

Inspire

SPRING 2022

STORIES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

A Tense Beginning Leads to Seven Years (and counting) Of Good Luck for Regina Family



Terra Bucsis (left) and her younger sister

In April of 2014, Amy Bucsis' pregnancy was going according to plan. At least it was, until Amy's doctor told her the baby needed to be delivered by C-section two and a half weeks ahead of her due date. Fortunately, Amy and her husband Russ had our world-class medical team in the Rawlco Centre for Mother Baby Care at Regina's General Hospital (RGH) to count on.

"During a routine ultrasound on April 8, they explained to me that my baby wasn't moving much," says Amy. "She had stopped growing and she needed to be delivered ASAP. The next day, I was at RGH and Terra was born by C-section a short time later."

Tiny Terra arrived in the world weighing a bit under 4.5 pounds. Amy and Russ spent a few moments with her before she was taken by the medical team to our Special Care Nursery, a part of our NICU for babies who are still premature but need less critical care.

"Terra's situation wasn't necessarily a matter of life and death," Amy acknowledges. "However, when it's your first child, and she is so small and frail, it

can be very scary. Fortunately, the medical staff was fantastic, taking the time to answer all our questions and calm our nerves. That helped a lot."

Terra stayed in the Special Care Nursery for ten days, until her doctor decided she had grown strong enough to go home. Today, she's healthy and strong, living the life of a typical seven-year-old. She's doing very well in school, and enjoys activities including gymnastics and swimming lessons.

"Our family is just so grateful for the Rawlco Centre for Mother Baby Care," Amy says. "I can't even imagine how stressful it would have been to have to travel further away. We're also thankful for all of the Hospitals of Regina Foundation donors. Their support gives our medical teams access to the best available technology and equipment, which is literally saving lives."

"Stories like Terra's bring home the importance of investing in pediatric units like the Rawlco Centre for Mother Baby Care," says Dino Sophocleous, president and CEO Hospitals of Regina Foundation. "We are committed to ensuring babies from southern Saskatchewan and their families have access to the best possible care, right here at home, when they need it the most."



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Luna Weimer, cancer survivor

Thyssen Mining Supports Local Children's Cancer Care

As a leader in underground mine contracting with projects all across North America, you may be surprised to know that Thyssen Mining Construction of Canada has called Regina home since the 1960s and has deep roots here. With over 100 local employees and over 1,000 employees across North America, Thyssen Mining supports many organizations and volunteer groups, helping them to build strong communities. Working with local organizations, Thyssen Mining seeks to create a positive impact where their employees work and live.

Thyssen Mining has supported Hospitals of Regina Foundation since 1988, helping the Foundation invest in our hospitals so patients can continue to receive the best local care possible.

“This year, we are thrilled to announce that Thyssen Mining has made a five year commitment to help our efforts to keep kids health care local” says Jessica Rawn, director, development at Hospitals of Regina Foundation. “Their pledge of \$100,000 will help us invest in a new children's cancer clinic at Regina General Hospital.

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Last year, 28 children from southern Saskatchewan were diagnosed with cancer and 160 were actively receiving cancer treatment or follow up care.

Childhood cancer is relatively rare, but when it happens it can be life-threatening. During what is a scary time for children and parents alike, being close to home while receiving treatment is of paramount importance!

Regina's new children's cancer clinic will be built beside our pediatric inpatient unit at Regina General Hospital and will help families from all over the southern half of the province. It will include a family-friendly reception area and six infusion bays in an open environment for the delivery of chemotherapy or other treatments. The infusion bays will have a clear line of site to the nurse's station for careful monitoring of the children. The clinic will also provide coordinated follow up care. An estimated two-thirds of childhood cancer survivors will have at least one chronic or long-term side effect from their cancer treatment. This usually means regular monitoring by pediatric specialists. The whole family will benefit from a welcoming and coordinated approach to supporting their child as they battle their illness.



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Keeping up with the Jones - Regina Couple Invests in Health Care for the Future

To call Ron and Lovella Jones community-minded is a bit of an understatement. If you've attended a major sporting event in Regina in recent years, chances are you've crossed paths with one, or both members of this dynamic duo.

Ron and Lovella regularly greet visitors at Mosaic Stadium in their roles as Game Day Volunteer Managers for the Saskatchewan Roughriders. They also volunteer for the Regina Thunder football team. Their spirit of volunteerism extends to hockey, curling, golf, the annual Queen City Marathon and the Saskatchewan Winter Games. With Regina hosting the Grey Cup in 2022, you can expect to see them throughout that week as part of the festival planning committee. Their community spirit also extends to the health care sector, through their support of Hospitals of Regina Foundation.

"We retired four years ago, and were updating our wills recently," Ron explains. "With our interest in the community, supporting the Foundation through a legacy gift seemed like a perfect fit."

"We felt targeting our gift towards sports medicine made the most sense," Lovella continues. "Not only have Ron and I been involved in sports our entire lives, but we wanted to ensure our support benefitted as many people as possible – and sports includes everyone, from young children all the way up to some of the oldest people in our



Ron & Lovella Jones at Regina Pats game

community. That was definitely a factor in our decision-making."

Ron and Lovella felt their gift to Hospitals of Regina Foundation gave them the most "bang for their buck" and the Foundation's commitment to supporting the best possible health care for residents of Regina, and across southern Saskatchewan, really resonated.

"We can see the Foundation making a difference in so many lives," Ron says. "Not only are they investing in technology and equipment, but their support also helps attract and retain the best health care professionals to Regina. Quality health care should be available for everyone, and the Foundation helps make that a reality."

"Choosing to leave a legacy gift in your Will is a deeply personal decision," Lovella states. "We would certainly encourage anyone to support an organization that aligns with their own interests and priorities. For us, that's Hospitals of Regina Foundation. The Foundation's work literally checked all the boxes for us."

"We deeply appreciate the support of Ron and Lovella, and all of our legacy donors," says Dino Sophocleous, president and CEO Hospitals of Regina Foundation. "Their generosity will help us invest in the technology our hospitals need, ensuring the people of southern Saskatchewan have access to the best local health care possible."



Linda and her mother, Irene Piasta

Palliative Care Provides Comfort for Regina Family

“Mom passed away a couple of weeks later,” Linda says. “But I’m so grateful for the time she had in palliative care. Honestly, the nurses and all the staff there are amazing. I describe them as angels. The work they do in providing care and comfort to terminally ill people and their families is just incredible.”

When 91-year-old Irene Piasta of Regina passed away last year after a brief battle with cancer, her daughter Linda lost more than a mother. “She was my best friend, my companion,” Linda explains. “We used to phone each other four times a day. Losing my mom is like losing a huge piece of my heart.”

Irene started experiencing back pain around Christmas, 2020. By March, the pain had increased to the point where she was taken by ambulance to Regina’s Pasqua Hospital. That’s when a diagnosis of cancer was confirmed.

“We don’t even know how widespread the cancer was,” Linda states. “She didn’t want any treatment, no diagnostic tests, nothing. She just wanted to go out on her own terms, as comfortable and pain free as possible.”

After a short stint in an assisted living facility, Irene returned to Pasqua Hospital in May 2021, this time entering the Palliative Care Unit.

Every year, many families in Regina and southern Saskatchewan are faced with the emotional and physical challenges of a loved one with terminal illness or severely life limiting conditions. Our palliative care program provides much needed comfort and care for these patients during the final stages of life. It also empowers their families to assist in their care, to prepare for and cope with the death of their loved ones, and to ultimately heal and re-join an active life in the community.

Thanks to a generous \$110,000 commitment from RBC Foundation in 2020 and 2021, the Foundation was able to make important investments in the priority needs of the Palliative Care In-Patient Unit at Pasqua Hospital, as well as Palliative Homecare Services. The investments in equipment such as slings, lifts, and air mattresses will be used every day to help patients and families.

“Our communities are made stronger when we lean into care, kindness, and preserving the dignity of others.”

Don Morris
RBC Regional Vice President

“Our communities are made stronger when we lean into care, kindness, and preserving the dignity of others,” shares RBC Regional Vice President, Don Morris. “That is why RBC Foundation supports Palliative Care and honours the medical professionals, caregivers, and volunteers who choose to give the gift of compassion to those in our community in their most vulnerable moments.”

“Linda and Irene’s story is a valuable reminder of the importance of supporting palliative care in our community,” says Jessica Rawn, director of development, Hospitals of Regina Foundation. “The support of community minded partners like the RBC Foundation helps our palliative care teams make a very difficult time a bit easier for terminally ill patients and their families.”

Kinsmen Foundation gift Helps Thousands Live Better Lives



GI medical team using existing imaging system

Our digestive system is central to our body's ability to digest food, absorb nutrients and eliminate waste. Problems with this body system impact our overall health, can dramatically decrease our quality of life and, in some instances, may even be fatal.

Hospitals of Regina Foundation is investing \$1.7 million in our Gastrointestinal (GI) Unit at Pasqua Hospital to replace a specialized imaging system and other equipment which will help our specialists provide the best care possible. In a typical year, our GI specialists see more than 14,000 people and perform more than 12,000 procedures to save lives and improve quality of life.

A generous gift of \$100,000 from the Kinsmen Foundation in 2021 is helping

people who suffer with GI conditions or diseases live better lives.

"The Kinsmen Foundation was pleased to help fund this important initiative," says Board Chair Lyndsay L'Heureux. "We know that our gift will help out the thousands of people in Saskatchewan who rely on the GI Unit at the Pasqua Hospital every year."

The GI Unit at Pasqua Hospital is the only one in the province which performs a double balloon enteroscopy, a specialized procedure to view the whole small bowel to allow for the diagnosis and treatment of a variety of conditions, including vascular lesions and tumors. Thousands of people from across the province are referred here each year.

"The support of partners like the Kinsmen Foundation is invaluable. Thanks to them, our neighbours, friends and loved ones have access to the best local health care possible."

Dino Sophocleous
President and CEO
Hospitals of Regina Foundation

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2021 Fall Home Lottery *A Huge Success*

Our Home Lottery program continues to surprise and impress us through the great support of our amazing community. For the third time in the history of the Lottery's 50/50 Add-On, the total reached over \$1 Million in the fall of 2021! Thank you Saskatchewan for this amazing response. This proves, as we long suspected, that the people of this province are the most generous in the country.

The funds raised by our fall lottery will, as always, stay in southern Saskatchewan to support local pediatrics and the greatest needs in Regina's three hospitals, which serve the entire southern half of our great province.

We are very pleased to announce the winners of our 2021 Fall Home Lottery. Dale Scott of Regina is the winner of the Ripplinger built \$1.2 Million Grand Prize Showhome and \$30,000 CASH. Our Early Bird winner, Andrea Hubenig of Regina won the \$700,000 Ripplinger built Lakefront Cottage, and Russell and Lynda Peterson of Regina took home a whopping \$576,825 in yet another record breaking 50/50 Add-On prize.

Hundreds of additional winners won cars, vacations, cash and other prizes. Congratulations to all our winners, big and small. Your continued support allows us to help our hospitals deliver the best health care possible and make lives better for everyone in Regina and southern Saskatchewan.



Dale Scott, winner of Grand Prize Showhome and \$30,000 cash with Dino Sophocleous, President and CEO, Hospitals of Regina Foundation



Russell and Lynda Peterson, winner of \$576,825 with Dino Sophocleous, President and CEO, Hospitals of Regina Foundation



Four Seasons Ball

A HOSPITALS OF REGINA FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

JUNE 11, 2022 CONEXUS ARTS CENTRE



Join us for the year's most memorable charitable event — the Four Seasons Ball. At this elegant, black-tie evening event you will experience fine dining and unforgettable entertainment from Howie Mandel, one of Hollywood's biggest stars. Bid on the many spectacular items in this year's auction for your chance to win. Help us support local health care for our children, in their greatest time of need.

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World-class Cardiac Care *Gives Local Man a New Lease on Life*



Don and his father at his 65th birthday celebration

When Don Brooks talks about his experience in our Cardiac Care Unit (CCU) at Regina General Hospital (RGH), he can't help but be unrestrained in his praise for the unit and the staff who work there. If not for them, he knows he likely would not be here today.

On February 28, 2016, Don encountered difficulty breathing while at home in east Regina. He was rushed to RGH, where he was diagnosed with a pulmonary edema, a condition caused by excess fluid in the lungs as a result of the problems with his heart. Our cardiologists needed to insert a couple of stents into Don's blood vessels that same night, to clear up blockages. Over the course of the next eight months, he suffered two more pulmonary edema episodes, requiring the insertion of more stents and a pacemaker to regulate his heartbeat.

"I have to say, everyone at the CCU did a fantastic job throughout the process,"

Don said. "I owe them everything. Thanks to them, I was able to celebrate my 65th birthday, in February 2022, with my 93-year-old dad and other family members. That's a gift I'll never be able to repay."

"Don's story is an important reminder of how fortunate we are to have the CCU at the Mosaic Heart Centre in our community," says Lisa Green, senior vice-president, Hospitals of Regina Foundation. "With the help of our donors, we are committed to supporting excellent cardiac care by investing in the best technology and equipment available, so our cardiac teams can help people like Don live better lives."

Amazing Events *Generously Support our Hospitals*

After an incredibly challenging and isolating couple of years, 2022 has come roaring in with events returning to in-person attendance. We are so grateful to our community partners who were so dedicated to their fundraising events that they brought them back after short COVID hiatus.

Our great community has once again shown their dedication to making health care in Regina and southern Saskatchewan a priority. Thank you to the organizers, participants and sponsors of these great community events. Funds

raised are invested in many areas of Regina's hospitals to help our medical teams deliver the best care possible. Because of you, lives are made better!

Here are some of the events that took place between November 2021 and March 2022 in support of Hospitals of Regina Foundation:

Long & McQuade Music Therapy Fundraising Drive - \$500

Freshco Donation at the Till program - \$2,500

McDonald's Donation at the Till program - Regina locations - \$29,000

Mabel & Martha's Vintage Style Décor's Pay It Forward Campaign - \$1,200

Chinese New Year Celebration - \$4,890

An Evening in Greece - \$96,000

Z99 Radiothon - \$404,324

High Noon Optimist Club - \$10,000

To learn how you can host your own fundraiser, visit our website hrf.sk.ca/Events/Host-An-Event, or contact Brienne Moore at 306-781-7501.

