

Building a healthier city

Local women join forces to raise money for Royal Columbian Hospital

BY LORI PAPPASJOHN
RECORD REPORTER

There is a special group of women in New Westminster who have a goal – to help make the city a better place. To that end, they have been busy raising money for much-needed equipment for Royal Columbian Hospital.

This past year the women, who call themselves the Group of Five, raised more than \$22,000.

The Group of Five was formed two years ago by Gerda Suess.

She had just been honoured with the title Citizen of the Year for her volunteer work in the Royal City. And even though Suess had already worked hard for her city, getting that title made her think: "I have to do something more," she said.

So Suess founded the Group of Five – Marion Osterman (who's married to city councillor Bob Osterman), Shirley Piper (wife of local orthopedic surgeon Dr. Michael Piper), Alana McIntyre, Nancy Jickels, Mary Lou Chesman and Suess.

"Okay, if you add it up, there are actually six of us – but we never turn down people who want to raise money," laughs Suess.

Last year, the women raised \$9,000, which went to purchase five calf compression devices for Royal Columbian Hospital.

This year, the women raised more than \$22,000.

"We had generous donations from Wesgroup Income Properties (the company developing the former Labatt site), New Westminster Firefighters Charitable Foundation and CUPE Local 387," said Suess.

"In addition, we received money from the many generous people who attended our coffee and dessert party and silent auction last



DONATIONS AT WORK: Milt Tingle (right), orthopedic technologist at Royal Columbian Hospital, displays new equipment to (from left), Gino Norni, president of Wesgroup, Gerda Suess and Shirley Piper.

LARRY WRIGHT/ The Record

November at Royal City Christian Centre.

"More than 100 people came to that event and were very kind with their donations. We are so proud of all the people who helped us make this possible."

The calf compression devices, purchased last year, prevent the development of blood clots and pulmonary embolus.

Information provided to Suess by Dr. Michael Piper states that the Royal Columbian Hospital orthopedic department reports that "the incidence of these complications of trauma and surgery has fallen significantly since the acquisition of these devices."

This year, money raised by the Group of Five was used to purchase a new gurney for the fracture clinic, a spider limb positioning device and a power drill-wire driver for the frac-

ture clinic.

Piper's report also states that "modern shoulder surgery demands very strategic positioning of the arm to provide access to the joint. The spider limb positioning device grasps the arm and allows the surgeon to position it in exactly the correct position to obtain access to the joint."

"Orthopedic surgeons are constantly placing and removing pins, screws and wires. In the fracture clinic now we are forced to place and remove these devices with antiquated hand drills," said the report. "With the Power Pro, we will be able to place and remove these pins and wires far more efficiently and safely with much more patient comfort."

The fracture clinic gurney is used to position patients correctly for when casts, splints and braces are applied.

position by accident. many years with arth spent more than \$2000 creams prescribed chiropractic treatment therapy. After trying therapies without relie cartilage as a last reso **weeks all pain wa:** years later I'm still taking a small main every day.

Quite naturally one t about this quick and relief. Everyone I told experience. At that tim sixties with a succe goods wholesale comp plans to start a n however, I realized the **others and free the arthritis pain, which and longest lastin** made me want to t about it by adv experience in newspv a blessing for all the that I'm still helping e turned out that the p were the most reward: Helping people gives purpose to carry on.

There's nothing m than helping others fi their pain. Every d

Used all celebrity drug injections I'm grateful to nudging me to try Bell She instead. I suffered for 8 yes unbelievable that within 8 I'm 95% pain free. Why do not know about this inexp relief with no side effects? *Charles Hopkins, Sydney,*

Cancelled knee replac I was in pain and limping pain now. Can square dar *Anton Melnychuk, Porcup*

Tried another brand and came back. 2 weeks on B the pain is gone again. *Gl Hanmer, ON (Note Bell S is processed differently to natural active ingredients.*

Rheumatoid arthritis is housebound and unable to household duties. Your sh is a miracle for me. I sleep can walk, dance, do my ow and housework now. Have You are my "hero" without *Verne Smith, Medicine*

Shark cartilage, not g I was taking both. When I shark cartilage the pain r I knew what was helping I *William G. Elliott, Hannov*

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