

Iris Wang's Story

As Chinese New Year draws closer, we anticipate the warmth and bright colours of the holiday, wishing each other good health and happiness and enjoying delicious food together. Parents hand out red envelopes filled with money and retell the traditional story of the town that conquered Nian—the evil lion of fear—by decorating their homes in red.

Chinese New Year is a special time to remember everything we have to be thankful for, and one of the things I'm incredibly thankful for is donors like you! Your generosity has helped families find happiness and good health through Richmond Hospital. Thank you for making a real difference. Will you continue to help Richmond Hospital save lives in the community by giving again today?

My name is Iris Wang, and while you may not recognize my name, you may recognize the name of my son—Ryan Wang—who was featured playing piano on The Ellen DeGeneres Show at the age of 5 and now travels the world to perform. Today, I want to share my own story of how Richmond Hospital helped me through a frightening, life-threatening experience I had when I was eight months pregnant with Ryan's little brother, Michael.

I was very healthy throughout the pregnancy, but one day, my heart rate suddenly started increasing until it was so fast that I could hardly breathe. I had no idea what was happening. All I knew was that I was scared and in an incredible amount of pain.

I'm sure you can imagine how afraid I was that my life, and my baby's life, were in danger. Justin, my husband, quickly rushed me to the Richmond Hospital Emergency Department, because it was so close to our home.

We arrived within 10 minutes and rushed into the emergency entrance where the admissions staff immediately alerted the emergency doctors and clipped a heart-rate monitor onto my finger.

As soon as the monitor detected my heart rate, an alarm sounded. I can still remember how scared I felt in that moment when the alarm was ringing. Immediately, four nurses and a doctor hurried out with a stretcher and laid me down on it, then wheeled me inside. The doctor and nurses were very caring and helped me stay calm. Their confidence and compassion helped me feel at peace, even though I still felt a lot of discomfort.

I hope you will join me in supporting patients and families in our community this holiday season, by giving today.



Iris is thankful for her healthy family every day.

The nurses took my blood pressure, checked the baby's heartbeat and calmly reassured me. They were so efficient and organized! I knew I was in good hands and well cared for. But I was still in pain. Very quickly, the doctor decided to give me an IV that would stop my heart to reset it, allowing it to return to normal when it started again.

When you donate to Richmond Hospital Foundation, you help the hospital maintain its high level of compassionate, lifesaving care for the people in our community.

For the two or three seconds that my heart stopped, it was awful; I felt like I was dying. I began to cry. I was afraid for both my life and my baby's life. My husband hadn't stopped asking questions since we arrived, but the nurses were so patient with us. They were full of comforting words and explanations that soothed us both.

After the procedure, my heart rate immediately returned to normal and the doctor assured us that our baby was safe. The staff kept us under observation to ensure that when we left, we would be leaving in perfect health without any worry.

Because of gifts from donors like you, Richmond Hospital Foundation is able to help the hospital in areas of greatest need, so that the doctors and nurses can focus on providing care for their patients.

Now, five years later, my son Michael is a happy, healthy kindergarten student who plays the violin and piano as well as many sports. Whenever Chinese New Year comes around, I reflect on how grateful I am that he was born healthy and that he has been given the chance to grow up with his brother. I also give thanks for my own health and my regular heartbeat. For my children's sake, I'm glad they have a mother!

Without Richmond Hospital, I don't know where we would be today. That frightening day—five years ago—is still a mystery but I know that without Richmond Hospital, I would not have survived. It's an important reminder to my whole family to be extremely grateful for our good health, especially around Chinese New Year. It's a time for the entire family to come together to celebrate how fortunate we are to have each other.

Would you please give to Richmond Hospital Foundation today, and help save the lives of people throughout the community— people just like me, with children and families who need them!

Thank you in advance for your generous heart and for giving back to the community.

Sincerely,



Iris Wang
Patient at Richmond Hospital
Supporter of Richmond Hospital Foundation

P.S. Please give generously today. I love the Richmond community and I love sharing my story and giving back to this community. I hope that you are able to help and support Richmond Hospital Foundation, too.



Michael (centre) loves celebration Chinese New Year with his family.