

MILESTONES



Irene and Leslie Dubé: "Sharing our blessings with others brings us great peace."

Image courtesy of Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation

Nurturing Excellence and Innovation at RUH for 37 Years

A loved one. Neighbour. Co-worker. You. Since 1987, patients from across the province requiring specialized life-saving and life-enhancing physical and mental health care have been supported on their journeys at RUH by Leslie and Irene Dubé.

Through their entrepreneurial spirit, community service and philanthropy, the couple who founded the Concorde Group of Companies in Saskatoon more than 60 years ago has set an inspiring example for charitable leadership in our community.

As their company diversified across western Canada, Les and Irene never lost sight of the need and desire to share their blessings with those most vulnerable in our community.

"Philanthropy feeds the soul and sharing our blessings with others brings us great peace," says Irene. Les adds, "We truly want to leave the world better than when we came in."

Les and Irene's support of RUH, totalling nearly \$8 million, has been instrumental in advancing patient care excellence and innovation at RUH. Their generosity has been pivotal in helping keep the province's largest clinical, teaching and research hospital at the forefront of modern medicine in Saskatchewan.

In addition, the Dubés are members of the Royal Legacy Giving Society as they have agreed to leave a gift in their Will to RUH Foundation that will continue into the future.

Driven by their deep faith, they hope their actions will inspire others to do the same. "Never doubt the impact of your gift, regardless of the amount; it will make a huge difference to those in need," says Les.

RUH Foundation is extremely grateful for Les and Irene's vision, selfless giving, and ongoing commitment to enhancing the patient and family experience at RUH and their support of the hospital's dedicated and world-class medical teams.

The following are a few of the couple's notable donations that have made a difference in the lives of tens of thousands of patients and their families from across the province and their care providers at RUH:

Cont'd next page

2024 – SPECT-CT Imaging Scanner

\$2 million gift to purchase RUH's first dual modality SPECT-CT (Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography - Computed Tomography) imaging scanner used in the diagnosis and subsequent treatment of various cancers, neurological tumours; pulmonary embolisms, seizure disorders, dementia, and Alzheimer's, to name a few examples. In 2023, RUH's SPECT cameras purchased almost 20 years ago generated more than 7,700 scans performed on nearly 4,500 patients. The new SPECT-CT will shorten scan times, generate higher image quality, and lower radiopharmaceutical and x-ray doses needed during the scans.

2019 – Community Mental Health Endowment

\$1 million contribution establishing the Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre Community Mental Health Endowment for clinical, teaching, and research priorities at The Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre for Mental Health at Royal University Hospital.

2017 – Mental Health Assessment/Short Stay Units

\$1 million donation to create a temporary seven-bed unit to ensure patients with emergent mental health concerns had a quiet, calmer assessment and treatment environment before the opening of the new Adult Emergency Department in 2019. It was transformed into a short-stay acute mental health unit that opened in 2021 to accommodate patients with, for example, a drug-induced psychosis, a need to adjust medications, or to stabilize symptoms of a significant psychiatric disorder.

2016 – Rural and Remote Tele-Robotic Ultrasound Imaging System

\$300,000 gift supporting the purchase of the first MELODY® ultrasound imaging system used to deliver real-time medical assessment, diagnosis and care management to patients living in remote and rural communities, propelling RUH and U of S



Clockwise from top: Les and Irene Dubé at the opening of The Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre for Mental Health, 2010; Les Dubé and Dr. Ivar Mendez at the unveiling of MELODY, a remote tele-robotic ultrasound used in northern communities where access is limited, 2017; Irene Dubé among the many afghan quilts she has made for mental health patients at RUH, 2013; Les and Irene Dubé (left) with Dr. Fred Gathercole, Foundation Chairman and Tony Dagnone, RUH President at a tour of their two sponsored rooms on 5100, 1987; Irene and Les Dubé (left) at a hard hat tour during the construction of The Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre for Mental Health, 2009

College of Medicine to the forefront of tele-robotic medical imaging in North America.

2011 – ICU Vital Sign Monitors

\$500,000 donation completed the \$2.5 million Royal Vital Care Campaign by purchasing 17 new vital sign monitors and central monitoring equipment, and renovations to the family waiting rooms in the newly expanded Intensive Care Unit.

2006 – Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre for Mental Health

\$3 million leadership gift launched the Future in Mind Campaign that contributed

more than \$8 million, 35 percent of the local contribution, for costs associated with building a new adult, youth, and child mental health inpatient unit that opened in 2010 adjacent to RUH. In 2022–23, the 71-bed unit provided care to more than 1,200 patients, with the average length of stay being 17 days.

1987 – Hospital Expansion

\$10,000 donation to support funding for two Surgery Unit beds.

Thank You Irene and Les Dubé!



Grateful patient Bentley Wiebe is grateful that, through donor support, Royal University Hospital Foundation is investing in equipment to advance innovative minimally invasive cardiac surgeries.

Patient Lauds Groundbreaking Heart Surgery

Imagine a moment that changes the course of medical history in Saskatchewan - for Bentley Wiebe, such a pivotal moment arrived unexpectedly this past May when he received ground-breaking cardiac surgery at Royal University Hospital.

A few months earlier, Bentley, a boilermaker who has taught and mentored many in the welding profession, was preparing for routine knee replacement surgery in his home community of Prince Albert. Yet, this anticipated procedure was merely the prelude to a far more critical health intervention. It was during this routine preparation that a heart murmur caught his doctor's attention, unveiling a far more serious concern: a severely damaged mitral valve, one of four essential heart valves that helps blood flow through the heart and out to the body.

"I know I am at the age when things start to go wrong with one's body," says the 57-year-old. "But to find out that my mitral valve was so damaged, well, that's a very serious life-threatening condition that will kill you if not looked after right away."



Dr. Aly Ghoneim (seated) and his team perform Saskatchewan's first minimally invasive cardiac surgery.

Traditionally, a diagnosis like Bentley's would require standard open-heart surgery through a midline chest sternotomy—a formidable procedure that involves a lengthy incision down the center of the chest. This invasive approach typically results in a long and painful recovery period, accompanied by a prominent scar that serves as a lasting reminder of the ordeal.

Destiny had another plan for Bentley, all thanks to the efforts of RUH cardiac surgeon Dr. Aly Ghoneim and his surgical team. Their pivotal role in introducing the province's first minimally invasive cardiac surgery program in May marked a turning point.

On May 24, Bentley underwent a groundbreaking procedure where only a small incision was made on the upper right side of his chest. This approach allowed for the use of advanced endoscopic techniques to successfully repair his mitral valve.

"I am extremely grateful that this new minimally invasive option was available to me in our province at RUH and that I didn't require open heart surgery," says Bentley. "Everyone involved is a lifesaver and a rock star to me."

Building on the initial successes of the minimally invasive cardiac surgery program, RUH Foundation and supporters like the Kinsmen Telemiracle Foundation have purchased additional equipment dedicated to this new procedure. Your generosity is a lifeline to those in need and an investment in a healthier tomorrow.

To learn more about how your donation advances patient care excellence at RUH, please scan the QR code below, visit ruh.org or contact RUH Foundation at 306.655.1984 or info@ruh.org.





Grateful for Heart Monitoring Equipment

Dwayne Nicholson's wonderful big smile says it all! That's because he can now receive a portion of follow-up care for his Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD), commonly known as a mechanical heart, at RUH rather than in Alberta.

Dwayne is extremely grateful that RUH Foundation, its donors, and Orano's Wish Fund have purchased a \$20,000 wireless communication system for RUH's Heart Function Clinic that monitors his mechanical heart's performance and adjusts its functioning parameters.

"The new piece of equipment is worth its weight in gold to patients like me and our families," says Dwayne, referring to the HeartMate Touch Communication System.

The Big River resident is one of 22 people in the province living with a battery-operated LVAD that is implanted in patients who have reached end-stage heart failure or are possible candidates for a heart transplant.

Dwayne had his LVAD surgery in Edmonton in 2019, and as long as he requires his mechanical heart, the 58-year-old needs to be diligent in monitoring its performance.

"Having this service available at RUH helps reduce the emotional and financial stress of always travelling out of province for some of my follow-up care."

The HeartMate Touch monitoring equipment was one of 23 items purchased last year through the Foundation's annual HUG (Helping, Understanding, Giving) Fund. Just over \$100,000 was awarded to help buy various items, ranging from \$600 to \$9,700, to enhance RUH's patients, families, and staff experiences. Other items supported by HUG included a blanket warming cabinet, cell phone charging station locker, sleep chairs, and portable vital sign monitoring machines.

If you care to donate directly to the HUG Fund, please call RUH Foundation at 306.655.1984.



CEO MESSAGE

The start of a new year is always exciting and at RUH Foundation, we couldn't agree more. A New Year offers new opportunities to continue our work to reimagine how we can meaningfully support patients and their families on their medical journeys.

Through the generosity of our donors, RUH Foundation is transforming health care at the province's largest clinical, research and teaching hospital. Together, with you, we can inspire innovation and transformation.

Ensuring that our patients have access to the best specialists, equipment and new procedures is what drives our work on a daily basis. Working with donors who share in our vision, is our greatest joy.

In this edition of *Milestones*, we celebrate the generosity of Irene and Leslie Dubé. The Dubés are incredibly kind and thoughtful people, who want to ensure that the world is a little better for everyone. It is important to the Dubés though, that people understand the power of all gifts, of all sizes. Each one makes a difference in our community and, at RUH, your support saves and improves lives right here in Saskatchewan.

Thank you to all of our donors for continuing to support RUH Foundation, our patients and our health-care teams.

Gratefully,



J. Molloy
CEO JENNIFER MOLLOY, CFRE



(l-r) Dr. Mary Kinloch, Division Head, Anatomic Pathology and WLP Program Chair; Dr. Mita Manna, Medical Oncologist and the 2023 WLP Grant Recipient; and Maeghan Dubois, RUH Foundation Board Member

Breast Cancer Genetic Testing Proposal Awarded WLP Grant

Krista Schiebelbein is a breast cancer survivor. Her medical journey consists of many interventions, including a double mastectomy performed in the wake of a long-awaited genetic test confirming she had a gene mutation that increases one's lifetime risk of breast cancer by 60 to 80 percent.

"Had I known about that mutation sooner, I might have been spared those surgeries altogether," says Krista. "And think about my children . . . (this) could bring them answers sooner, revealing their risks of cancer."

In Saskatchewan, women with breast cancer can wait up to five years for genetic testing, risking serious consequences for themselves and their families, says Oncologist Dr. Mita Manna, Royal University Hospital Foundation's Women Leading Philanthropy (WLP) \$100,000 grant recipient for 2023.

"Time is of the essence for these patients," says Dr. Manna.

Dr. Manna was one of three short-listed presenters whose project proposals were heard and voted on in September by WLP members—a group of over 130 like-minded women whose donations fund innovative health-care initiatives led by female physicians, practitioners and researchers at Royal University Hospital.

WLP's grant will support Dr. Manna's mainstream genetic testing pilot program to improve timely access to genetic testing without prior consultation with genetic counsellors. Only those with identified gene mutations would then be referred to medical geneticists, optimizing cancer care and patient outcomes.

"This is about placing patients at the centre," says Dr. Manna. "It isn't just a step forward; it is a leap toward a brighter horizon for cancer care in Saskatchewan."

Dr. Manna's presentation inspired additional support from a grateful patient of hers who provided an additional \$50,000 to further the project.

Since its inception six years ago, WLP has granted \$750,000 to support eight care-transforming projects for women and their families.

To learn more about RUH Foundation's WLP program, please scan the QR code below, visit ruh.org/women-leading-philanthropy, or call Lisa Sands, Chief Development Officer, at 306.655.6477.





(l-r) Generous donors, Marg and Don Ravis; Dr. Margot Davis, Director of the University of British Columbia Cardiology-Oncology Program; Jennifer Molloy, RUH Foundation CEO; Dr. Haissam Haddad, Provincial Department Head of Medicine, Saskatchewan Health Authority and University of Saskatchewan

Donation Bolsters Training and Education for Cardiologists

Thank you to Don and Marg Ravis for their recent gift of \$75,000 to advance cardiac care excellence at Royal University Hospital. This generous donation is designated for the RUH Cardiac Care Endowment the couple created in 2021. The endowment supports the purchase of new state-of-the-art cardiac care equipment and advanced education and training for cardiologists. It also supports the cardiologists' opportunities to network and collaborate with other cardiac centres

and share knowledge regarding new technology and innovation.

The Ravis' announced their additional support to the endowment on November 22 following an inspiring and informative presentation by Dr. Margot Davis, a cardiologist and Director of the University of British Columbia Cardiology-Oncology Program, to dozens of cardiologists and support team professionals at RUH.

Their donation will support a five-year annual cardiology lecture speaker series in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan Department of Medicine and other pressing cardiac priorities at RUH.

To learn more about the RUH Cardiac Care Endowment and how you can support it, please contact Candace Boersma, Legacy Giving and Donor Relations at 306.655.6501 or candace.boersma@ruh.org.

YOU'RE INVITED!

March 20, 2024
Greek Gourmet Feast

March 26, 2024
Purple Day for Epilepsy - wear purple!

June 5, 2024
Women Leading Philanthropy Meeting

June 25 & 26, 2024
FFUN Spirit Champions Classic
Moon Lake Golf & Country Club

Visit ruh.org for details.

40th Annual Greek Gourmet Feast

Opa!

A few tickets remain for RUH Foundation's 40th annual Greek Gourmet Feast, hosted by Mano's and presented by Nutrien, on March 20. Proceeds will support a much-needed upgrade to the Cardiac Cath Lab. This memorable evening includes a traditional Greek welcome and a delicious five-course authentic Greek dinner. Tickets are \$300 each and are available at ruh.org. Since its inception in 1984, the Greek Gourmet Feast has raised more than \$1.4 million (net) for RUH Foundation. Thank you to Taso Barlas, Chef Richard and the entire staff at Mano's for their dedication to this fundraising feast, and our incredible sponsors: Nutrien; Manos; Associated Radiologists; NexGen Energy Ltd.; RBC PH&N Investment Counsel; SaskTel; S.O. Asher Consultants Ltd.; University of Saskatchewan Department of Medicine; Ens Auto; Schaan Healthcare Products; and many more!

How You Can Triple the Impact of Your Charitable Donation

Article written by Keith Pavo, RBC Dominion Securities Inc. and RUH Foundation Legacy Giving Advisory Committee member.

Canadians are known worldwide as compassionate people, who give generously to charities and humanitarian organizations. Have you ever wished there was a way to leverage the value of your donations to a charity?

These days, many individuals are looking beyond cash gifts to find other mechanisms to help them have an even larger impact on the charities that they love and are committed to. If you could magnify the value of your cash gift today, would you consider this option?

Take Maria, who is committed to providing \$10,000 this year to one of her favorite charities (see accompanying chart). The charity discusses with her another new option to simply making this donation by cheque, one that can provide significantly more resources to the charity.



	Standard Cash Gift Option	Magnified Gift Option
Gift	\$10,000	\$10,000
Donation Receipt	\$10,000	\$10,000
Legacy Value*	\$0	\$31,000

(*Assumes that Marie, currently age 60, passes away age 90)

This new option is an exciting life insurance product that allows a one-time contribution

to the charity, with the same donation receipts as before, but with a simple, straight-forward Life Insurance Policy. The Policy can either provide income to the charity, or more insurance to magnify the original gift. It is the first time an insurance product has been designed solely for charitable giving.

Whether you're donating time or money, you're giving because you have a desire to help charities that are important to you. This way of giving gives you the opportunity to make an impact on your charitable giving today and it will make an even larger impact for patients at Royal University Hospital in the future.

As you consider supporting RUH Foundation, be sure to discuss your legacy giving options or any other significant tax planning with your financial advisor or lawyer. For more information about planned or legacy giving to RUH Foundation, please contact Candace Boersma, Legacy Gifts and Donor Relations Officer at 306.655.6501 or candace.boersma@ruh.org.

Thank You Notes

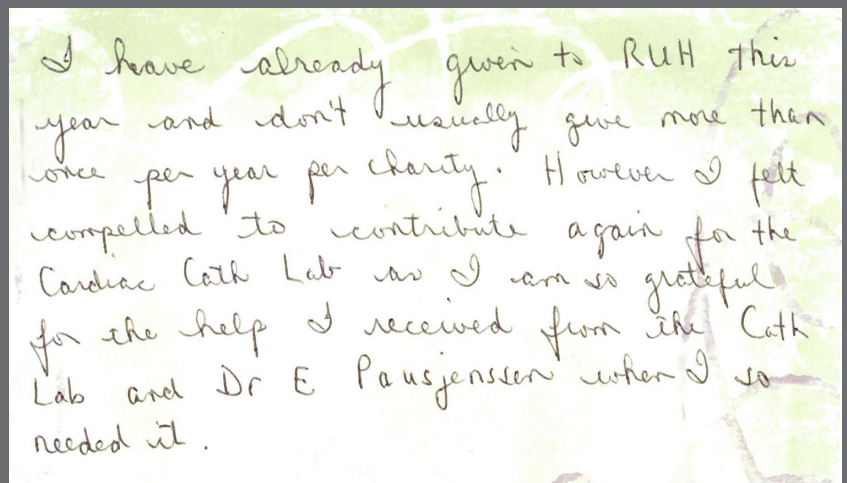
Thank you for your generous support and words of encouragement for the Royal University Hospital Foundation and RUH's dedicated and talented medical and support teams. Your generosity makes a difference in the lives of so many patients 24 hours a day, 365 days a year at RUH.

"Thank you to Drs. Shovadia, Pylypchuk, Eckstein, Kushneriuk and all of the residents and staff on the cardiac unit that helped me during a very difficult time."

"A small donation, given with gratitude for my two GI surgeries with Dr. Gill at RUH."

"My recent care was outstanding, to say the least. More to come later, for sure!!"

Thank you for your kind words and generosity. At RUH, we all appreciate your big-heartedness greatly. If you'd like to share a story about the exceptional care you or a loved one received at RUH, please send us a note to info@ruh.org.



Thank you!

Donate Now

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Royal University Hospital Foundation Strategic Plan



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SPECIAL GIFTS

A gift *In Honour* is made to commemorate a loved one or friend, to mark a milestone or to celebrate a special occasion. A gift *In Memory* is a lasting tribute to someone departed who was respected and loved. We thank family members and friends who paid tribute to the following individuals between August 1, 2023 and January 31, 2024, by making donations in their names.

IN HONOUR OF

Dr. K. Adey
Dr. Rob Basi
Dr. Rashpal Basran
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103 Hospital Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W8
Phone: 306.655.1984 Fax: 306.655.1979
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