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## **Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation Announces Fundraising Focus That Will Benefit All Areas of Care at the Saint John Regional Hospital**

**SAINT JOHN, NB:** We all have a story of how our Saint John Regional Hospital was here for us when we needed it most. On Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015, The Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation announced the focus of its upcoming annual The GIVE fundraising campaign will to ensure our hospital continues to be:

**“Always on. Always awake. Here, for you.”**

While past campaigns focused on fundraising for one particular area of the hospital or one more pieces of equipment, the Foundation will now focus on telling the story of how each year, support from donors impacts all areas of care at the Saint John Regional Hospital.

“Donors to the Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation have always supported our hospital in a broad number of ways – so much more than equipment,” said Jeff McAloon, President and CEO of the Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation. “We hope that today’s event will tell the story of how donors to our Foundation ensure that our hospital is here for you and your loved ones when you need it the most.”

Each year, donations help purchase urgently needed medical equipment, fund research that directly affects how patients are cared for, ensure doctors and clinical staff are up to date on the most important advances in medicine and patient care, help fund mental health programs and research across the province, and provide patients with better comfort.

This campaign’s fundraising goal of \$1.5 million will benefit many hospital departments and will touch the lives of patients in all areas of health care including women and children, ambulatory care, surgery, and mental wellness, to name a few.

“Our ER and Trauma department was the recipient of the first GIVE campaign in 2010,” said Dr. Michael Howlett, Clinical Academic Head Department of Emergency Medicine, Emergency Department. “That year, donors to the Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation generously gave our hospital’s ER a total makeover and I can tell you first-hand how the generosity of donors has made a huge positive impact in the lives of our patients and staff.”

“Giving to our hospital Foundation is more than the purchase of one piece of equipment a year. Donor support allows medical staff to attend professional development training and to undertake world-class research that will positively impact patient care. Also, when we have the right

equipment and programs and the right facility, we are in a better position to attract and retain doctors to our hospital,” Dr. Howlett added.

Nuala Reilly, mother of five, shared the personal story of how our Saint John Regional Hospital staff gave her family a miracle when her husband Shawn was treated for a heart attack.

“It all happened so fast,” Reilly said. “All of a sudden, Shawn broke out in a full-body sweat. I ran into the hall to get help and by the time I got back to the room, Shawn’s heart had stopped. He was in full cardiac arrest.”

Nuala didn’t know if her husband would survive, but on day five Shawn’s condition started to improve. After seventeen days in the hospital, he was finally strong enough to go home to his family again and today, after months of cardiac rehabilitation, he is well on his way to a remarkable recovery.

And Shawn and Nuala’s story is one of the many, many stories the Foundation will tell in the coming year of how our hospital staff are always on, always awake and here for all of us.

The **Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation** raises funds to support excellence and innovation in the areas of equipment, mental health, research, education, and patient comfort at the Saint John Regional Hospital, the largest healthcare centre in the province – providing world-class care for all New Brunswickers.

For more information please visit [www.sjrhf.ca](http://www.sjrhf.ca)

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