

## Your gifts save lives

As Canadians, we expect the highest quality health care. Medical technology advances so quickly, however, it's only through continued support from the entire community that we can invest in the tools that directly improve patient care and recovery.

The PRHC Foundation works to inspire support throughout the region to provide the professionals at PRHC with the tools they need to ease pain, restore health and save lives.

We are committed to the stewardship of the funds entrusted to us, and dedicated to making sure they are put to the best use in our hospital.

If you have any questions, please call us at (705) 876-5000 or send an email to [foundation@prhc.on.ca](mailto:foundation@prhc.on.ca).

## Donors essential to providing expert care to critically-ill patients in ICU

Caring for the region's sickest patients is extremely unique and challenging work. At PRHC, that care is provided by a team consisting of more than 100 expert medical professionals and physicians providing 24/7 medical, surgical and cardiac care in the Intensive Care Unit.

"One of the most common issues we face in the ICU is the need to use mechanical ventilation to help many of our patients breathe, particularly in the case of acute respiratory distress," says ICU Intensivist Dr. Greg Bishop. "In fact, of the 24 beds in our ICU, at any given time we could have as many as ten patients depending on ventilators due to lung-related infections or inflammation."

"Ventilators are a life-saver," says Dr. Bishop, "but there can be risks associated with being on them too long such as Ventilator Acquired Pneumonia (VAP). Preventing this condition requires expert team work. Our physicians and nurses work side by side with respiratory therapists to prevent this condition. In fact, the excellent reputation of our staff and the care they provide is demonstrated in the most practical terms when you keep in mind that PRHC's ICU VAP rates are currently lower than the benchmark for the province."

Dr. Bishop also says that providing expert care requires highly specialized equipment.

"There are many risks we encounter when we're treating critically-ill pa-



Photo: Dr. Greg Bishop, Intensivist in PRHC's ICU consults with members of the ICU team Heather S., Charge Nurse; Donna R., RN; and Andrea H., Respiratory Therapist.

tients," he adds. "Having access to the right equipment the moment a seriously-ill patient arrives is essential."

You can help the ICU team save lives by sup-

porting the purchase of equipment like an oscillating ventilator that reduces the risk of complications. To find out more or to make a gift, please call (705) 876-5000.

## With your help, we'll be ready

Heart attacks, car accidents, sudden fevers, severe falls – everyone knows that accidents and emergencies can and do happen – usually when you least expect it.

**The PRHC Foundation is working to raise \$1.5 million to fund urgent care equipment - the kind of equipment essential to the treatment of sudden and traumatic injury and illness.**

PRHC's Intensive Care Unit, Emergency Department, Surgical Services Department, Laboratory and Diagnostic Imaging Department all require equipment investments to support patients in need of urgent medical attention.

Equipment priorities range from lab equipment that helps identify potentially life-threatening internal bleeding, to an oscillating venti-

lator that helps patients breathe when they can't do it on their own. In other words, equipment that saves lives.

Seconds count when you're saving a life. It's critical that PRHC's expert medical professionals have access to the right equipment the moment a seriously ill or injured patient arrives. With your help, we'll be ready.

## State-of-the-art diagnostic imaging and expert emergency care prove instrumental in saving toddler's life

Like many young couples, Jessica and Gavin McLearn had never given the hospital much thought. That changed the day two-year-old Rowan was critically injured after falling down a flight of stairs. Without warning, PRHC became the centre of their universe.

What Jessica McLearn remembers most about the day her two-year-old son fell down the stairs is how quickly their world turned upside down.

"It all happened in the blink of an eye," says Jessica. "One moment

Rowan was playing quietly and the next he was laying there with a fractured skull."

The accident occurred on a sunny summer day during a visit to their family cottage. Because Rowan was an active toddler at the time, his grandparents had installed safety gates on the stairs. Unfortunately, their efforts weren't enough to prevent every parent's worst nightmare.

In a state of panic, Jessica and Gavin rushed Rowan to PRHC's Emergency Department where he was treated immediately. After the ER trauma team stabilized his critical condition, he was eventually transferred

to the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. But PRHC's role in saving Rowan's life wasn't over.

"When Rowan's condition suddenly and inexplicably deteriorated, an earlier CT scan taken at PRHC proved crucial because it showed a breach in the membrane of his brain that couldn't be found in any scans taken afterwards," says Jessica.

Thankfully, Rowan made a full recovery, but his story is a reminder that serious accidents can happen at any time. Your support helps fund urgent care equipment that saves the lives of patients like Rowan. He's the reason we need your support.



Photo: Gwen, Rowan, Gavin and Jessica McLearn

### Our top equipment priorities

The first urgent care equipment investments we will make are:

**Four Electrocardiogram (ECG) Machines (\$36,500 each)** – Timely diagnosis and treatment of heart attacks, strokes, severe trauma and more

**Laboratory Coagulation System (\$200,000)** – Enhanced reliability, quality and faster turnaround times for test results on patients with potentially life-threatening internal bleeding

**Two Operating Room Joint Surgery Tools (\$27,500 each)** – Allowing PRHC's surgeons to respond to more emergencies and perform more orthopedic surgeries each day

**Ventilator for Intensive Care Unit (\$43,000)** – Providing the best care to patients in severe respiratory distress, particularly those fighting new and deadly strains of the flu

To make a gift, please call (705) 876-5000 or visit [www.byourside.ca](http://www.byourside.ca).

Stay tuned for an exciting announcement about a new campaign to expand cancer care in our community!

## Anonymous gift helps save the life of a critically-ill patient in the ICU

We tell our donors all the time – your gifts save lives. Donations to the PRHC Foundation support the medical equipment needed to provide life-saving care.

In March 2010, however, an anonymous gift enabled the purchase of a piece of equipment that began saving the life of a critically-ill patient the moment it was delivered to the hospital.

According to Denise Freeburn, Manager of PRHC's Intensive Care

Unit (ICU), a patient was brought to the unit in need of immediate dialysis. That's when they discovered that the ICU's only portable dialysis machine was already in use and both patients were far too ill to be moved to the dialysis unit.

Thanks to a donor, however, the PRHC Foundation was able to purchase a second portable dialysis machine (also known as a Continuous Renal Therapy machine) for the ICU, allowing the second

critically-ill patient to receive the life-saving care he needed.

Denise believes when it comes to life-saving therapy it is essential to have more than one piece of equipment. If it weren't for this donor's generosity, the patient may not have survived.

This is the power of giving. On behalf of our patients and staff, thank you to all our donors for your continued support.