

# Imagination to Innovation

Annual Report 2023 / 24

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# A Letter from Our Foundation Leadership

As we mark the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital's 60th anniversary, it's worth pausing to appreciate just how far we've come. In its 60-year history, the Glenrose has grown into Alberta's rehabilitation healthcare leader, changing lives through determination, compassion, perseverance, and a tireless drive to innovate. Today, as we honour this legacy, we also find ourselves at an extraordinary crossroads. The ground is shifting beneath us, thanks to rapid technological advances, seismic demographic changes, and a healthcare system stretched to its limits.

Marking this anniversary is about more than reflection – it's about mobilizing for what's ahead. It calls on us to engineer a future defined not by chance but by purpose. Alberta, with its booming population and increasingly diverse communities, is at the center of this opportunity. Throw in groundbreaking technologies like virtual care, AI, and advancements in robotics, and the stakes for the next 60 years couldn't be higher.

The Glenrose Hospital Foundation has spent the past year ensuring we're not just reacting to change but leading it. We've forged new partnerships, funded transformative research, and backed the kind of forward-thinking projects that have the power to redefine rehabilitative healthcare.

Of course, none of this happens without you. Our donors, partners, and supporters – you're the engine behind this foundation. You've fueled cutting-edge programs, made state-of-the-art facilities a reality, and changed lives in ways no spreadsheet or pie chart can fully capture.

The next six decades are ours to shape, but it's going to take all of us. Let's not just settle for adapting to change. Let's lead it. Let's build something future generations will look back on with pride and say, that's where it all started.

Thank you for being part of this journey – past, present, and future.

The Glenrose Hospital Foundation has spent the past year ensuring we're not just reacting to change but leading it.



**Mark Korthuis**  
President & CEO

**Justin Riemer**  
Board Chair

# A Letter from Our Hospital Leadership

On behalf of the entire team at Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, including dedicated staff, clinicians, and leadership, we extend our heartfelt thanks to you for your continued support.

Over the past year, the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital has welcomed more than 66,000 patient visits. We've had the privilege of serving Canadians from across Northern Alberta through to the Northwest Territories and Northern British Columbia, with individuals coming to us seeking help for a wide range of conditions including stroke, spinal cord injury, brain injury, amputation, developmental disorders and many other conditions causing significant impairments and lifelong disabilities.

Families of all backgrounds and stages turn to the Glenrose for our specialized, complex rehabilitation services – many of which are made possible through the generous support of community members like you.

And that's why we want to say, thank you.

As we sit down and reflect on the year behind us, we are thrilled to share with you the remarkable successes and milestones that we have achieved together. And as we look forward to the year ahead, we are equally filled with anticipation for what the future of rehabilitation in this province holds.

Your continued commitment to the Glenrose has a profound impact on our ability to deliver exceptional patient care, ensuring that our staff and clinicians have access to the best of technology, equipment, and facilities that we take pride in and that Canadians depend on.



*Lynette Lutes*

*Dr. Chester Ho*

**Lynette Lutes**  
Sr. Operating Officer

**Dr. Chester Ho**  
Facility Medical Director

On behalf of the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, thank you for being a vital part of our journey to becoming the **leading rehabilitation hospital in the country.**

## Treaty 6 Territory

# Land Acknowledgment

The Glenrose Hospital Foundation respectfully acknowledges that the land on which we operate is Treaty 6 territory, the traditional gathering place of the Cree, Dene, Blackfoot, Saulteaux, Nakota Sioux, and Métis peoples. We recognize and honour the enduring presence and contributions of Indigenous peoples to this land.

We acknowledge the deep connection that Indigenous peoples have to this territory, which spans generations and encompasses their rich cultural heritage, knowledge, and traditions. We also acknowledge the legacy of Indian Hospitals, and the discrimination experienced by Indigenous people in accessing care both here in Edmonton and across Canada.

At the Glenrose Hospital Foundation, we work with the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital to identify what patients and staff need to enhance their rehabilitation journey. We commit to fostering a spirit of collaboration, respect, and understanding with Indigenous communities. We strive to create a safe and inclusive space that recognizes the rights, histories, and aspirations of Indigenous peoples.

We are grateful for the opportunity to learn from and work alongside Indigenous communities as we strive for equitable healthcare and a brighter future for all.

Thank you for being with us on this journey.



## Welcoming Our New Board Chair

# Justin Riemer

We are thrilled to welcome Justin Riemer, CEO of Emissions Reduction Alberta (ERA), as the new Chair of the Glenrose Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees. As he enters his third year with the foundation, Justin brings with him a wealth of expertise in innovation and leadership.

As CEO of ERA, Justin has been instrumental in advancing technology solutions that significantly reduce emissions and create economic opportunity. His extensive experience in innovation development and support across both federal and provincial levels – including Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services – uniquely positions him to enhance the foundation’s focus on health innovation.

“I am honoured to assume the chair role during this pivotal period for the foundation and hospital. The Glenrose has consistently been a leader in health innovation and an important centre for rehabilitation care in the province. We are eager to build on the recent positive momentum we have generated and will continue to work with our partners to develop novel solutions that deliver care precisely when and where patients need it.”

## Board of Trustees

Chair, **Justin Riemer**

Trustee, **Carol Chawrun**

Trustee, **Randy Duguay**

Trustee, **Farid Foroud**

Trustee, **Wendy Gerber**

Trustee, **Katherine Husing**

Trustee, **Wendy King**

Trustee, **Maureen Lomas**

Trustee, **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**

Trustee, **Adam Sweet**

Trustee, **Karen Wichuk**

GRH Representative,  
**Lynette Lutes**





At the Glenrose

# We Celebrate Courage

Each year, we recognize the unwavering commitment and courage demonstrated by Glenrose patients and their caregivers at our annual **Courage Awards**.

In partnership with the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, last year's Courage Awards celebrated its 18th year with the addition of the Impact Award and a brand-new award, the Legacy Award, presented to Russ Walker, beloved Glenrose rehabilitation nurse, and Mary Agnes Radostits, founding board member of the Glenrose Hospital Foundation.

**We thank our 2023 Courage Awards sponsors, James H. Brown Injury Lawyers and Global News Edmonton.**





## Russ Walker

### Impact Award Recipient

It's not every day that a healthcare worker experiences their profession as both a caregiver and a patient. For Russ Walker, former and beloved rehabilitation nurse at the Glenrose, this became all too true a reality when he was diagnosed with a grade 4 glioblastoma in November of 2022. Following surgery that removed two-thirds of his tumour, Russ was admitted to the Glenrose to begin his rehabilitation.

Sadly, Russ passed away on February 5, 2024. **At the 2023 Courage Awards, we had the honour of presenting Russ with the Impact Award**, awarded only twice-ever in Courage Awards history, in recognition of the indelible mark he left on the field of rehabilitation healthcare, his undying service to others, and the bravery he demonstrated while facing his own medical and rehabilitation journey.

## Mary Agnes Radostits

### Legacy Award Recipient

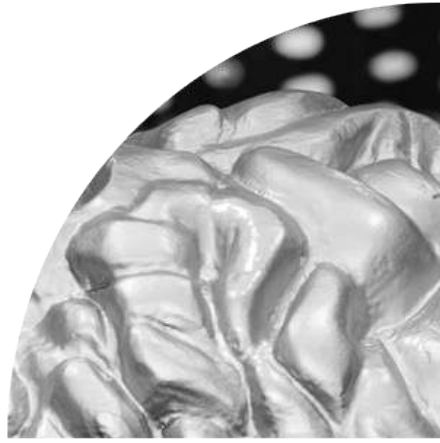
A caregiver by profession and philanthropist by heart, Mary Agnes Radostits lived a life full of compassion for all those around her. Her father, Weldon Bateman, and son Paul Radostits, who were both patients of the Glenrose themselves, inspired the Radostits family's first large donation to the hospital's program, Easy Street.

Sadly, Mary Agnes passed away in 2023. In honour of her life and legacy, the Radostits family made a significant contribution – in-memoriam – towards the prosthetics and orthotics department's new seven-axis robotic carving machine.

The inaugural Legacy Award was presented to her posthumously at the 2023 Courage Awards in recognition of her **remarkable contributions to rehabilitation healthcare**.







## Inspiring the Future of Rehabilitation Healthcare at the **Courage Gala**

The Glenrose Hospital Foundation’s signature fundraising event, the Courage Gala, celebrated its return to the Edmonton Convention Centre on Friday, April 14, 2023 after taking a three-year hiatus due to COVID-19.

Presented by Qualico, last year’s event welcomed over 450 guests and raised nearly \$400,000 (gross revenue) towards the future of rehabilitation research, equipment, and technology at the Glenrose.

Of the funds raised, \$50,000 supported the purchase of the recoveriX – an advanced rehabilitation technology that supports individuals recovering from stroke or brain injury.

FIRST GALA SINCE

**2019**

# OF GUESTS

**457**

AMOUNT RAISED

**\$389,064**



The **recoveriX** pairs brain-computer interface (BCI) with neuromuscular electrical stimulation (NMES) to help the brain re-wire itself to relearn lost motor functions, such as grasping or walking.



## High-Tech Stroke Therapy – The recoveriX

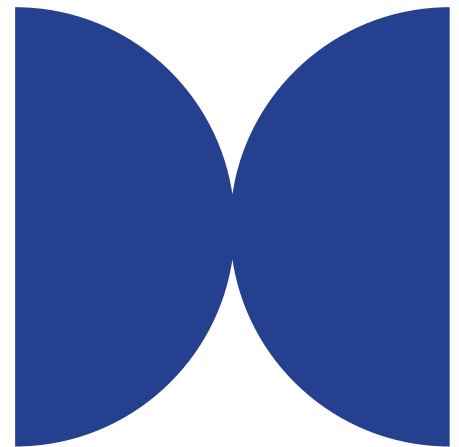
Our commitment to patient care drives everything we do. That’s why we’re thrilled to support the introduction of new technologies, like the recoveriX, which strive to **push the limits** on human mobility in the pursuit of better patient outcomes.

A revolutionary technology for stroke and brain recovery patients, the recoveriX pairs brain-computer interface (BCI) with neuromuscular electrical stimulation (NMES) to help the brain re-wire itself to relearn lost motor functions, such as grasping or walking.

RecoveriX users wear a BCI cap with electrode pads attached to either their arms or legs. Patients are then asked to imagine a hand or foot movement (motor imagery). The recoveriX provides feedback in real time by stimulating the muscle with a small electrical current (NMES), while at the same time, the patient receives visual feedback by seeing an avatar of their hand or foot on the screen (virtual reality). Together, the combination of these three therapies boosts brain neuroplasticity – the brain’s ability to re-organize how its circuits are wired around the area of the injury.

This technology, which is still in its early stages, is particularly revolutionary for patients that have plateaued in their recovery using conventional treatments.

**We are passionate about discovering how technologies – like the recoveriX – can help bring Glenrose patients one step closer to achieving their fullest potential.**



# How Olivia Terry Unlocked Her Brain Using BCI

Olivia’s life changed when she was first introduced to the Glenrose’s Brain-Computer Interface (BCI) Program.

At five years old, Olivia was diagnosed with Rett Syndrome – a rare neurological disorder that affects 1 in 10,000 births. For the Terry family, Olivia’s life started off perfectly ‘normal’. She met all of her early milestones until she started regressing, quickly losing her ability to control her own body – to speak, eat, and walk.

At the onset of her symptoms, she was referred to the Glenrose where she accessed a myriad of therapies and programs. When Olivia was thirteen, she was first introduced to the BCI Program.

Through BCI, Olivia gets to enjoy activities much like her peers. She paints, plays games, and has even powered her wheelchair with BCI, interacting with the world in ways that were previously inaccessible.

While still in the early stages of discovery and clinical application, BCI has opened a world of opportunity for Olivia. For the Terry family, their hopes for the future are optimistic.

“The concept of independence and being able to control what she can in her house in the future, to do something for herself, those are our hopes for BCI,” says Stephen and Elana Terry, Olivia’s parents.

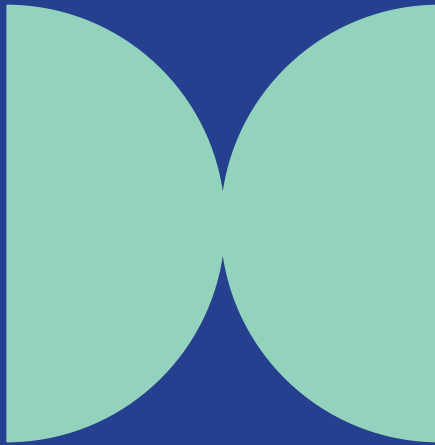


Olivia Terry (right) and Megan Heximer (centre) present a cheque to the Glenrose Hospital Foundation at the 2023 Courage Gala donating proceeds from their clothing line which features artwork that Olivia painted using BCI.

## What are Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCIs)?

Brain-computer interfaces, or BCIs, are a rapidly advancing technology that allow individuals to control devices with their minds. Users wear a special headset that picks up brain signals, sending them to a computer which translates these signals – or thoughts – into action, controlling devices such as video games, robots, remote-control cars, smart home technology, and even powering wheelchairs.

The Glenrose, one of the founding members of the BCI-CAN Network – a coalition of three Canadian research facilities – is committed to driving forward pediatric BCI research and innovation. The foundation is proud to be at the forefront of funding advancements in this cutting-edge technology.



## National Philanthropy Day

# Recognizes Qualico

On National Philanthropy Day, we celebrate the significant contributions and commitment to healthcare by pillar members of our community at the annual Association of Fundraising Professionals awards. Last year, we had the honour of recognizing Mike Saunders, Senior Vice President at Qualico Properties, for his role as a champion of rehabilitation healthcare in our province.

We thank Mike and Qualico for their continued support, including their presenting sponsorship of the Courage Gala, and their ongoing commitment to both building better communities and uplifting those who live, work, and play within them.





## Advanced Innovations

# A New Era of Rehabilitation

### Technology Feature: Tovertafel

With the support of our donors, we were able to fund the Tovertafel or ‘magic table’ – a unique piece of technology that combines projected lights and responsive sounds to encourage movement and social engagement in older adults with dementia.

**The magic table offers various games that promote physical, social, mental, and sensory activities.** Games are categorized into levels based on cognitive goals and can be further customized to enhance participant understanding. Some of the most popular games include ‘Leaves’, which uses a hand or brush to sweep leaves; ‘Sheet Music’, where users can enjoy listening to and making music; and ‘Flowers’, where users make an array of colourful flowers grow with just a touch.



Adults at the Glenrose play a game using the Tovertafel.

## Technology Feature: Seven-Axis Robotic Carver

The carver, which was funded last year with the generous support of our donors, serves over 1,500 individuals from across Alberta each year, allowing orthotists and prosthetists to forgo traditional time-consuming plaster-casting in favour of a digital approach. 3D imaging is

translated to a computer to create automated carving replicas of any body part – including the head to be fitted with a helmet, torso for a spinal brace, or arm or leg for prosthetic or orthotic devices.



### Carving Out Better Sleeps for Rowan McNair

Sleepless nights were not uncommon for Rowan McNair, who wears a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine at night for a rare condition that causes him sleep apnea.

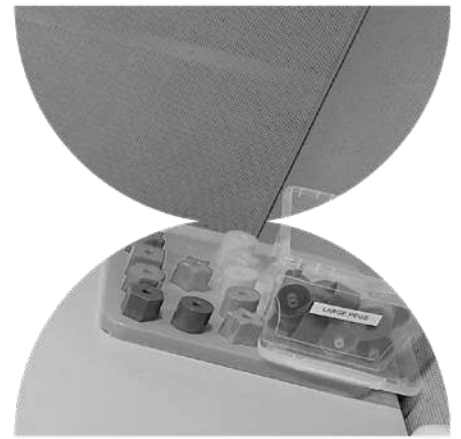
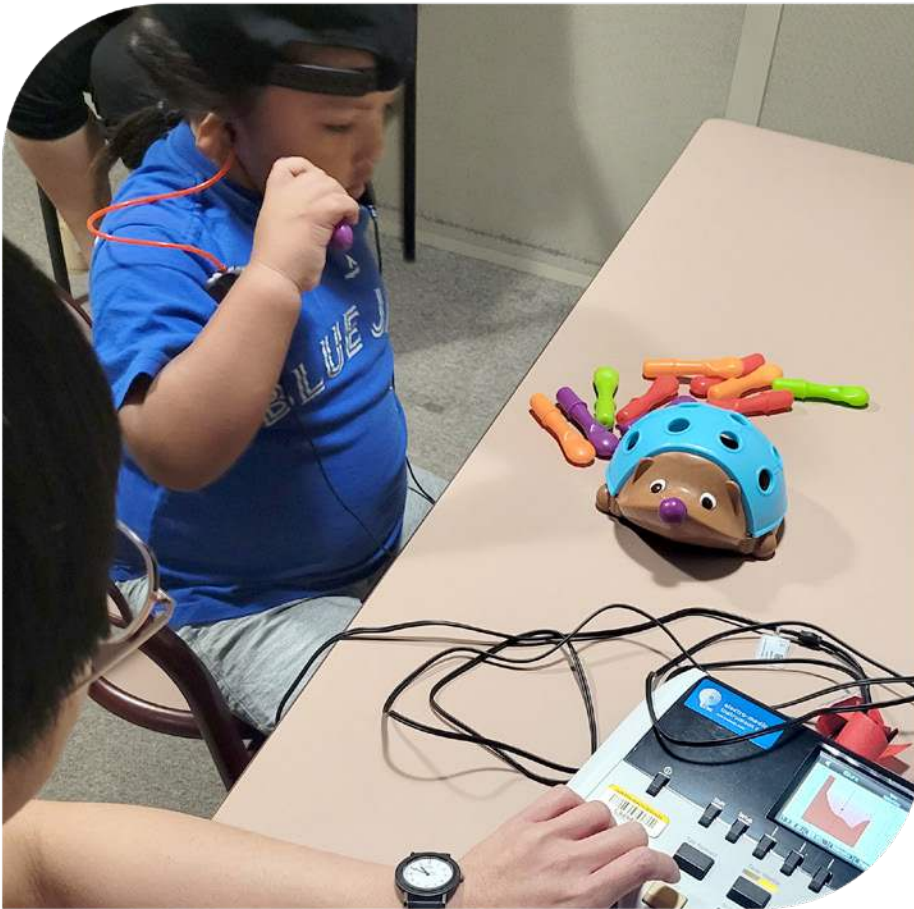
For years, Rowan struggled to find a CPAP that fit comfortably while he slept. Due to the poor fit of the masks, he dealt with constant pain from pressure sores and rashes causing him to want to take his mask off at night or not wear it at all.

That's when Rowan was referred to the Glenrose where he met orthotist, Andreas, who suggested a custom helmet might help Rowan's CPAP fit with more comfort. The hospital's **seven-axis robotic carver used 3D imagery to make an exact foam replica of Rowan's head**, which was then used to make him a flexible helmet with straps for a more precise fit of his CPAP.



*Rowan stands with Glenrose orthotist, Andreas, and the replica foam carving of his head that was created using the hospital's seven-axis robotic carver. Photo courtesy of Alberta Health Services.*

PATIENT STORY

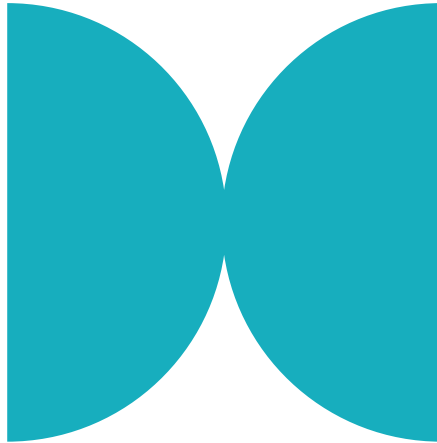


A Glenrose audiologist and patient play a game using one of the hospital's new portable audiometers.

## Technology Feature: Portable Audiometers

Hearing assessments – which often take place in traditional sound booths – can be intimidating for children. Aside from being lengthy, the booths themselves are small, often inducing nervousness and making it difficult to keep children engaged to complete an assessment.

Thanks to the support of Building Trades of Alberta, our foundation supported the purchase of five portable audiometers. These devices allow audiologists to conduct basic hearing tests in any quiet room, or bedside, allowing the audiologist to sit directly beside the child and make a game out of the test experience. For example, children enjoy putting a peg into a pegboard every time they hear a whistle sound. The child can play a game while the audiologist is obtaining critical test results.



## White Paper – Healing Hospitals: Patient and Healthcare Communities

A culmination of research funded by the foundation, Glenrose patient care manager, Doran Walker, authored the white paper – ‘Healing Hospitals: Patient and Healthcare Communities’ – which highlights the transformative impact of relationship-centered leadership on both patient and staff experiences.

Doran’s research and resulting findings provided key takeaways that rapidly improved patient and staff engagement by integrating quality improvement (QI) processes and a collaborative leadership approach. Notably, over the course of Doran’s research, **patients’ sense of being heard improved by 32% and negative staff sentiments were reduced from 40% to just 2% in only three months.**

Since its soft launch, this paper has garnered notable accolades and endorsement by nationally recognized health ecosystem leaders, including Graham Dickson, CEO at LEADS Global, and Scott Malcolm, Canadian Armed Forces Surgeon General. It will continue to serve as a living project and roadmap to translate leadership, QI, and change management theory into usable practice.



## Glenrose Wheelie-Fun Sports

# Making Sports Accessible

The Glenrose 'Wheelie-Fun Sports' group gives kids of varying abilities the opportunity to try adapted sports in a safe and inclusive setting.

Supported by the foundation, kids tried volt hockey, basketball, wheelchair rugby, bowling, and sit skiing, empowering them to build the skills they need to pursue sports while also reducing barriers to access such as time, finances, and awareness.



Kids visited the Edmonton Soccer Centre to play volt hockey – an adapted form of hockey that allows children with complex needs to play the sport using a battery-operated chair controlled by a joystick.



## Collaborative Care

# Building Partnerships

## Prairies Economic Development Canada

In partnership with Prairies Economic Development Canada, we announced \$2.1 million in funding for our Accelerating Industry Applications for Human Mobility, Brain-Computer Interface, and Home Health Technologies project. For Alberta seniors hoping to age in place and individuals facing complex mobility challenges, this funding enables Alberta's health-tech community to ramp up commercialization of in-demand mobility and home health technologies.



## Alberta Innovates

In partnership with Alberta Innovates, we're leveraging Alberta's health-tech sector to help us connect patients and clinicians in rural and remote Alberta communities with technology-enabled models of care within rehabilitation. This program, called 'Digital4Health - Creating the Future of Rehabilitation Care', calls on health technology leaders and frontline workers to help transform ideas into healthcare solutions for patients at the Glenrose, and those in communities across the province.





## Servicing the Northwest Territories

For Jenall Mckay Balsillie, having access to specialized healthcare services in her community isn't the standard. That's why every one to two months, Jenall and her son, James, commute from their home in Fort Resolution, Northwest Territories (N.W.T.) to Edmonton to visit the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital.

When James was born, Jenall knew something was wrong when he wasn't hitting his milestones like he should. After receiving a referral to the Glenrose, James was diagnosed with spastic diplegia, a form of cerebral palsy. With no specialized rehabilitation services available in their community, Jenall and James regularly commute to the Glenrose for appointments like physiotherapy and orthotic bracing.

Jenall makes the commute because she knows her son needs it, but travelling from remote N.W.T. presents an array of challenges for her and her family.

Through partnerships with organizations like **Alberta Innovates**, we hope to address these challenges head-on – building and scaling novel solutions to create a future where rehabilitation healthcare is accessible to all those who need it.



# Impact in Action



**1,817**  
Total Inpatient Admissions



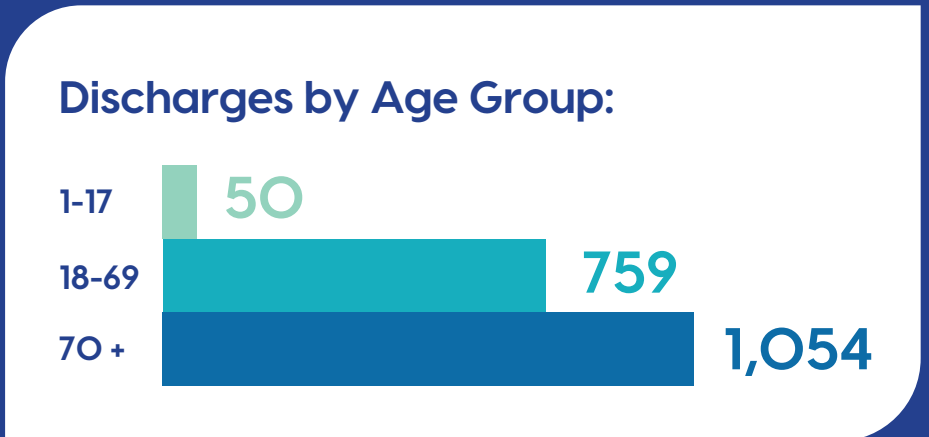
% of Patients Discharged Home

**74.8%**



Total # of Discharges

**1,801**



Average Length of Stay

**41** DAYS



# Impact in Action

Total Visits  
**66,839**  




  
**10,010**  
Virtual Visits



Unique Patients   
**18,028**

Group Visits  
**4,437**  


Virtual Group Visits  
**1,080**  




# Our Finances

Revenue	2024	2023
Donations & Fundraising	\$2,900,792	\$1,243,282
Casino & Gaming	\$195,464	\$148,164
Government Grants & Assistance	\$173,843	\$142,983
Investments	\$810,838	\$104,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,080,937</b>	<b>\$1,638,829</b>

Expenses		
Administrative	\$327,812	\$312,596
Fundraising	\$1,109,293	\$1,126,461
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,437,105</b>	<b>\$1,439,057</b>

Revenue over Expenses before Distributions	\$2,643,832	\$199,772
Distributions to Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital	\$1,988,606	\$1,894,641
<b>Revenue over Expenses</b>	<b>\$655,226</b>	<b>(\$1,694,869)</b>



# Where do Donations Go?

Community donations directly support our mission of advancing rehabilitative care at the Glenrose by helping fund equipment that will improve patient outcomes, build spaces that aid in the rehabilitation journey, and driving forward research and innovation that will fuel the future of rehabilitative healthcare.

Thanks to you – our valued donors and supporters – Glenrose patients see a future not just where the possibilities are limitless, but also, so very much within their reach.



FACILITIES & PROGRAMS

\$125,987

TECHNOLOGY & EQUIPMENT

\$633,413

RESEARCH

\$1,229,206

FUTURE COMMITMENTS

\$4,301,680

# Ways To Give

The Glenrose Hospital Foundation relies on the generous support of community members like you to help us reimagine human ability for all those in Alberta – and beyond – living with complex communication and mobility conditions. Make a gift your way today and contribute to a new era of possibility for Glenrose patients.

## 1 Make a One-Time Gift

Every donation makes a difference.

## 2 Become a Monthly Donor

Make a long-term investment in the future of human ability with a recurring donation.

## 3 Give in Support of Your Care

Give a gift in support of the excellence in rehabilitation care you received while at the Glenrose.

## 4 A Gift in Memory of Your Loved One

Donate in honour of your loved ones or in commemoration of a special occasion.

## 5 Leave a Legacy Gift

Shape the future for generations to come through a bequest in your Will.

## 6 Become a Member of Our Circle of Courage

Join a devoted group of donors with a minimum pledge of \$1,000 or \$83.33 a month.

## 7 Donate Your Shares

Give the gift of securities to make a tax-smart investment towards the Glenrose.

To learn more about how you can support the Glenrose Hospital Foundation, visit [www.glenrosefoundation.com](http://www.glenrosefoundation.com)



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