



RICHMOND HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION



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11th Annual Starlight Gala a Spectacular Success Raising over \$355,000!

OCTOBER 27, 2008 (RICHMOND, BC) – The 11th annual Starlight Gala hosted by the Richmond Hospital Foundation was a stellar success, raising over \$355,000 net in support of the Emergency Department (ED) at Richmond Hospital.

This year's Venetian masquerade themed gala was emceed by Citytv's Dawn Chubai and took place on October 24th at the River Rock Casino Resort and Show Theatre. Guests were treated to a champagne reception, a delicious five-course meal, a variety of entertainment and exciting live and silent auctions featuring close to 200 fantastic auction items.

Amit Sandhu, Am-Pri Construction, Christian Chia, Open Road Auto Group, and Ron Schuss, Dorset Realty were just some among a full house of high profile business and community leaders of Richmond, Delta, Surrey and Vancouver. The attendees of the gala were whisked away to another time as they mingled in a theatre hall adorned with elegant crush velvet drapings, ostrich feathers and Venetian masks. Jugglers and jesters in colourful costumes entertained and performed for the guests, and fire dancers kept dinner hot and thrilling as they performed signature fire acts. The party continued with The Nylons pumping out exceptional live music, keeping the crowd dancing all night long.

A surprise highlight of the evening was a matching gift - a guest offered to match contributions up to \$50,000, which led to \$136,500 in total unexpected donations.

The goal of the benefit was to raise funds to support a critically needed expansion to our Emergency Department. Originally designed to facilitate 32,000 visits per year, the volume has continued to increase every year, with over 47,000 visits projected this year.

"Every year the gala gets bigger and better. We are thrilled the guests had such a wonderful time, many were asking for next year's date. We are fortunate to have an amazing team of staff and over 50 volunteers who make everything look effortless. Thanks to the tremendous support of our guests we will be able to fund critically needed equipment for our emergency", said Lisa Westermarck, Chief Executive Officer, Richmond Hospital Foundation.

The Starlight Gala is the Richmond Hospital Foundation's signature event and is Richmond's largest and most prestigious fundraiser. Since the inaugural Starlight Gala in 1999, the event has raised over \$1.5 million for Richmond Hospital.

Pictures from the event



A Venetian jester enjoying champagne



The fire show during dinner



Guests in their Venetian masks



The Nylons' energetic performance



Champagne showgirls with volunteers



The exciting live auction