Andrew Robb's Story

My name is Andrew Robb and I am the General Manager of Tech Web Direct, a local, family-run business in Richmond. I grew up in Richmond and in my youth, I developed a passion for music and golf. Over the years, I had success in both areas, living in Europe and singing opera, and playing golf as a member of our national team. For most of my life, I was an active, healthy young man, in peak fitness living a life of adventure. To some degree, I felt invincible.

But all that changed when, at just 24 years old, I received news from my doctor that would change the course of my life. I had Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Without the quick response and expert care of Richmond

Gifts from the community helped Andrew in his battle against cancer. Your gift can do the same!

Hospital's staff, I don't know what would have happened to me. Today, I'm writing to ask if you would please donate to provide the highest quality of local health care to other patients in Richmond—just like I received.

The community's generosity has provided many people with lifesaving care at Richmond Hospital. Gifts like yours ensure that when a health crisis hits, the best quality local health care is available. Please give today to support efficient, expert health care in our own community.

In October 2012, I was looking in the mirror after a yoga class when I noticed a lump on my neck. I went home and showed my mom. We laughed about it because it looked quite peculiar. My mom, as a dental hygienist, knew that we needed to have it looked at, just to be safe.

She booked an appointment with my family doctor at Richmond Hospital the next day. As soon as the doctor put her hands on my neck I could tell from her facial expression that something was wrong. She took me next door immediately to consult with another physician, Dr. Sharadh Sampath.

Two days later, I had a biopsy performed and tissue was removed so doctors could examine it.

I was at work when I received the call. Dr. Sampath said the results were positive. For the briefest moment, I thought this was good news. Then he went on to explain that I had Stage 2B Hodgkin's Lymphoma, an advanced stage. In shock, I sat alone in my office and continued to work for the next half hour. When my dad called to ask if the results were in, I could hardly believe my own words. I had cancer.

The doctors at Richmond Hospital took very quick action. Just two weeks later, I was in the cancer clinic receiving my first round of chemotherapy. My oncologist, Dr. John Yun, had assured me that he expected good results with both chemotherapy and radiation. With this news, I made a resolute decision to stay positive no matter what. I didn't obsess about the diagnosis, but instead, kept working, golfing, and staying active for as long as I could. I put my full trust in the staff at Richmond Hospital—my life was completely in their hands.

Your gift today ensures that those who are facing serious health concerns can receive first-class care at Richmond Hospital when they need it most.

At Richmond Hospital, you not only receive the highest quality of care, but you are treated with dignity and respect. The hospital staff went out of their way to make my experience as pleasant as possible. I tried to bring joy into the room with me, and by the end, everyone at the cancer clinic knew my name.

Even when the chemo was making me very ill, I stayed optimistic. My skin pigment started to change, I shaved my head, I had many sleepless nights throwing up—but through all this I believed I would be okay. When I was able, I dragged myself out to the Richmond Dyke for walks, enjoying the fresh air. Throughout it all, my mom, dad, and sister were my biggest sources of strength.

Today I am alive and cancer-free thanks to Richmond Hospital.

I still get emotional when I think about this period in my life. I am so thankful for the doctors and nurses at Richmond Hospital for their kindness and their caring. Today, I can go for days without thinking about my experience with cancer but I try to live each day to the fullest. And I never take for granted being able to celebrate another Christmas with family and friends.

I have so much to be thankful for. Please consider a gift to provide compassionate, lifesaving health care in our community and give more people reasons to be thankful as well.

The care I received at Richmond Hospital was high calibre and deeply personal. Lives are precious, and with your support, Richmond Hospital can continue to save lives every day.

Sincerely,

Andrew Robb

Andrew Robb
Supporter of Richmond Hospital Foundation

P.S. Please give generously today so that people in our community can access high calibre local health care when they need it most.