Everyone at some point in their life is touched by healthcare. As we get older or have a family, healthcare visits increase and become part of everyday living. If you have visited UHNBC or a healthcare facility, the equipment used in diagnosing, testing, or treatment was likely funded through the generosity of donors to the Spirit of the North Healthcare Foundation.

With a mandate of providing equipment, education, and enhancements to healthcare for the service delivery area to UHNBC, the Spirit of the North allocates donations received in many ways. “We are so grateful for donations received from our clients,” says Judy Neiser. “We direct these funds to any area of interest, concern or location of choice – our responsibility is to our donors. We take pride in developing relationships based on trust, what is near and dear to them, and what touches their lives.”

Recent accomplishments include the diagnostic Spect CT, that saw $1.4 million provided by donors to fund state-of-the-art equipment that was 2nd in the province only to Victoria at the time. “We would always have baseline health care, but the foundation through its donors is able to provide leading edge and state-of-the-art equipment that might not otherwise be funded,” she said. “It’s important that patients in the north receive the same quality of care that they could expect anywhere else in the province.”

Northern Health’s region represents 300,000 people in 600,000 sq. km. Delivering healthcare remotely can be difficult but we increase the chance of better patient outcomes when we work together, strategically funding items that can make a difference. It helps attract and retain healthcare professionals, reducing wait times and the pressure on major centers by providing better services here at home in the North.

As a fourth-generation “Prince George Girl,” Judy enjoys working with donors and a community that she has grown up in and raised her family in. “I feel very blessed to work with so many individuals who are also passionate about Prince George and the people who chose to work, live and play here.”

Judy applauds Northern Health, the Northern Medical Society, and the Spirit of the North Board of Director in their work to see that we aren’t forgotten in the North. The preventative move towards better detection and more accurate diagnostic services gives patients a quicker prognosis enabling them to take actions accordingly.

The Breast Health Imaging Centre is a full-service clinic within UHNBC. Reducing time between tests, and providing the diagnosis more quickly and accurately regardless of the outcome is key, enabling people to function better in their day to day lives. A regional cardiac strategy will see state-of-the-art ECHO ultrasound units placed providing better emergency response and diagnosis to cardiac related illnesses. “This is greatly needed in the north,” Judy says “and we are excited to embrace leading edge equipment on behalf of our donors.”

Recognizing that this community has many worthwhile charities, Judy says it’s what makes Prince George the community minded and volunteer driven mecca it is. Her hope is that others are as passionate about great healthcare through leading edge equipment, education and healthcare enhancements as she is and that you consider Spirit of the North Healthcare Foundation in your Spirit of Giving!

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- Judy Neiser

HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

Spiri t of the North

Submitted article

PHOTOS | Left: (From left to right): Annette Stevens, Danielle Greenslade, Curtis Mayes, Judy Neiser, Shauna Allan, Devon Green. Photo by Brent Brasen. Right: Judy Neiser stands with the diagnostic SPECT CT. Photo by James Doyle.

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