

ANNUAL REPORT

2024
2025



***Seventy
Years and
Counting***



The Guild was formed in 1954 to provide a structured way for volunteers to raise funds for the Victoria Hospital's move from River Avenue to Pembina Highway in 1971.

70 years later, we continue to volunteer with a mission of enhancing patient care at Victoria Hospital through charitable means and services.

Inspired by patients. Powered by volunteers.

2024/25 BOARD MEMBERS

President - Brenda Catchpole
Vice-President - Jackie Dutfield
Immediate Past President - Louise Horst
Secretary - Nadine Slight
Treasurer - Marilyn Nash
Fundraising Director - Janet Evans
Gift Shop Director - Corine Poirier
Gift Shop Treasurer - Carol Oppermann
Assistant Treasurer - Boni Chowdhury
Gift Shop Assistant Treasurer - Roine Thomsen
Communications/Publicity Director - Zdenka Melnyk
Education/Social Director - Helga Smyrl
Member Relations/Archive Director - Helen Kirby
Social Media/Promotions Director - Brenda Catchpole
Member At Large - Diane French
Volunteer Services Manager (ex-officio) - Robyn Jones

Still standing on guard for thee!



Following world politics has practically been a full-time job this year, but one of the most heart-warming outcomes has been watching Canadians recommit to many of our country's unique values. We treasure our access to healthcare, and we understand the importance of caring for those going through a rough patch. I see these values in action every day that I volunteer with the Guild. Every volunteer brings kindness and compassion to the job. As we celebrated our 70th anniversary this year, the archives tell us this giving spirit has been in place since day one.

Within our volunteer corps is a group specifically dedicated to fundraising for the hospital. It is challenging work that often requires us to stretch creatively and to operate well beyond our comfort zone. But because our work is consistent with our values, those old Canadian values, we carry on. We have had another successful year making a measurable impact at our beloved Victoria Hospital.

Please enjoy taking a few minutes to read about this work. And please consider whether there is a way you can be a part of this truly Canadian movement!

On behalf of the Board, I'd like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Robyn Jones, Volunteer Manager, and her amazing staff, Kendra and Simran. We are beyond thankful for Debbie Hanton, our incredible gift shop coordinator. Huge appreciation to Vic COO Ray Sanchez and every member of the Victoria Hospital staff for being the best partners ever!

It has been a joy to chair this organization for the last two years. As I step into another Guild role, I extend enormous thanks to the Board members I've worked with, and throw my complete support behind incoming president, Jackie Dutfield. To the next 70 years!

Brenda Catchpole
President

10 Ways We Made A Difference This Year

#1 Short Term Medications



You bridged our patient until her pharmacare approval kicked in, allowing her to be safely discharged. -Unit 6

#2 Hygiene Supplies



Thanks for 1790 toothbrushes, 962 razors, 539 nail clippers and over 8,000 other hygiene supplies.

#3 Washer & Dryer



Allowing patients to wash their own clothes restores dignity and teaches skills. - Unit 6

#4 Clothes Closet



Some patients have one outfit to their name. A new sweater or pair of pants gives them confidence, a huge part of their recovery. - Unit 3

#5 "Prayer Shawls"



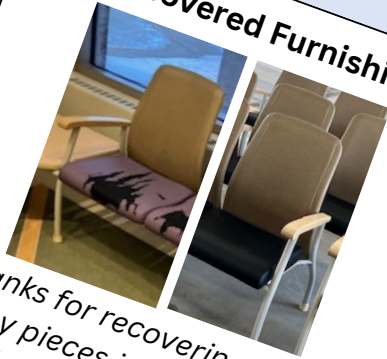
I placed the prayer shawl with the patient; the family were very touched because it showed the Vic staff were watching over her. -Spiritual Care

#6 Activity Supplies



Activity kits occupy patients and reduce isolation; the shift in mood and interactions is amazing! - Unit 4 South

#7 Recovered Furnishings



Thanks for recovering so many pieces in our waiting area! - Urgent Care.

#8 Pet Therapy



Pet therapy and music therapy have improved patients' emotional and mental health. The presence of a therapy dog or a musician is transformative, especially for patients experiencing dementia, anxiety, or depression. - Unit 4 South

#9 Music Therapy



#10 Patient Transport



A patient with an amputation required specialized transport home, but the family was unable to pay. Thanks - 4 North

People ... will never forget how you made them feel.
- Maya Angelou

Our Top 3 Sources of Fundraising...

In 2024-25 we granted the hospital over \$63,000. As we like to joke, that is a lot of \$2 raffle tickets and chocolate bars. In truth, we have three main funding sources. Here is a little insight into each, and the highlights from this year.

Our Gift Shop



It has been a busy year for the Gift Shop team! Thanks to an influx of new volunteers, we are now thrilled to be open 7 days a week.

We now offer personalized shopping parties - we've been entertaining small groups with snacks and individualized attention. These events are becoming very popular.



Early in the year our Gift Shop software met its demise, requiring us to invest in a new system for sales and inventory. We are incredibly indebted to Michael Graham and Lise Belanger from local business Frescolio who volunteered their time and expertise to get us back in business. Kudos to all Gift Shop volunteers for taking on the challenge of a new program!



Congrats also to our Gift Shop volunteers who were nominated for a Volunteer Manitoba award this year!

Please drop by and visit! We always have new products in the shop!

Donations & Grants



As a charitable foundation registered with the Canada Revenue Agency, we accept direct donations to support patient care activities. This year we were able to fund the full pet therapy program and contribute to some other important programming through the generosity of our private donors.

This year we also gratefully received several grants from other organizations which fueled our monthly raffles and offset our entire Clothes Closet program. We are so thankful!

Fundraising Events



We have a very small but very mighty fundraising team. Over 12 months they undertook the following initiatives:

- Six monthly prize raffles with \$2 tickets
- One special raffle for Jets tickets, with \$5 tickets sold for cash or online
- One three-day book sale
- Participation in a 50-50 draw wth two other partners
- An afternoon of Photos with Santa
- An “Ice Candles” holiday fundraiser

Additionally, they were on hand to collect donations and issue tax receipts at our 70th Anniversary, and a tea held in honour of former volunteer Lesley Iredale.

70 Years And Counting...



Thanks to everyone who came out to celebrate our 70th anniversary at the South Winnipeg Community Centre this year. Particular thanks to our guest speakers - Ashley Seymour from Volunteer Manitoba, Joanne Lysack and Ray Sanchez from Victoria Hospital, and MLA Jennifer Chen.

We were humbled and surprised when Ms. Chen, MLA for Fort Richmond, invited a contingent of the Guild to be her guests in the Legislature. There, she read a special Member's Statement acknowledging our contribution over the last seven decades. When she finished, all of the MLAs gave us a standing ovation. What a day!

Thanks to our Donors

We are indebted to many personal donors who contributed to our programming this year through monthly giving, donations made in memory of a loved one, and one-time gifts. Your generosity changes lives.

To the thousands of folks who have bought raffle tickets, purchased used books, sponsored an ice candle, and supported our other fundraisers, thank you! Your thoughtfulness makes magic happen.

We are also enormously grateful to the organizations who made space for us in their charitable giving. We couldn't do this without you. Particular thanks to:

4Imprint Canada, Ambrosie Lighting and Electrical Services, Assiniboine Park Zoo, Fort Whyte, Four Points Winnipeg, Frescolio, Jensen Nursery & Garden Centre, Lacoste Garden Centre, Lawton Partners, Nicolino's Restaurant, Ron Paul Garden Centre, Sage Garden Greenhouses, St. Mary's Nursery and Garden Centre, Smitty's Restaurant, Susan Moxley Cote, The Chamois, The Original Pancake House, The Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada, True North Entertainment, Winnipeg Blue Bombers, and The Winnipeg Foundation.

Financial Overview

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	
Cash	\$343,080
Investments	\$254,458
Receivables	\$11,491
Inventory	\$20,881
Total Assets	\$629,910
Liabilities	\$16,223
Net Assets	\$629,910

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Revenue	
Donations	\$33,539
Interest Income	\$24,265
Fundraising & Grants	\$16,095
INet Giftshop Revenue	-2990
Total Revenue	\$70,909
Expenses	
Grants to Victoria Hospital	\$44,979
Scholarships	\$1000
Administration	\$17,909
Total Expenses	\$63,888

Be Part of the Solution!

Interested in helping us to support Victoria Hospital? There are so many ways you can be part of our work. Here are seven:

- Consider a one-time donation, or a small monthly commitment.
- Donate your time to organize a fundraiser, help sell raffle tickets, or solicit prizes for raffles.
- Donate used books and certain handicrafts for sale in the gift shop.
- Consider us for a legacy gift (as part of an estate plan) or as a charity for memorial donations at a time of loss.
- Suggest our name if you know of a business making a charitable contribution.
- Shop at our amazing Gift Shop; how about a personal shopping party?
- Buy raffle tickets!
- Follow us on social media, and share our posts!

Let's stay in touch!

 <https://vicguild.ca>

  @theVicGiftShop

 info@vicguild.ca

 Volunteer Guild of Victoria Hospital,
2340 Pembina Highway,
Winnipeg, Manitoba,
R3T 2E8.

Last, But Not Least...

Before we close the book on 2024-25, here are just a few more special memories that we can't forget!

Holiday Gifts



Nobody wants to spend the holidays in hospital, so we gifted each patient a good luck gnome and a sweet poem!

Coverage in the Free Press



Thanks to the Winnipeg Free Press for their lovely coverage of our Shop and Volunteers.

Lesley Iredale



We held a fundraising tea in memory of this volunteer extraordinaire - watch for an upcoming tribute!

Scholarships



Our investment income helped fund scholarships for two of our young volunteers and one hospital staff member.

Official Name Change



Previously we were the "Guild of the Victoria General Hospital Inc." This year we amended our name slightly for greater clarity.

Everyone Needs Some Fun



Thanks to our Social Committee members who support volunteer engagement with fun and educational events!