



THE
RICHMOND HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

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**Richmond Hospital is touched by message of gratitude, love and compassion
And a \$48,000 donation to help make major surgery minor**

The cafeteria at Richmond Hospital was transformed earlier today for a traditional Taiwanese Tea Ceremony hosted by the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation. The theme of this special event was “serving with gratitude, love, and respect.” It’s a commitment that was put into action during the ceremony today when the Tzu Chi Foundation presented a \$48,000 cheque to The Richmond Hospital Foundation to help upgrade two operating rooms to Minimally Invasive Surgery suites.

“It is encouraging to know that the people who live, work and worship in Richmond support our hospital,” said Dr. Brenda Wagner during a speech thanking the Tzu Chi Foundation. “Your support encourages and enables us to the good work we do every day.” Dr. Wagner is an obstetrician/gynecologist at Richmond Hospital.

“The Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation is committed to easing suffering – and that’s what this donation will help accomplish,” says Lisa Westermarck, executive director of the Richmond Hospital Foundation. “Minimally Invasive Surgery makes major surgery minor; compared to conventional surgery patients experience less pain and blood loss, shorter hospital stays, and faster recoveries.”

This generous donation will fund the purchase of state-of-the-art monitors for one operating room. With minimally invasive procedures, surgeons don’t have to cut a foot-long incision to “open” a patient. Instead, they insert thin, telescopic instruments through openings the size of a *paperclip*. During MIS, these monitors are the surgeon’s eyes; they display video captured by sophisticated pencil-sized cameras that are inserted into the patient.

With MIS, Dr Wagner explains, “We hope to be able to serve more patients in Richmond with surgery that is less disabling, less disfiguring, less debilitating, and allows them to get back to their families, work, and communities. ”

Peter Kuo, the Richmond Region Director for the Tzu Chi Foundation, said that the Tzu Chi Foundation are 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 the state-of-the-art medical equipment.

The tea ceremony was hosted by volunteers of the Tzu Chi Foundation. In addition to a traditional tea ceremony, the guests enjoyed light snacks, sign language performances and a flower arrangement demonstration. The audience was filled with hospital staff, volunteers and loyal donors to The Richmond Hospital Foundation. By the end of the event, it was standing room only.

Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation is an international organization dedicated to raising and distribution 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. Last year they donated \$25,000 to fund an infant care center for the Maternity Unit at Richmond Hospital.

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.