

Herbert Lee

My name is Herbert Lee and I'm the managing director of a travel agency in Richmond as well as a private aircraft pilot. I've lived in Richmond for almost 30 years and have watched it change and grow a lot over the years. As a former aircrew member in a search and rescue team and a community volunteer board member, I truly care about the health of my community. I'm sure you do, too!

As a pilot, I've witnessed various medical emergencies, once where a passenger needed to be rushed to Richmond Hospital, which is a front line emergency hospital that serves Vancouver International Airport's nearly 20 million passengers. But when my father was admitted to Richmond Hospital's Emergency Department for a transient ischemic attack—a mini stroke—in 2011, I realized that watching a family member suffer was much more frightening. I could see the fear my father had as he was rushed to the hospital. This was his first visit to a hospital so you can imagine his anxiety. But as soon as the staff greeted him, his nervousness melted away and he became very calm. After a few days of treatment and observation, my father was well enough to return home, and we left grateful for such amazing health care. Today I'm writing to ask if you would please give to provide the highest quality of local care to Richmond's residents—just like my father received.

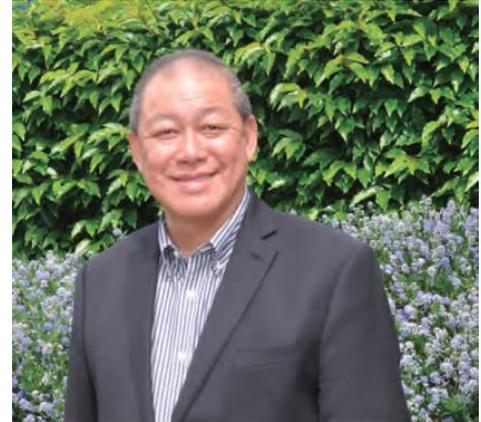
Thank you for your recent gift! Your kind-hearted support is the reason that Richmond Hospital can continue to provide expert care to patients like myself and my parents. Would you please continue to give generously, and bring increased health to our community?

At Richmond Hospital, you can be sure of receiving the highest quality of local care possible, while surrounded by caring and compassionate staff. I know this with absolute certainty because after that first experience with my father's health emergency, I've had to return many times.

In 2013, my 81-year-old mother fell and hit her head on the corner of a table. I was away on a business trip and was sick with worry when I heard that she'd been rushed to the hospital.

Then—when I returned two days later—my father fell ill and was diagnosed with kidney failure upon joining my mother at Richmond Hospital. He was given only 48 hours to live.

As we struggled to accept what was happening, the doctors and nurses knew when to give us space and when to give encouragement and comfort. My father lived in Richmond Hospital for the next 21 days, then passed away shortly before my mother was able to leave the hospital. During that time, his nurses made him laugh and found other ways of showing care. They were so thoughtful that they even brought my mother over to my father's room so she could visit him regularly.



Gifts from the community helped Herbert and his parents receive the best in local health care! Your gift can do the same!

I'm sure you can imagine the deep sadness I felt at the time, but I was also incredibly grateful.

After my father passed, one of his favourite nurses, Jill, wrote my mother a card expressing her sorrow for our loss—yet another example of the hospital staff going beyond the call of their duty. My mother still has that card to this day.

Not long after that, I returned to Richmond Hospital for a checkup of my own. This time, I felt completely calm right from the start, because the hospital had become like a trusted friend of the family, full of familiar faces.

During the checkup, my urologist—Dr. Corrie Krahn—found a tumour on my bladder. When I got the news, I looked around at the expert staff surrounding me, and I felt at peace. Dr. Krahn patiently explained the risks of the tumour to me and I agreed to have it removed immediately. It was a quick procedure and over before an hour had passed!

Less than 48 hours later, I got a call from Dr. Krahn telling me that I was incredibly lucky. The tumour they'd removed was cancerous.

More recently, I was faced with yet another threat to my health. After going for routine colon cancer screening, doctors determined I needed to have three polyps removed—two of which had the potential to be cancerous. I feel so grateful for the treatment I received at such an early stage. If my tumour or polyps hadn't been caught, I could have developed cancer and I might not be here today. The lifesaving care at Richmond Hospital is something I've come to depend on, and it's something you can depend on too.

So would you please give back to the community today and help bring higher quality care to people like my parents and me?

My family has experienced amazing care from the urology, palliative, and emergency units, as well as medical imaging and surgical care. But it wasn't until I experienced my own health emergencies that I realized how difficult it can be—and how much the caring team at Richmond Hospital helped me get through it.

It's only with help like yours that Richmond Hospital will be able to continue serving the growing community in such an impactful way. I hope that my story of Richmond Hospital's compassionate and expert care for my whole family inspires you to give today!

Sincerely,

Herbert Lee
Supporter of Richmond Hospital Foundation

P.S. Please give generously today so that people in our community can continue to receive the same high quality of care that my family received.