

KGH Foundation Extends Appreciation to the Kelowna Sunrise Club

Story by Ed Kolybaba on Nov 22, 2023

The Rotary Club members are extremely pleased that they have played an important part in enhancing the health care available for the Okanagan citizens through its many fundraising activities, including proceeds from the past 2022 'Season of Giving Calendar.

Proceeds totaling \$194,725 from the sale of the 2002 Calendar and additionally \$66,986 from other fundraisers, provided support for many local not-for-profit organizations, including \$77,000 for the KGF Foundation.

This funding presented to the KGF Foundation provided greatly needed funding for patient care and comfort items for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Kelowna General Hospital. Learn more about the impact this funding brought about by continuing to read the following "Your impact to NICU" Report prepared by Bettina Muller, Director of Philanthropy, Corporate Giving, KGH Foundation.

KGH Foundation

Your Impact to NICU



AT KELOWNA GENERAL HOSPITAL



Prepared for
Kelowna Sunrise Rotary
Club Members

Prepared by
Bettina Muller
Director of Philanthropy, Corporate Giving
KGH Foundation

With Gratitude

Dear Kelowna Sunrise Rotary Club Members,

I hope this letter finds you well. On behalf of the Kelowna General Hospital Foundation, I extend our deepest gratitude for your generous support in providing patient care and comfort items for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at KGH. Your ongoing commitment to improving the quality of care for our tiniest patients has made a significant impact on the lives of both infants and their families.

Thanks to your generous support and the sales from the Kelowna Sunrise Rotary 2022 Season of Giving Calendars, the patient care and comfort items have arrived at KGH! We couldn't be more grateful for your contribution to making this possible.

In this report you will see the impact you have directly made for our tiniest patients. These advances are a true testament to how your generosity enhances the care that our community deserves. Your ongoing support is critical to the success of our mission, and we remain deeply appreciative of your commitment to making a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Giving changes everything.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Bettina Muller

"Thank-you from a grateful NICU staff"
Bonnie Wilkie, KGH NICU Nurse Educator



Transforming Tiny Lives: Your Impact in Action



Neonatal Ventilation Humidifier

A newborn's respiratory system is reliant on humidity to maintain physiological balance, assist natural defense mechanisms, and conserve energy for growth and development. The new Ventilation Humidifier provides NICU caregivers more advanced modes of ventilation for babies and provide more advanced care. Additionally, the humidifier provides better temperature control and is much more comfortable for the baby.



Family Centred Care/Kangaroo Care

Research shows that even very sick premature infants are much more stable while being held skin to skin with their parent, called 'kangaroo care'. More hours in kangaroo care are better for both baby and parents. A kangaroo chair is a hospital grade recliner that allows parents to hold their sick baby during kangaroo care. The chair easily reclines and is very comfortable, especially for new mothers that are required to sit with babies in kangaroo care for a long period of time. Because of you, the KGH NICU was able to purchase 3 of these new chairs to replace older chairs that are well-loved.



Neonatal Bilipad

Many newborn babies require phototherapy for physiological jaundice. Traditionally this would require babies to be admitted to the NICU, placed in an incubator and undergo phototherapy lights. The KGH NICU now has a bilipad which allows to have phototherapy occur in the parent's room, thus keeping mom and baby together. The new bilipad allows babies to be held and fed by parents and can be wrapped with the pad and continuously receive therapy. Prior to the bilipad arriving, the NICU used overhead LED lights that are identical in effectiveness but does not allow for babies to be picked up by their parents and receive therapy. The bilipad's phototherapy supports family-centered care and newborn development, which is vital to baby's care.



Parent Beds

The KGH NICU is very busy department that cares for families throughout the interior and other parts of British Columbia. When a baby is admitted to the NICU, parents spend long periods of time at their bedside, often sleeping overnight. The NICU period is stressful for families and a time of transition. With the new parent beds, families have the ability to be by their babies side comfortably and laydown to get much needed rest when they can. When parents are able to stay at the bedside, it helps the baby stabilize physiologically, mom can produce milk with specific antibodies needed for baby, and helps with the psychological adjustment to being a new parent. Because of these chairs, parents can be active caregivers and see their baby's milestones.