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# Hospital foundation launches 2016 fundraiser

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TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

**SAINT JOHN** • The Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation announced on Wednesday that it raised \$1.3 million for the hospital during its 2015 campaign. The foundation urged donors to continue their support to reach the goal of \$1.7 million for the hospital's pediatric care unit as part of its 2016 campaign.

Every year, the foundation embarks on a fundraising campaign for a specific unit of the hospital, and with the money raised last year, a new piece of sophisticated technology will be added to the orthopaedic surgery department.

The Intra-Operative 3D imaging with Computer Navigation System – otherwise known as an O-Arm – has already been ordered using the funds raised last year and is expected to be operational by the summer.

“The purchase of an O-Arm will make Saint John Regional one of only a few hospitals in the country to offer spinal surgeons and neurosurgeons the capability to see three-dimensional images of the spine while performing surgery,” said Dr. Neil Manson, an orthopaedic surgeon at the Saint John Regional Hospital. “It will enable surgeons to ensure that delicate surgery is performed with absolute accuracy, making the surgery faster and increasing the safety and speed of recovery for patients. It will also reduce exposure to radiation for OR staff, extending the careers of surgeons and orthopaedic nurses significantly.”

The 2016 fundraising drive, known as The Give 2016, will be raising money for the hospital's pediatric unit, including mental health and patient comfort facilities, equipment and education materials.

“We're seeing trends with the pediatric patients that we need help with addressing, specifically the mental health challenges,” said Brenda Kinney, executive director of the hospital.

Kinney said the pediatric wing has not changed much since the hospital opened in 1982 and evolving approaches to mental health issues require the construction of a new safe room.

“There's going to be a safe room where we're going to be able to put children experiencing challenges and in need of somewhere to go that's a



**Brenda Kinney, executive director of the Saint John Regional Hospital, attends a fundraising event at the hospital on Wednesday.** PHOTO: ALEX CONSIGLIO/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

safe environment,” she said. “There's nothing in it that they can harm themselves with or harm others with and it's a quiet environment, so the stimulation is not there that you would find in a normal hospital room.”

“We're not missing equipment, but what the foundation is able to do is help enhance what we have, and replace equipment that has reached its end of life,” she added. “As you know, technology is always changing.”

Also on the shopping list are simulation mannequins to be used for educational purposes, funding for departmental research, 11 sleeping chairs for

family guests, four pediatric hospital beds and stationary bikes for the pediatric waiting room.

Todd Lambert, a pediatrician and the clinical academic department head with the pediatrics department, said some of the equipment has been on the department's radar for some time.

“The department is definitely in need of some of the high-tech equipment that we have been trying now for a few years to get funds for,” he said, noting a central monitoring unit is needed and special isolates for premature newborns.

“Those are two of the big items we're

excited to purchase,” he said. “We currently do not have good centralized monitoring equipment.”

Lambert said a current clinical room in the department will be turned into the safe room, which could be used for children with autism or teens suffering from a crisis.

“It could be for teens out of control and not coping with their emotions or anxiety,” he said.

The foundation also announced on Wednesday that its 2016 campaign has already got off to a soaring start with a

PLEASE SEE → GIVE, B8

Date: Apr 14, 2016; Section: S J News; Page: B8



**At 10 years old, Catherine Alexander has been living with asthma all her life. She is pictured here with her father, Keith; her mother, Stephanie; and her brother, Henry. The Alexanders support The Give not only for what it means to their local hospital but for what strong and innovative pediatric care means for the entire community.** PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

## Hospital launches 2016 drive

### GIVE → B1

\$100,000 donation from The Brighten Group (Saint John Regional Hospital Auxiliary).

"We are extremely grateful for the Brighten Group's support," said Jeff McAloon, president and CEO of the

foundation. "Families of patients often have to stay at our hospital for extended periods of time and renovations to the family rooms are a wonderful fit with the Brighten Group's mandate to enhance the hospital experience for patients, families and staff."