines are now delivering clearer, more precise imaging for patients while also improving comfort and safety for the healthcare teams who use them every day. These vital tools are used approximately 14,000 times each year at Comox Valley Hospital, supporting everything from obstetrics and women's health to cancer care and essential diagnostic services close to home.

## Mammography Unit

Early detection can change the course of care. The new mammography unit at the Comox Valley Hospital delivers clearer, more detailed images through advanced 3D digital breast functionality—helping ensure breast cancer is found sooner, when treatment is most effective.



RaeAnn Hartman, Avry Janes, Helga Schlick, Rhonda Stevens

"This upgrade means more answers, less uncertainty, and better outcomes for the people we serve."

### Alexandra Melanson

Manager of Medical Imaging for the North Island

With the new mammogram's capacity to perform more than 5,600 exams each year, this leading-edge technology offers greater accuracy and vital peace of mind for patients.

## Cancer Care Patient Chairs

New specialized recliners provide greater comfort for patients during long oncology treatment sessions, while also improving ergonomics for the nursing teams who care for them. Designed with safety in mind, these chairs can quickly adjust in emergency situations, helping staff respond swiftly to drug reactions or cardiac events.

## Cardiac Monitor Defibrillator Crash Cart

The new Cardiac Monitor Defibrillator Crash Cart on the third floor of the hospital ensures all essential supplies are at hand for a rapid response during a cardiac arrest. This mobile, self-contained unit supports timely, life-saving care in times of greatest vulnerability.



Samantha Boettcher, Clinical Nurse Lead, Floor 3C



**4,430**  
cancer care treatments



**5,300**  
sterilizer loads processed

## PANDA Warmer

In those first fragile moments of life, the right environment can make all the difference. A PANDA warmer in the Emergency Department now provides a safe, carefully-controlled space for newborns in distress—delivering essential warmth, monitoring, and life-saving resuscitation immediately and confidently.

“The PANDA warmer allows our Emergency team to provide timely, specialized support for newborns when every second counts.”

**Sarah Palmer**

Manager of the Comox Valley Emergency Department

## VPro Sterilizer

A new low-temperature sterilization system is helping surgical teams get vital equipment ready faster, reducing delays and improving efficiency behind the scenes. This means surgeons can perform more surgeries, helping more patients receive their procedures sooner.

## Emergency Department Portable Ultrasound & Probes

A second portable ultrasound machine in the Emergency Department now allows clinicians to meet the growing demand for patient care with advanced imaging and voice-controlled functionality. This technology supports integrated cardiac and lung assessments, helping the team provide faster, more precise care.

## Glidescope

The Glidescope system provides high-definition visualization for both video laryngoscopy and bronchoscopy, making it a critical tool to manage difficult airways. This equipment enhances patient safety in emergency and critical care, supporting life-saving decisions that need to be made in the quickest way possible.

“The advanced Glidescope has increased our confidence in managing difficult airways. The larger screen and dual-view capabilities allow for precise airway management, especially in complex or emergency situations. We deeply appreciate the support of community members whose commitment ensures our healthcare teams have the latest technology to provide the best care possible.”

**Craig Dickson**

Respiratory Therapy Clinical Lead, Comox Valley Hospital



Tanya Del Bianco, Clinical Nurse Educator, ED



Craig Dickson, Respiratory Therapy Clinical Lead and Dr. Lily Edelson, Emergency Department Physician



> **35,000**  
Emergency Department visits



**467**  
babies born

# One Donor's Remarkable **IMPACT**

A major gift from a long-time  
Comox Valley resident is  
advancing access, innovation,  
and care across the region.



## Each week, you can find Frank Carter dropping off bags of healthy treats for healthcare workers at the Comox Valley Hospital. This is just one of the many ways he aims to give back to his community.

A long-time resident of the Comox Valley, Frank's grandfather arrived in Merville in 1919 after the war. Frank has fond memories of his family's farm now the location of the Comox Community Centre. He recalls picking strawberries from the field where children now play soccer and remembers going fishing for salmon with his dad in nearby waters.

It is the people and community that have shaped Frank's life, inspiring him to give a major gift to the Comox Valley Healthcare Foundation.

"I'm passionate about this place and I know all of us experience healthcare challenges at some point in our lives," said Frank. "I'm proud that my gift will help provide the best technology and care for our community."

An avid skier and pickleball player, Frank recently underwent hip surgery, and he's grateful for the local care he received.

Frank's gift is already advancing healthcare access and innovation across the region.

The Medical Imaging department now benefits from advanced artificial intelligence (AI)-enhanced MRI technology and new ultrasound machines, enabling faster, more accurate diagnostics and the ability to serve more

patients in the community. His gift has also strengthened Surgical Services with the purchase of a new C-arm X-ray System to assist urologists in the operating room, along with a new sterilization system that significantly reduces the time required to prepare surgical equipment.

In addition, recognizing food and refreshments as sources of comfort and renewal, Frank wanted the hospital cafeteria to serve high-quality coffee. Hospital staff and visitors can now find locally roasted Rhodos coffee, with fresh beans ground daily, through a special partnership facilitated by Frank.

Beyond these examples, significant future initiatives will move forward thanks to his generosity.

**"Frank's giving elevates care across the entire healthcare system," said Rhonda Stevens, Co-Executive Director of the Foundation.**

**"His philanthropic leadership and vision are inspirational and is an investment in every patient who walks through our hospital doors today and for many years to come. We are truly grateful."**

For Frank, who is back playing pickleball and looks forward to time up the mountain, the hope is that his gift can inspire others. Having great care, close to home, is something everyone deserves, and most of us can help with no matter how much or in what way we contribute.

**"When our community is healthy, we all benefit," said Frank.**

# Community HEALTH SERVICES

Strong community healthcare ensures people can remain safe and independent at home for longer. Our Community Health Services make that possible—helping individuals age in place with confidence and supporting care in community in a variety of ways. This year, you strengthened these services in meaningful ways, including:

## Cognitive Stimulation Therapy Program

A Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (CST) program continues to provide seniors with mild to moderate dementia a supportive space to connect, reminisce, and engage in meaningful activities. Each session blends structured routines with flexible, person-centered approaches, including multi-sensory stimulation and reminiscence therapy, so participants feel safe, included, and valued.

“CST allows seniors to actively participate, share memories, and connect with others in ways that truly enrich their day.”

**Alison Ritchie**

Occupational Therapist, Island Health



Because of your support of the CST program, participants experience moments of joy, purpose, and belonging—demonstrating how donor generosity can foster both care and community during some of life's most difficult changes.

## Enhanced Overdose Response Training in Community

The addition of Annie dolls and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) trainers has greatly enhanced overdose response training, giving participants hands-on experience in realistic scenarios. These tools build critical skills and confidence, ensuring healthcare staff are prepared to act quickly and effectively during life-threatening opioid emergencies.

## Pain Care Chair Yoga for Community Health Clients

The Pain Care Chair Yoga program provides clients with gentle, guided movement designed to improve mobility, reduce pain, and enhance overall well-being. These sessions give participants the tools and confidence to manage chronic pain and maintain a higher quality of life.

## Dermatoscope for Hornby Island Clinic

The Dermatoscope at the Hornby Island Clinic magnifies and illuminates skin lesions, helping clinicians detect and diagnose skin conditions more accurately. Having this tool at the clinic ensures patients can access care promptly, supporting early intervention and better health outcomes for the Hornby Island community.



**51,879**  
home visits each year



**410**  
hand & foot warmers donated  
to distribute as needed

# Long-Term CARE

Supporting long-term care is critical to ensure our loved ones continue to receive top quality care and the opportunity to live comfortably and joyfully close to home. The Comox Valley Healthcare Foundation supports long-term care at three non-profit long-term care homes: **Cumberland Lodge, Glacier View Lodge, and Providence Living at The Views.**

Your giving made a difference for the residents at each of these long-term care homes.

## Rehabilitation Equipment and Overhead Slings for Glacier View Lodge

Essential rehabilitation equipment was purchased—including fall mats, wheelchairs, cushions, and arm pads—that enhance safety and comfort. Your contributions also funded new overhead lift slings, ensuring residents receive dignified and efficient care.

## Activity Support for Residents at Providence Living at The Views

Funding for activities at Providence Living at The Views allows each household to choose special

experiences, from games and movie nights to treats, that bring joy and connection to residents. These opportunities enhance daily life and create moments of happiness that truly matter.

## Music Therapy for Cumberland Lodge Residents

Music therapy has become a cherished experience for residents, fostering connection and emotional well-being. A dedicated music therapist leads engaging sessions that reach residents on a meaningful level, including those facing challenges such as grief or dementia.

## Stockings for Seniors

Donors helped our most vulnerable seniors feel the love of their community during the holiday season by filling 184 stockings with comfort items, practical essentials and treats.

The stockings were delivered to Cumberland Lodge, Glacier View Lodge, Providence Living at The Views, patients in the hospital, and people receiving care at home including seniors on Denman and Hornby Island.

"Each day I work, I see the positive impact of music therapy on residents and staff. It fosters connections between us, highlights our shared humanity, and provides a space for processing emotions, regardless of one's health or cognitive status."

**Bethany Parsons**  
Music Therapist



Bethany Parsons, Music Therapist, and long-term care resident

"While I was handing out the stockings, a resident asked me why they would get anything at Christmas time. I said it was from the community around us, and the community wanted them to know they were remembered. The resident looked at me and with a glint in their eye said, "Someone remembered me." I can't express what an impact the stockings have on a population of people that perhaps feel a little lost and forgotten at such a busy time of year."

**Shelley Carter**  
Activity Supervisor, Long-term Care



**324**  
residents supported at 3  
non-profit long-term care homes



**184**  
stockings provided to vulnerable  
seniors receiving healthcare

# Education, Research, and INNOVATION

This year, your support empowered healthcare teams across Emergency and Rehabilitation departments, Community Health Services, and Palliative Care to strive for excellence—while driving innovation and advancing technology in our community. Through enhanced education opportunities and cutting-edge tools, these initiatives strengthened expertise and elevated the quality of care patients receive.

## MRI Deep Resolve Software

The AI-enhanced MRI Deep Resolve software increases image clarity while reducing scan times by 40%. This technology improves patient comfort, especially for those with anxiety or claustrophobia, while allowing our hospital to serve more patients with faster, more accurate diagnostics.

## Palliative Care Conference

Palliative Care nurses attended the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association National Conference, connecting with national leaders and learning about the latest innovations in care.

## Seniors' Care Research - Dementia Friendly Community Tools

A collaborative research project led to the development of an informative guidebook for local businesses. This resource facilitates respectful support of people living with dementia by exploring the condition and providing practical examples and strategies for everyday interactions. The guidebook was created by members of the Comox Valley Dementia-Friendly Partners Group including people with lived experience, researchers from the University of Victoria, and students from the Health Design Lab at Emily Carr University of Art + Design.

## North Island Emergency Medicine Conference

The North Island Emergency Medicine Conference, hosted locally, brought together over 150 emergency professionals for engaging talks, interactive sessions, and collaborative opportunities.

## Mock Code Blue Training at the Comox Valley Hospital

Hands-on Mock Code Blue training significantly reduces response times during in-hospital cardiac arrests, improving patient survival rates. Practice makes perfect is one of the leading principles of the program, with staff throughout the hospital participating on a monthly basis.

"Mock Code Blue training brings healthcare professionals from across departments together to work through a variety of scenarios and improve team response. This program not only reduces response times and increases survival rates but also builds hospital-wide capacity to act confidently in critical situations."

**Dr. Albert Houlgrave**

Emergency Department Physician and Medical Director of Mock Code Blue Training Program



**27%**

increase in ultrasound scans year-over-year



**> 150**

participants at the North Island Emergency Medicine Conference



Dr. Albert Houlgrave, Lindsey James, Shelagh Kantor



## Coming Together for **GREAT CARE,** **CLOSE TO HOME**

When our community comes together, incredible things happen. Your support of healthcare through **organizing, participating in, volunteering for, or sponsoring local fundraising events** has made a lasting impact. Partnerships with local organizations, such as our annual golf tournament or the generous matching gift made by the Auxiliary Society for Comox Valley Healthcare, contributed directly towards the purchase of vital new equipment.

Countless individuals also contributed by donating new stuffed animals, toys, knit hats, and cozy blankets to bring comfort to patients. An increase in monthly donors provides continuity in support year-round. These efforts reflect a deep commitment to the health and well-being of our family, friends, and neighbours.

**Thank you for working with us and making a difference. Together, we are building a stronger, healthier future for everyone.**

## Ways To Get Involved

There are many ways you can get involved and be a champion for great care in the Comox Valley. Whether you are interested in opportunities for corporate partnership, you would like to volunteer, or you have a local healthcare story to share, you can make a stand for excellent local healthcare through the Comox Valley Healthcare Foundation.

- ✔ Share your story
- ✔ Subscribe to our quarterly newsletter
- ✔ Organize a community fundraiser
- ✔ Sponsor an event
- ✔ Participate in an event
- ✔ Volunteer
- ✔ Donate



**3,500+**  
stuffed animals & toys donated to  
children receiving care at the hospital



**\$150,000**  
raised through  
fundraising events



Dr. Theresa Wilson and Fiona Miller, Registered Nurse, Maternity Department

**Land Acknowledgement:** The Comox Valley Healthcare Foundation recognizes, acknowledges, and appreciates that we live, work, and learn on the Unceded Traditional Territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land. Acknowledging the principles of truth and reconciliation, we recognize and respect the history, languages, and cultures of all Indigenous Peoples of Canada and are committed to continuing to learn how our organization can support a better way forward.



**COMOX VALLEY  
HEALTHCARE  
FOUNDATION**

**Follow Us!**

 @CVhealthcareFDN

**Visit Us!**

Office is located just inside the main entrance of the hospital.

250-331-5957 | 101 Lerwick Road, Courtenay BC V9N 0B9

info@cvhealthcarefoundation.com | [cvhealthcarefoundation.com](http://cvhealthcarefoundation.com)