

### Jean Rouday's Message of Giving Forward

My head was throbbing, my ears were pounding, and I was vomiting. I felt awful, but I had a reasonable explanation for my symptoms: I'd just returned from working up in the mountains, so I was tired and adjusting to the change in altitude. Whatever I was feeling, I was sure it was normal. I took some more painkillers and carried on.

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, my husband, Mike, finally convinced me to go to our local hospital in Delta. The doctors found that I wasn't suffering from the change in altitude at all. I was bleeding internally. I thought that was the extent of the bad news, until I heard the unthinkable words a short time later, "Jean, you have cancer."

Cancer. It just didn't seem possible, but I had a 4.5 cm malignant tumour in my stomach. I needed surgery, and I needed it soon.

Mike and I suddenly felt like our lives were on hold. There were a lot of tears in our household as we tried to figure out what to do. The kind of acute surgery I needed isn't available in where I live in Delta, so I didn't know where to turn. I even considered going to the United States for the procedure, but the thought of having surgery so far from home was terrifying.

Before I made any travel plans, my family doctor had some welcome news, "I know Dr. Sharadh Sampath at Richmond Hospital. He and the surgical team there will take good care of you. We can get you in for the surgery you need, and right away."

I loved the idea of getting the care I needed close to home. I also learned that Richmond Hospital's medical professionals have a well deserved reputation for excellence and innovation. Their highly skilled surgeons perform thousands of surgeries a year and the hospital provides a broad spectrum of services to the 200,000 residents of Richmond, and also neighbouring communities like mine.

At that moment, however, I wasn't thinking about thousands of others – I just wanted reassurance that they would take care of *me*. When I met Dr. Sampath, Head of the Department of Surgery, I had all the reassurance I needed. After his examination, he actually stood with me and comforted me until I had absorbed the news. It was a small gesture of support, but it made such a big difference.

When Mike brought me to Richmond Hospital for my surgery, we made a pact. He had lost his first wife to cancer, and we weren't going to let it happen again. We were determined to get through this together. Thanks to Dr. Sampath, the



**JEAN ROUDAY PROMISED HER  
HUSBAND SHE WOULD SURVIVE.  
RICHMOND HOSPITAL HELPED  
HER KEEP THAT PROMISE.**

Richmond Hospital staff, doctors, and donations from others like you, we made it through this life threatening challenge.

The tools used for my acute surgery at Richmond Hospital were made possible because of donations from people like you. When you make a gift to Richmond Hospital Foundation, you help give surgeons like Dr. Sampath the most up-to-date surgical equipment he needs to save lives like mine.

Today, government funding only covers the most basic health care costs, which means over 70% of the new equipment purchased for the hospital comes from donations to Richmond Hospital Foundation. The Foundation works closely with the medical professionals at Richmond Hospital to ensure that your gifts are used where they're needed most. And most importantly, every dollar raised stays in Richmond.

From the first day that Dr. Sampath stood with me, to the six days I spent recovering at Richmond Hospital, I felt so well looked after. The entire staff was fantastic, and Mike and I were both incredibly pleased with the care I received.

Through my experience, I saw first-hand how your donations directly impact patients. I'm here today in part due to their generosity to Richmond Hospital Foundation.

That realization prompted me to make a donation of my own to support the surgical teams at Richmond Hospital. I don't look at it as giving back, I look at it as giving forward.

When you make a donation to Richmond Hospital Foundation, you make a very real difference in the lives of patients and their families. I know you made a difference in mine.

With sincere thanks,

Jean Rouday