



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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The Sackville Memorial Hospital Foundation Launches 2015 **We Care To make you better Campaign**

The Sackville Memorial Hospital (SMH) Foundation has set an ambitious goal of \$100,000 for the 2015 **We Care To make you better** Campaign to purchase a variety of much needed items to enhance the comfort, care and safety of patients.

This latest campaign will touch virtually every department at the SMH.

The SMH is known for its exceptional **Emergency Room (ER)** service. Over \$20,000 has been earmarked for the ER this year including a Cardiac Ultra Sound Probe (\$8,250), an accessory which will maximize the use of the ultrasound equipment bought previously by the Foundation. The probe, which can be used at the bedside, will allow a better quality view of the heart, making diagnosis quicker and improving management of the treatment provided. Also on the list for the ER is a reclining exam/procedures chair offering medical staff access to their patient from both sides, and an inflatable air mattress system increasing ease, comfort and safety when transferring patients between a bed and a stretcher designed specifically to reduce staff injuries.

More than \$36,000 will be invested on the **Brunswick Unit**, a 21 bed inpatient unit that provides necessary treatment for diseases such as cancer or severe episodes of illness such as a stroke. The Unit's goal is to ensure patients, mainly seniors, are healthy and stable prior to being discharged. Items to be purchased include two pressure mattresses for prevention and treatment of ulcers, a reclining geriatric chair which easily repositions when sitting and helps patients with dementia, a bariatric wheelchair for obese patients, 23 bedside stands and overhead tables, two booster seats, oxygen stands for wheelchairs, and a TV for the patient lounge.

Occupational Therapy (OT) will receive a specialized wheelchair at a cost of \$8,600. This particular wheelchair can be tilted back, allowing gravity to assist the patient to stay upright in the chair should they have weak trunk control, as often occurs when someone has a stroke, for example.

A barrier-free examination table designed to make it easier to treat patients will replace an aging one in the **Ambulatory Care Clinic** (where care is delivered on an out-patient basis). In addition, much needed modular seating will be purchased for the waiting area. The new seating will be washable, which is important for infection control, as well as offer space for obese patients. Over \$21,000 will be invested in the Ambulatory Care Clinic.

Cardiac Services will be provided with a Holter monitor, which continually tracks a patient's heart rhythm for a 24 hour period, and a blood pressure monitor. There are currently four Holter and blood pressure monitors. The new equipment will allow two additional patients per week to have access to these heart services which are provided in the Diagnostic Imaging (radiology) Department. Local residents aren't required to travel to Moncton for this testing as the information from the Holter monitor is able to be downloaded at SMH and read by cardiologists at The Moncton Hospital.

Julie Martin, Nurse Manager for both the Brunswick Unit and the ER, says the impact that these purchases will have on patients is significant. *"The items will improve quality of life and safety for our patients and reduce infection rates and length of stay."*

In all, \$100,000 will be invested to improve patient care at our hospital. And that's where you can help.

Campaign Chair, Elaine Smith, says a number of local volunteers are working diligently to support the campaign through many fund raising efforts including direct mail, staff campaign, special events and face-to-face canvassing. *"Your generosity today will help us to continue offering excellent patient care at the Sackville Memorial Hospital."*

The Foundation hopes the goal is reached by the end of June. If you would like to make a donation, you can contact the Foundation at 364-4204, drop by the hospital, or donate securely on-line at www.smhf.ca/donate.

If the the campaign goal is exceeded, the additional funds will be used on the Hospital's other priority needs. **Our Hospital. Our Health Care.**

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