

More Time for What Matters

Brian Kozak was 58 before he knew he'd been living with a congenital heart defect that could have led to sudden death.

"I was having breathing issues at first thought to be lung-related," said the Winnipeg resident, now 64. "My new family doctor detected the faintest murmur in my heart."

Kozak learned he had a bicuspid aortic valve. It's an abnormality in which the valve has just two small parts – leaflets – instead of the normal three that open and close to regulate blood flow between the heart and the body. It's common for these two leaflets to be thicker and stiffer than optimal, as well.

In Kozak's case, the result was aortic stenosis. The aortic valve narrows to the point that it no longer opens fully, reducing blood flow and making the heart work harder than normal to get blood out to the body.

Kozak underwent surgery in November 2016 at St. Boniface Hospital to receive a mechanical replacement valve. Surgery also repaired an aortic aneurysm, a balloon-like bulge in the aorta, which can rupture, causing life-threatening internal bleeding.

As Manitoba's Cardiac Centre of Excellence, the Hospital's Cardiac Sciences Program receives approximately 51,000 patient visits annually. The program consistently ranks at the top in the Canadian Institute for Health Information's ratings for quality of cardiac care.

Donors play a big role in the care that patients like Kozak receive. They've supported everything from the heart pillows that give comfort after surgery to advanced cardio-pulmonary

testing equipment, a dedicated CT scanner, and Manitoba's first Endovascular Hybrid Operating Room, expected to open this year.

Last fall Kozak said thanks with a heartfelt social media post.

"Five years ago today, I went in for open-heart surgery 8.5 hours on the table (or so I'm told – I was right out of it.) Almost didn't make it because of complications, apparently," he wrote.

"But I'm here and I'm grateful to the wonderful medical staff at St. Boniface Hospital, my GP and Cardiologist and to my wife, friends and family who took such good care of me."

St. Boniface Hospital Foundation board members play an important role in advancing excellent care and groundbreaking research for the Hospital's cardiac patients, and those in every department, from labour and delivery, to palliative care, ensuring patients like Brian have time for the things that matter.



BY THE NUMBERS



5,087 donors
(2021)



\$9.4 million+ raised
(2020)



\$253 million+ raised
(since 1971 founding)

St. Boniface Hospital Foundation is a part of Réseau Compassion Network, a family of 13 health and social services agencies in Manitoba. Entrusted by pioneering women to bring together people of all faiths, traditions and cultures to serve Manitoba communities wherever the needs are the greatest, Réseau Compassion Network is proud to support this important work in our community.



ABOUT US

St. Boniface Hospital Foundation

Thanks to our generous supporters, St. Boniface Hospital Foundation has raised more than \$253 million to advance compassionate patient care and world-class research since our founding in 1971.

Our Mission

The mission of St. Boniface Hospital Foundation is to raise funds to support excellence in health care and research at St. Boniface Hospital in a manner that is guided by the legacy and values of the Grey Nuns.

Our Vision

St. Boniface Hospital Foundation will be at the forefront of fundraising to promote excellence in health care and research to create a healthier society.

Our Priorities

- Helping donors make thoughtful, personally meaningful philanthropic choices with impact
- Engaging the corporate community to give philanthropically, sponsor, and volunteer
- Sharing the inspiring stories of research and patient care at St. Boniface Hospital
- Earning trust through professional conduct and operational transparency

As a fundraising organization, we're proud to share with our donors and stakeholders that 100% of our Board members and staff voluntarily contribute to our worthy cause.

While we set no minimum amount for an annual contribution, we urge Board Members to give generously according to their means.

BOARD DUTIES & COMMITMENTS



The board meets 4 times per year



Time commitment is estimated at between 12 and 20 hours annually,

depending on the level of involvement on committees or the executive

Network Members

Abri Marguerite | Actionmarguerite | Aulneau Renewal Centre
Centre de santé Saint-Boniface | Centre Flavie | Charités Despins
St-Boniface Hospital | Marymound | Sara Riel | St.Amant | Ste. Rose Health Centre
Winnipegosis & District Health Centre | Youville Centre

