

HEALTH CARE CHAMPIONS

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A Lasting Legacy

Bringing mental illness out of the dark and into the light through a Legacy donation from Leslie and Irene Dubé to the Royal University Hospital Foundation

"Philanthropy feeds the soul." This heartwarming sentiment is shared by philanthropists Leslie and Irene Dubé, long-time donors of Royal University Hospital Foundation and Saskatoon community leaders.

As founders of the Concorde Group of Companies, Irene and Leslie Dubé have built a successful business and a reputation for sharing. Their generosity is rooted in faith and they have made it a priority to shine a light on important issues including mental health, homelessness, and health care. People often ask the Dubés why they give, and as Leslie states, "Sharing our blessings with others brings us great peace."

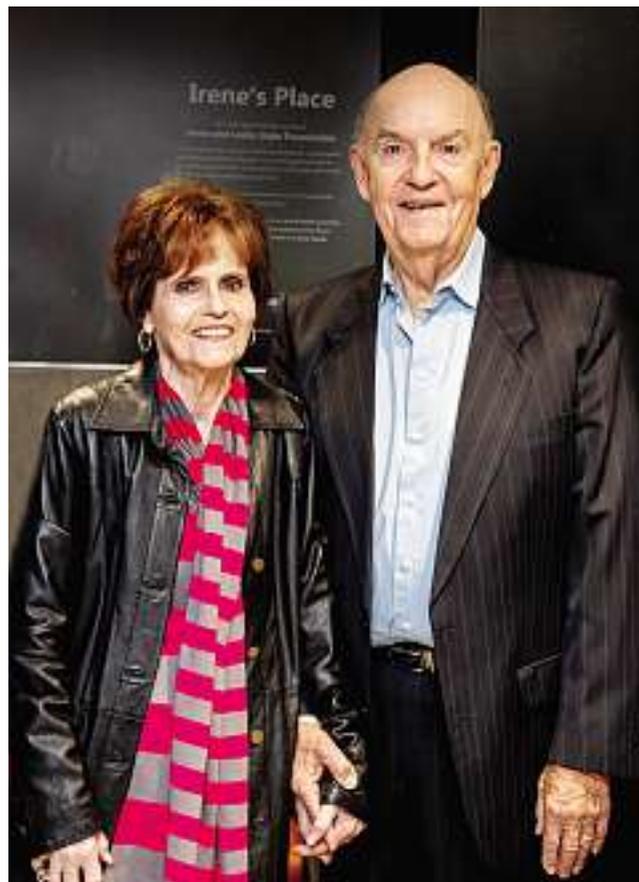
For nearly 14 years, Leslie and Irene Dubé have supported health care priorities at Royal University Hospital (RUH) and throughout our community. They have worked with the Foundation to understand where the greatest needs are and have provided RUH with access to the newest technology, enabled innovation and advanced health care in Saskatchewan.

The Dubés have helped ensure RUH, Saskatchewan's largest acute care hospital, is ready for you and your family when you are not. In 2011, the Dubés' \$500,000 donation completed the Royal Vital Care Campaign

by purchasing 17 Vital Sign Monitors and the Central Monitoring Equipment for the newly expanded and renovated Intensive Care Unit at RUH. Dr. Susan Shaw, Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Officer, and ICU physician credits this foresight for helping to ensure RUH's ICU was ready with the equipment and monitoring to help save lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of the most memorable gifts Leslie and Irene made to the RUH Foundation was their first gift. In 2006, the RUH Foundation received a transformational \$3 million donation and the largest gift to a hospital in Saskatchewan at that time. This was the transformational gift that launched the Future in Mind Campaign, raising funds for a dedicated 65-bed adult, youth and child mental health inpatient unit at RUH.

The Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre for Mental Health and Addictions opened its doors in early 2010, after the RUH Foundation's Future in Mind Campaign raised over \$10.8 million for capital, equipment, and furnishings. The lasting legacy of the campaign was the heightened awareness of the importance of mental health treatment and a decrease in stigma related to this illness. As well, the establishment of



Leslie and Irene Dubé have supported health care priorities at Royal University Hospital (RUH) and throughout our community since 2006. "Sharing our blessings with others brings us great peace," says Leslie Dubé. (SUPPLIED PHOTO)

a \$2.5 million Community Mental Health Endowment that provides grants to bridge inpatient and community programming for individuals and their families living with mental illness, research for the health care of tomorrow and training for front line

staff.

Since 2014, \$561,000 in distributable earnings on the endowment has supported 27 grants providing innovative and needed mental health support at RUH and in the community.

The Dubés' belief in

bringing mental health out of the darkness and into the light encouraged others to give as each donation was matched by the Dubés through their \$1 million donation in 2017 to build the seven-bed Mental Health Assessment and Short Stay Unit at RUH. This newly-built area provides support to patients, giving them a quiet and more appropriate space for many of the 6,000 recorded mental health-related emergency department patient visits each year.

This year, 2020, marks the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre for Mental Health and Addictions. Last year, over 1,100 patients living with mental illness received treatment and care at the centre. Leslie and Irene know first-hand the effects mental illness can have on a person's sense of self and how a lack of treatment can negatively impact their ability to live life.

"The centre has exceeded our expectations," say the Dubés. "Our hopes and prayers for each and every person who comes to the centre is that they find the peace, solace and healing that their lives require and deserve."

The Canadian Mental Health Association states that one in five people in Canada will experience a mental

health problem or illness in their lifetime. Ending the stigma of mental illness continues to be a priority for the Dubés. In December 2019, the Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre Community Mental Health Endowment was established with a commitment of \$1 million to the Ready When You Aren't Campaign. A grant of \$25,000 from the fund has already provided 10 comfortable recliner chairs for patients to rest in while recovering at the Dubé Centre.

"The Royal University Hospital Foundation is immensely thankful to Leslie and Irene Dubé and their continued support of health care priorities at Royal University Hospital," says Arla Gustafson, CEO, Royal University Hospital Foundation. "They have blessed so many lives through their generosity. Their kindness and desire to make a change has been felt by tens of thousands of patients and their families in Saskatchewan along with physicians and our medical teams every single day at our Hospital and across the province. Thank you."

To learn more about the Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre for Mental Health and Addictions or the Community Mental Health Endowment visit ruhf.org.

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