

A Season of Gratitude, Growth and Healing

Dear Friends,

As we enter the final quarter of the year, Island Health has much to celebrate, even as hospitals across the country face growing financial pressure from cuts to federally supported healthcare programs.

Island Health is not immune to these challenges, but because of your tremendous generosity, the Island Health Foundation is making a real difference. This year, we are proud to contribute more than $3.1 million toward critical needs identified by hospital staff. Together, you have helped bring:

- **25 renovated inpatient rooms in our Acute Care Unit**, funded through the April 2026 Gala of Hope
- **A new, state-of-the-art mammography unit**, supported by the recent Women's Health Event, which will screen up to 30 women each day, close to home
- **Island Orthopedics**, which has already served thousands of local patients in its first year
- **Microscopes for the Lab, surgical equipment, support for mental health programs, student sports physicals, our Community Paramedicine Program and more.**

Looking ahead, our year-end Holiday Giving Campaign will help us fund an **Oncology Nurse Navigator.** This new position, funded 100% through the Foundation, is a specially trained nurse who will guide cancer patients and their families through diagnosis and treatment, coordinating appointments, explaining next steps, and connecting them with support along the way.

Throughout 2026, the Foundation hosted special events where physicians and surgeons shared their expertise with our community and detailed services provided by Island Health, with a special focus on preventive care for women and men. We are fortunate to have such a skilled and dedicated medical team at Island Health, and I am deeply grateful to the donors who help make that possible.

As the year draws to a close, I am proud of what we have accomplished together. Because of you, high-quality healthcare remains close to home. Our work is not done, though. The hospital's needs continue to grow, and planning for the 24th Annual Gala of Hope is already underway—we hope you will join us on April 24, 2027!



We truly appreciate your continued support of the Foundation. Best wishes to you and your family this holiday season.

–Denis Law, Island Health Foundation Board President, 2026

A Brighter Future for Breast Health

A new mammography machine is coming soon to Island Health!

Island Health's current mammography system is more than eight years old and increasingly unreliable. The machine frequently breaks down, and replacement parts are no longer manufactured. When the system is out of service, patients must be rescheduled, creating delays in accessing important breast screening and diagnostic services.

A new mammography machine will help address these challenges and support reliable, timely breast imaging services close to home, allowing patients to access essential care within their own community.

Thanks to an incredibly generous personal donation of $369,000, a $50,000 matching gift from the RiBo Trust and additional funds raised through our Women's Health Event, we have secured the funding needed to move this important project forward.

For patients, this investment means improved access to mammography, fewer disruptions to appointments and greater peace of mind. We look forward to sharing more as the new machine arrives and our team prepares to put it to work.

Thank you to the generous donors and community members who helped make this possible. Your support is helping ensure our community has access to the breast imaging services it needs, close to home.



I love taking care of women and building that relationship with my patients.

— Jessica Shriver, RT(R)(M)(ARRT) Diagnostic Imaging

Celebrating Women's Health Month

Island Health Foundation brought our community together for an evening dedicated to women's health, education and well-being. The Women's Health Event featured local physicians sharing their expertise on important topics that affect women throughout every stage of life.

From menopause and hormone replacement therapy to bone health, osteoporosis, weight management, breast health and preventive screenings, the evening offered practical information and an opportunity to learn directly from local medical experts.

Guests also enjoyed an incredible, carefully curated silent auction featuring a selection of unique items and experiences. All proceeds from the evening went toward supporting Island Health's new mammography unit, helping bring advanced breast imaging technology closer to home for our community.

We were pleased to feature presentations from Dr. Jennifer Reem (Orthopedics), Dr. Mohini Dasari (General Surgery), Dr. Sarah VanGaasbeek (Primary Care), and Dr. Angela DeSantis (OB/GYN), along with panelists Dr. Sheena Wisler (OB/GYN) and Jessica Shriver (Mammography), who helped make the evening an engaging and informative experience.

By creating opportunities for education and open conversation, we continue to empower women with the knowledge and resources they need to make informed decisions about their health.

Thank you to our presenters, attendees, auction donors and supporters for making this evening a success and helping advance women's health in our community.



Women's health needs change throughout life, and having access to knowledgeable providers close to home matters.

At Island Health, women can find care and resources to support their health through different stages of life, including:

- **Breast health and screenings:** Preventive screening and breast imaging services to help identify concerns and support early detection.
- **Gynecology and obstetrics:** Care related to reproductive health, gynecologic concerns, pregnancy and childbirth.
- **Menopause and hormone health:** Guidance on navigating menopause, hormonal changes and available treatment options.
- **Bone health and osteoporosis:** Education and care focused on bone density, fracture prevention and maintaining strength as we age.
- **Weight management and overall wellness:** Support for healthy habits and long-term well-being.

Through our Women's Health Event, Island Health Foundation is helping bring these conversations into the community, connecting women with local experts and encouraging them to take an active role in their health.

Quality health care should be accessible close to home, at every stage of life.



Getting to Know the People Behind the Care

Our latest Skyline Pulse Party brought community members together to learn more about the expertise and services available right here at Island Health.

Guests heard from Dr. Brock Boehm (Urology), Dr. Ryan Wisler (Internal Medicine), and Dr. Ryan Myers (Orthopedics). These physician presentations offered a closer look at the care available in our community and the people working every day to support our patients.

We also had the opportunity to welcome two new physicians to Island Health: Dr. Jonathan Seavy, our new spine surgeon, and Dr. Sheena Wisler, our new Obstetrician and Gynecologist.

We are excited to welcome these physicians and grateful to everyone who joined us for an evening of learning, connection, and community.

Helping Families Start Strong

SLEEP SACKS
generously funded by
ISLAND HEALTH FOUNDATION
with support from
Soroptimist International of Anacortes

For the second year in a row, Soroptimist has generously supported Island Health Foundation with a $6,000 grant to provide infant sleep sacks and safe sleep education for new parents.

Sleep sacks offer babies a wearable alternative to loose blankets, supporting safer sleep practices during those important first months of life. But this program is about more than providing supplies.

Through safe sleep training, our nurses receive the education they need to share current safe sleep guidance with parents and caregivers. This helps families feel more confident and better equipped to create a safe sleep environment when they bring their new baby home.

We are grateful to Soroptimist for its continued commitment to the health and well-being of local families. Their generosity helps turn education and practical resources into meaningful support for parents and babies across our community.

The Science Behind Better Care

Some of the most important work in a hospital happens behind closed doors, long before a patient receives a diagnosis or a treatment plan.

This fall, Island Health Foundation stepped in to purchase two new microscopes for the hospital Laboratory, helping provide our Laboratory team with improved equipment to support their essential work.

Laboratory testing plays a critical role in helping physicians diagnose conditions, evaluate treatment options, and make informed decisions about patient care. From identifying infections to detecting complex diseases, accurate laboratory results help guide care around the clock.

As Laboratory Director Curtis Thomas explains:

"Approximately 80% of all clinical diagnoses are directly driven by laboratory data—and that work happens right here, around the clock, by the most credentialed scientists in our community."

This investment is a reminder that excellent patient care depends on more than what happens at the bedside. It also relies on the skilled professionals, specialized technology and precise science working behind the scenes.

We are proud to support our Laboratory team with equipment that helps them continue this vital work for our community.

Creating a More Comfortable Place to Heal

A hospital stay can be challenging, and the environment where patients recover can make a difference in their experience.

This past month, new beds and televisions were installed in rooms throughout Island Health's Acute Care Unit (ACU) as part of our ongoing modernization project. This project was made possible thanks to the incredible generosity at last year's Gala of Hope.

These improvements are an important step toward creating more comfortable, welcoming spaces for patients and their families. The larger project will continue in phases, with completion anticipated by the end of 2027.



Since the ACU serves patients with a wide range of medical needs, these updates represent an investment in the spaces where our community receives essential care.

Thank you to the donors who are helping make these improvements possible. Together, we are creating a better environment for healing, one room at a time.

Donor Spotlight

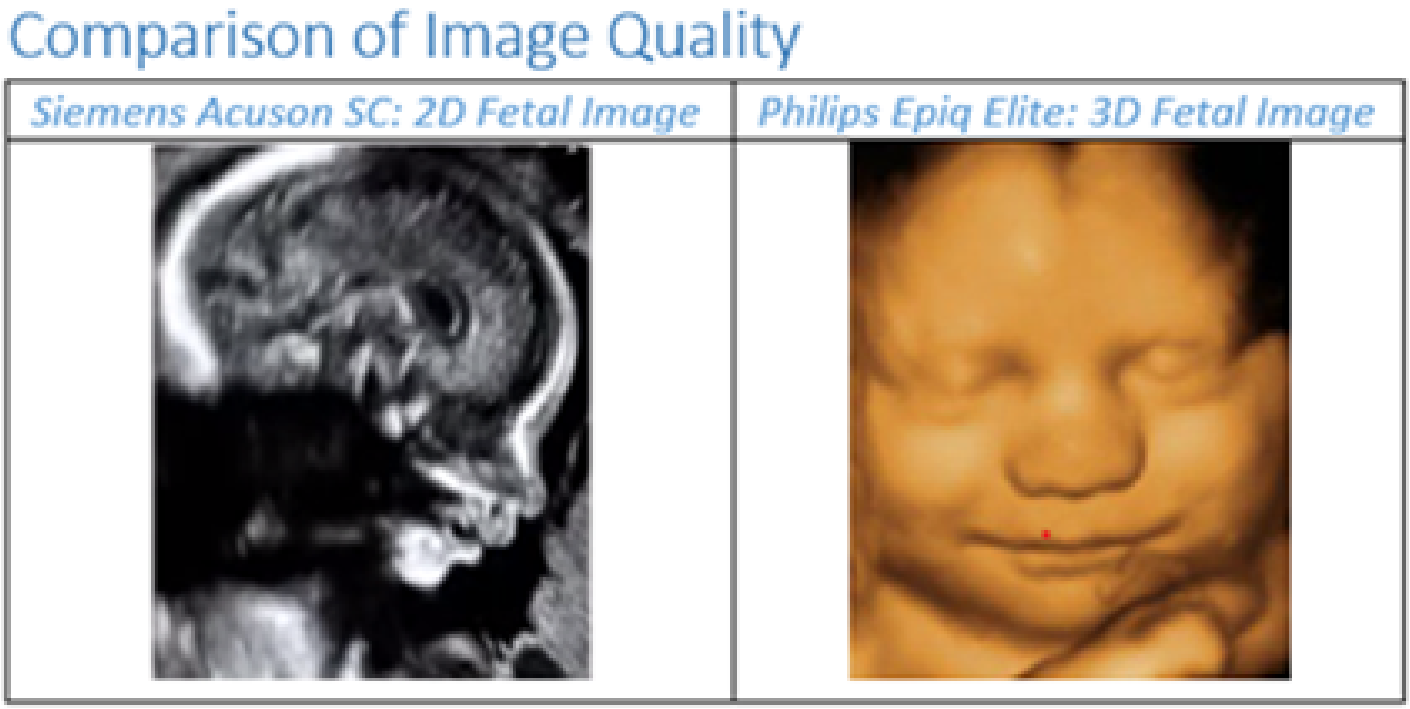


Last year's holiday appeal ended with a gift that pushed us over the top—thank you Dave and Mary Rytand! Dave and Mary helped the Foundation close out our goal, and thanks to the community's support, Island Health has purchased three new 4D ultrasounds.

The new systems are a huge step forward from our aging Siemens 2D equipment, which produced black-and-white images. The advanced, high-definition technology delivers clearer images, faster diagnoses and better outcomes.

Ultrasound touches nearly every corner of care. Whether a patient is facing a fall, a stroke, a broken bone, a heart attack or any other need for imaging, they now receive not just excellent care, but real hope.
Thank you to every donor who made this possible. Your generosity is changing what care looks like at Island Health.

Pictured: Dave Rytand with new ultrasound machine (above) and ultrasound image quality comparison (below).



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 24, 2027

GALA OF HOPE

ESTD 2004

ISLAND HEALTH FOUNDATION

THANK YOU FOR ENSURING QUALITY HEALTHCARE CLOSE TO HOME.

ISLAND HEALTH FOUNDATION