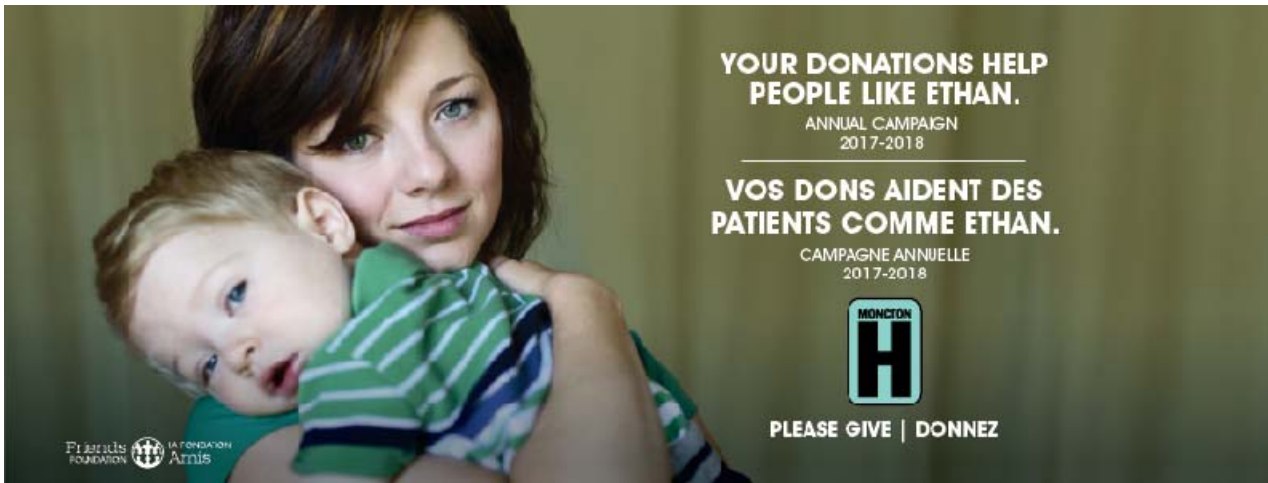


PRESS RELEASE



October 12, 2017

Advancing Healthcare at The Moncton Hospital. Friends Foundation Launch Annual Campaign.

Moncton – The Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation’s Annual Campaign will raise funds to invest in top-notch innovative Operating Room (OR) technology that will improve accuracy during surgery, warm and comfortable specialized beds for newborns and a device to control bleeding during endoscopic procedures – all critical tools for our medical team.

Neurosurgeons at The Moncton Hospital will be equipped with the latest high-tech digital technology, allowing them to see three-dimensional images of the spine while performing surgery.

The **O-Arm Surgical Imaging System** normally has a \$925,000 price tag but The Moncton Hospital has been offered a demo for \$325,000, a fraction of the price. This technology will make our surgeons' painstaking work more efficient and accurate and much safer. The O-Arm can take a 3D scan of a patient undergoing surgery in seconds and provide high-quality images to the surgeon while that operation is underway.

"Not only does it reduce surgical time, hardware placement (pins or rods) is more accurate and there's less anaesthetic time and blood loss, all of which equal less risk for patients," says Dr. Charbel Fawaz, Chief of Neurosurgery.

While the O-Arm will be mostly used for spinal surgery, it can also be used in many other situations such as tumour surgery and less commonly, for repairing broken bones including pelvic fractures and other orthopedic injuries.

Also on the shopping list are two **Electrosurgical Units (ESUs) with Argon capability** for endoscopic procedures (a nonsurgical test used to examine a person's digestive tract) in the GI (Gastrointestinal) Clinic. Cost for both units is \$110,000. Even the simplest of procedures improve and impact patient care. Many of the everyday procedures performed in the GI Clinic require ESU technology. The most common procedures performed include the removal of tumours and polyps (abnormal tissue growth) to prevent the development of cancer, treatment of “watermelon stomach” (an uncommon cause of chronic gastrointestinal bleeding) and other GI bleeding

disorders. Bleeding is fairly common in many of these endoscopic procedures and require the use of Argon to control bleeding immediately.

The Argon enhanced option allows physicians to be more precise, quick and efficient with clotting resulting in:

- less tissue damage for the patient
- prevention of further medical complications
- the decreased need for surgery, blood transfusions, and admission to hospital.

There are approximately 10,000 patients a year who undergo endoscopic procedures using an ESU; of those between 4,000 - 5,000 would require the use of Argon gas to control (cauterize) bleeding.

“Equipping each procedure room with an ESU with Argon capability will give staff and physicians the ability to stop areas of bleeding that we find in the GI system immediately and without delays in trying to locate a unit in another area, losing precious time,” says Dr. Robert Berger, Gastroenterologist and Chief of Gastroenterology.

The birth of a baby is one of life's most wondrous moments and few experiences compare to this event. Newborn babies have amazing abilities, yet they are completely dependent on others for feeding, warmth and comfort. Two modern **Giraffe Infant Warmers** for newborns will make the Labour and Birthing (L & B) Unit at The Moncton Hospital their new home. The Giraffe Infant Warmers, which cost \$56,000 each, will provide a warm, comfortable and developmentally supportive environment for newborn babies who experience difficulties immediately after birth.

The new units are all in one, making it much easier for our medical team to provide immediate care to babies born prematurely or term infants needing additional care. Currently, there are between 1,300 to 1,500 deliveries at The Moncton Hospital each year

Campaign Co-Chairs Pat Armour and Lois Scott encourage everyone to donate to the Friends Annual Campaign to help reach the \$600,000 needed to purchase these medical tools. *“Your support touches and changes the lives of thousands and makes an incredible impact on the health and well-being of our families, neighbours and friends,”* say Armour and Scott.

To **donate** please call the Friends at (506) 857-5488, visit online at www.FriendsFoundation.ca/Donate or mail to the Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation, 135 MacBeath Avenue, Moncton, NB E1C 6Z8. **Please help advance healthcare at The Moncton Hospital by donating today.**

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