



Caring for the Future

2024 NEWSLETTER

Philip Ting Sui Liu – An everyday hero

2023 was an exciting year for St. Paul's Foundation as we saw the announcement of Provincial Treasury Board approval for the Clinical Support and Research Centre (CSRC) – to be built adjacent to the new hospital. The CSRC will be the future home of Providence Health Care's medical researchers and innovators!

At the end of June 2024, we will say goodbye to the Foundation's President and CEO, Dick Vollet. As well, Director of Estate Giving, Karen Brown, will retire later this year. 2024 will definitely be a year of transition!

Thank you for your loyal support of health care in our community. Please enjoy this year's newsletter.

Dick Vollet,
President & CEO

Karen E. Brown
Director, Estate Giving

Philip, like a lot of kids that grew up in Vancouver, came from a proud working-class Chinese family. He had loving parents who sacrificed a great deal to bring their kids to Canada, from Hong Kong, for a "better" life. He was taught to work hard and be ambitious.

Philip survived Hodgkin's disease as a teenager. This experience with cancer shaped his priorities; material things were not important. He valued his health, and, above all, his family.



As a young man Philip went to work for the Canada Revenue Agency. After several promotions, he ended his decades-long career as a Tax Collections Officer. He was proud to give back to the country which had given his family so much.

Philip was a very social person who enjoyed making others laugh. Friend and work colleague, Lin Fong, said of Philip: "He was a hardworking and funny guy; life was never dull when Philip was around." Advice on many topics, including electronics and bargain shopping was free and plentiful!

As a result of his early encounter with cancer, Philip underwent treatments that damaged his heart. He knew there was a possibility that heart issues might develop so he took his health seriously and liked to work out on a daily basis. Philip was dedicated to keeping his body, especially his heart, strong.

Later in life, heart issues did develop and Philip once again needed to rely on the medical system for care. This was hard on him. He much preferred to be the strong one – the one others came to for help. It was hard to return to being a patient. In the last year of his life, Philip was referred to St. Paul's Hospital and the Heart Centre which provided exceptional care to improve his heart function.

Philip recognized how important St. Paul's Hospital had been to him throughout his life. He arranged his affairs so that his federal pension death benefits would come to St. Paul's Foundation following his death.

Philip was one of those everyday heroes who never asked anyone for anything. He was happiest when he was able to help others. We are grateful that Philip chose to include St. Paul's Foundation as part of his final legacy to our community. He is definitely one of our heroes!

Our thanks to Ms. Lin Fong and to Philip's sister, Ms. Pauline Liu, for their assistance in telling Philip's story.

Barbara's story

For this year's newsletter we thought we would try something a little different. We asked one of our legacy donors to talk about why she included a gift for St. Paul's Foundation of Vancouver in her will. What follows is Dr. Barbara Olson's story – told mostly in her own words.



In 1960, at the age of 18, I was faced with a serious dilemma. After completing my first year at university, I found myself without sufficient funds to continue. Obviously, it was time to put on my grown-up pants and become financially independent.

I had always been interested in life sciences and medicine in particular. I discovered that the course to become a Medical Technologist was 18 months, whereas a Nursing course required 3 years. My decision was made and St. Paul's Hospital agreed to take me on as a Medical Technologist in training.

The hospital laboratory at that time was on the ground floor on either side of the Comox Street entrance. Always busy, it was nonetheless a welcoming and supportive environment for a young woman from a small town on Vancouver Island. During my time at St. Paul's Hospital, I noticed the many successful career women in the

laboratory, nursing and medicine. These women, and the camaraderie of the hospital staff, made an impression on me.

While I was working and training at St. Paul's, I lived in the West End. Even then, I was very much aware of the service the hospital provided to the West End community and to the disadvantaged population that lived downtown in those days. And, yes, there was a disadvantaged population in the downtown, even back then. It was not like today, but they had their needs and St. Paul's did its best to meet them. I thought that was very impressive.

I was only at St. Paul's for a brief period of time but I benefited greatly from being there. In retrospect, my time at the hospital played an important role in establishing what I wanted to do with my life and set the path I subsequently followed.

Life continued and I went on to marry at the age of 20. I moved to California and worked as a research assistant while resuming my education. I eventually obtained a Bachelor of Science degree. Later, on my return to Canada, I went to medical school in Ottawa and completed my training to become an anesthesiologist.

My decision to include a gift in my will to St. Paul's Foundation of Vancouver really came about because my career in medicine began at St. Paul's Hospital. Although my career was largely spent at another hospital, I am able to acknowledge, through my legacy gift, that it was St. Paul's that provided me with the encouragement that made my career in medicine possible.

I feel very fortunate – how many people get the opportunity to have a career they truly love and then be able to pay that forward for the benefit of future generations!

Caring for the Future Honour Roll

In 2023, St. Paul's Foundation of Vancouver received \$1,903,815 from the estates of donors who chose to make a very special legacy gift in support of health care. We received gifts for St. Paul's Hospital, the new St. Paul's Hospital on the Jim Pattison Medical Campus, Mount Saint Joseph Hospital, Holy Family Hospital, St. Vincent's: Langara, St. Vincent's: Honoria Conway, Youville Residence, Providence Living at The Views, St. John Hospice, and for programs, sites, and services across Providence Health Care. We honour each donor for their legacy of compassion and we extend our heartfelt thanks to the following individuals and their families:

The Brian and Hazel Bagley Fund

Estates of Mary Dale Ballingall
& John Gardner

Estate of Lois Bewley

Estate of Donald Jackson
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In Memory of Dr. Eric and
Patricia Ann Lehmann

In Loving Memory of Philip T. Liu

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Estates of Margie & Jim Stovin

Estate of Kenneth Lloyd Stuart

Estate of Mollie Elizabeth
Catherine Thackeray

Estate of Jessie Imelda Wing

Estate of Shau Hing Wong

Caring for the Future Tea: Save the date

We are looking forward to hosting our Caring for the Future Tea this summer and ask that you hold the afternoon of **Tuesday, June 11th, 2024** in your calendar for this event.

This will be Karen's final year as host for the Tea so please come out and say goodbye! We will be in touch in May with an invitation!



Speech language pathologist Gail Gumprich is changing lives, one word at a time

For many of us, simple phrases like ‘thank you’, ‘hello’, and ‘love you’ roll easily off the tongue. Yet for some of the patients Gail Gumprich sees, the ability to say a single word or two is an incredible health and communication triumph. It’s these little victories that still bring Gail joy – and a few happy tears – after 12 years in her role as a speech language pathologist at Providence Health Care.

“Communication is so hard at the best of times,” she says. “Then imagine your communication is impaired, and you’re trying to maintain relationships. I love seeing people improve. When you see patients, family, and friends understanding each other – that’s the most gratifying part.”

Gail developed a passion for speech pathology nearly two decades ago. She wanted a career working directly with people, and soon discovered a fascination with how people recover speech and language as well as devise creative, new ways to communicate – after illness or injuries.

While lots of people associate speech pathology with children, there is a large need for this valuable therapy at any age. Gail works with adult patients at a variety of Providence Health Care facilities, including St. Paul’s Hospital, Mount Saint Joseph

Hospital, Holy Family Hospital (a rehabilitation centre), and long-term care homes.

She helps people improve their speech and overall communication – whether they’re recovering from a stroke, facing a neurodegenerative disorder, or

dealing with a head and neck injury. Since all of the muscles for speech are also required for swallowing, she also supports people with swallowing disorders; for example, a patient with advanced dementia or Parkinson’s disease or someone who was intubated for a long time.

In addition to providing compassionate care, Gail enjoys working closely with her patients’ families, friends, or caretakers so they can further strengthen the patient’s health. Since everyone’s vision of successful recovery is different, Gail tailors her approach to each patient and is continually amazed at the results.

“People are always surprising me,” she says. “They overcome things that seem so impossible.”



If you would like more information about making a gift through your estate, or if you would like to discuss the purpose of your intended gift, contact:



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