

**For Immediate Release**

**August 18, 2006**

**New Westminster, BC - The Kevin Haddrell Brain Injury Foundation** has generously donated \$6,000 to the **Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation** for the purchase of two specialized wheelchairs for patients in the hospital's Acute Medicine unit.

In September of 2005, Kevin Haddrell was rushed to Royal Columbian after being hit by a car while riding his bike in Surrey. He suffered a broken neck, a broken back and a brain injury that put him in a seven-week coma. In the months that followed, he worked bravely to increase his mobility and regain his strength.

Inspired by his brother's courageous recovery, Al Haddrell created a website to keep friends and family informed of Kevin's progress at RCH. It was during this time that Al saw an opportunity to give back to Royal Columbian. He went to work designing and selling a promotional t-shirt which was a tribute to his brother and the triathlons they completed together before the accident.

Al originally produced 100 shirts to sell on the website, but the demand was so strong that he had to order two hundred more. To date, the Kevin Haddrell Brain Injury Foundation has raised more than six thousand dollars for Royal Columbian.

"Kevin, his family and friends have shown incredible courage and generosity throughout his recovery process," says Adrienne Bakker, President of the Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation. "These chairs, along with his inspiring example, will help our medical staff bring even greater support to patients on the road to a positive recovery."

Rizalina Bejar, Manager of Acute Medicine at RCH, explains that "the money was used to purchase two specially-designed wheelchairs with adjustable and padded components. This allows staff to tailor the chair to provide maximum safety, support and comfort."

The mobile design of the chairs also allows patients the opportunity to propel themselves, bringing increased freedom and independence. Bejar adds that "we are so inspired by this family and grateful for the donation. It will benefit thousands of patients like Kevin that need highly specialized care at Royal Columbian."

"The nurses, physiotherapists and the entire team at RCH provided excellent care and worked really hard with Kevin," says brother Al, a graduate student in chemistry at Simon Fraser University. "But they needed additional equipment to provide the best quality care for someone in his condition. They needed the tools to help him fight his way back."

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Royal Columbian is both a community hospital and major referral hospital providing highly-specialized care for major trauma emergencies, cardiac and neurosurgery, renal treatment, high risk maternal care and newborn intensive care. It is one of BC's busiest hospitals, serving 1/3 of the province's total population. With more than 30,000 admissions each year, Royal Columbian Hospital must be equipped to service the largest and fastest growing health region in the province.

RCH Foundation is an independent charitable organization which raises millions of dollars each year to fund life-saving and diagnostic equipment for Royal Columbian Hospital. For more information about the Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation or how to donate, please call 604 520 4438 or visit <<http://www.rchfoundation.com>>[www.rchfoundation.com](http://www.rchfoundation.com).

For more information please contact:  
Adrienne Bakker, CEO – Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation  
Phone: 604-520-4669 direct  
Fax: 604 520 4428  
Email: [adrienne.bakker@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:adrienne.bakker@fraserhealth.ca)