

## Christine Brodie's Story

Emergencies can arise at any time. When they do, it is such a relief to have a hospital right in your community, especially a hospital committed to delivering the highest standard of care.

My name is Christine Brodie, and Richmond has been my home since 1977. You may know me through my husband, Mayor Malcolm Brodie, or through my career as an educator or my work with youth at risk in Richmond School District.

I live just up the street from Richmond Hospital and I'm thankful for it every day. I couldn't imagine not having a hospital close by. Having to travel outside your community for care would make the hospital experience so much more difficult and daunting.

My very first experience at Richmond Hospital was the birth of our daughter in 1979, and I have returned many times since. When my son broke his leg, Richmond Hospital was there to care for him.

When my 94-year-old mother had to be rushed to Richmond Hospital this past December with a severe case of both pneumonia and influenza A, which can be fatal for the elderly, they got her into care quickly and made sure to answer all of her questions. Knowing how worried I was, they even let me come after hours to say goodnight. It made me feel so much better about leaving her in her frail state but in competent, caring hands.

I am so thankful for the expert care and incredible compassion my entire family has received over the years. I realize Richmond is an island city, and we are proud that we take care of each other. When emergencies happen, it's important to be able to trust the doctors and nurses as much as you would your friends and family with lives that are so precious.

I know you are as committed as I am to the quality of care at Richmond Hospital. Your support has helped maintain that high standard, and even helped save lives. I would like to invite you to join me once again in supporting our community.

By sending in your gift today, you will be helping ensure that the staff are able to meet the hospital's most vital needs, be it vital medical equipment, improving patient care programs or upgrading facilities.



**Christine Brodie, patient of Richmond Hospital, says she is grateful for the expert care and incredible compassion that she and her entire family received over the years.**

Today I'd like to share my personal story of care and ask you to help support our community now and into the future.

In Spring 2013, I was rushed by ambulance to Richmond Hospital's Emergency Department with sudden and severe abdominal pain. I was frightened. I had never needed emergency care for myself before. This was brand new to me.

It turned out that I was having a severe gallbladder attack, a medical emergency. My case was very complicated. The emergency physician told me that I must have had gallstones for months. I didn't have any idea that I had gallstones at all until he mentioned that nausea was a common symptom, and one that I had been suffering from for four or five months. I was shocked.

My case was so severe. Being in a hospital, especially in the Emergency Department, can be very nerve-racking, so the fact that the doctors and nurses made such an effort to engage with me made such a difference. If I had any issue or question, they would incorporate what I told them into my care right away. It gave me a lot of confidence in them.

The surgeon in charge of my care, Dr. Bruce Allardyce, was great. He went the extra mile and stayed to do my surgery at 11 p.m. because he wanted to operate as soon as possible. Gallstones left long enough cause serious infection, so he and his team stayed late to make sure I was well cared for. They really treat each patient as an individual and make sure they do what's right for them.

During shift changes, every nurse took the time to ensure the other had all of the necessary information. I never felt like a name on a chart. I always had the feeling that they were here for me, and that helped calm any nerves about being there. And since it was voting day for the provincial election, they even gave me a ballot to complete in bed!

I ended up staying for a full eight days in hospital, longer than the norm. I have had so many good experiences at Richmond Hospital, both in my case and when family members were cared for. For everyone visiting me, it was wonderful that I was so close by. I know that it's a relief for patients and their families not to have to travel very far.

The team at Richmond Hospital truly went above and beyond during our times of need. Thanks to them, I was able to get back to a normal life, in good health, and enjoy my retirement. And for my mother, she will be able to hold her great-grandchildren, see their beautiful faces and watch them play. I never lacked confidence in any of the doctors or nurses. That's why supporting Richmond Hospital is so important, so they can keep saving lives like my mother's and mine.

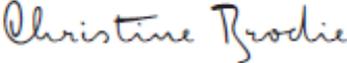
By giving to Richmond Hospital Foundation, you are truly supporting your community. Even if you haven't been to the hospital yourself yet, the chances are you know someone who has been there. As the community of

Richmond continues to grow and our population ages, the needs of our hospital will grow too. We work like a family in Richmond and really do help and care for each other. We must help ensure that the people of Richmond always have excellent local care.

Richmond Hospital's medical teams rely on generous donors to help them save lives. Please join me, and help ensure outstanding care right here in Richmond.

You can donate by returning the enclosed form, by phone at 604-244-5252, or by visiting the Foundation's website at [richmondhospitalfoundation.com](http://richmondhospitalfoundation.com). The need is urgent, please rush in your gift today.

My sincerest thanks,



**Christine Brodie**

*P.S. Please give generously today, every gift you give has a profound impact on our community.*