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THE  
RICHMOND HOSPITAL  
FOUNDATION

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## Spare Change and a Generous \$50,000 Donation Help Fund an Urgently-Needed MRI for Richmond Hospital

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Thanks to a generous donation from the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation Canada and the launch of a new fundraising initiative, the Richmond Hospital Foundation is now one step closer to raising the \$4 million needed to fund an urgently-needed Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner for Richmond Hospital.

The \$50,000 donation was presented during a special celebration at Richmond Hospital earlier today. The event was attended by staff, volunteers and patients. It featured a traditional tea serving session hosted by volunteers from the Tzu Chi Foundation and kicked off a new community-based fundraising initiative, the Bamboo Bank Campaign.

Bamboo Banks are donation collection tins. Volunteers with the Tzu Chi Foundation Canada will produce and distribute Bamboo Banks to select locations throughout Richmond. The Tzu Chi Foundation will also generously match every penny raised. That means that every \$1 donated is \$2 towards the MRI Campaign.

“As doctors we want the best for our patients. And that’s what this generous donation will help us provide,” said Dr. Brenda Wagner during a speech thanking the Tzu Chi Foundation. “Richmond’s MRI will cut wait times for this important test. It will help us provide a faster diagnosis, faster treatment and, most importantly, it will help more patients enjoy a faster recovery.” Dr. Wagner is an obstetrician/gynecologist at Richmond Hospital.

“Once again, the Tzu Chi Foundation is helping fund the vital medical equipment that our nurses and doctors need to provide the best-possible care to our community,” said Lisa De Paoli, Director of Acute Care Network. “Last year they donated \$48,000 to help upgrade two operating rooms to minimally invasive surgery suites.”

“We would like to thank the Tzu Chi Foundation for supporting our MRI Campaign and launching the Bamboo Bank Campaign,” says Lisa Westermarck, executive director of The Richmond Hospital Foundation. “I hope the community will join with us and support the Bamboo Bank Campaign. Our small change will add up to a big improvement in care for our community.”

This generous donation will fund the purchase of an MRI scanner and the specialized construction necessary to house this sensitive diagnostic tool. This campaign is about more than investing in the latest medical technology. This campaign is about improving access to diagnostics and treatment for patients from throughout the Lower Mainland.

Gary Ho, the CEO for the Tzu Chi Foundation, said that the Tzu Chi Foundation is firmly committed to helping to upgrade the equipment at Richmond Hospital. He said that they believe that our growing, thriving community deserves to have access to this state-of-the-art medical equipment.

**Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation** is an international organization dedicated to raising and distributing funds for social and community services, medical care, education and humanism. Founded in Taiwan in 1966, Tzu Chi has over 10 million supporters worldwide and over 1 million volunteers. Locally, they support the Richmond Food Bank and community programs for families and youth. Tzu Chi members have also volunteered their time at local seniors' homes and community events. In 2007 they donated \$48,000 to the campaign to upgrade two operating rooms to Minimally Invasive Surgery suites. In 2006 they donated \$25,000 to fund an infant care center for the Maternity Unit.

Established in 1987, **The Richmond Hospital Foundation** is a registered charity that is committed to raising money to fill the gap between government funding and the greater needs of our hospital. The foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees who represent a broad spectrum of the community.