

St. Paul Journal

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St. Paul & District Hospital Foundation to host fundraiser gala

MARIO CABRADILLA
St. Paul Journal

ST. PAUL – The St. Paul & District Hospital Foundation is preparing for its annual fundraiser gala on March 11 after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year, the foundation, composed of volunteers from the community, is raising funds to purchase critical medical equipment that would help improve patient care and comfort at the local hospital.

Included in the medical equipment are anesthetic carts for the operating room, a portable ultrasound, a neonatal resuscitation cart, a cardiac monitor, a pediatric code cart, air mattresses for long-term care, and exercise stress test equipment.

Noreen Brousseau, the chair of the foundation, said that the list of equipment amounts to over \$100,000.

Brousseau emphasized the importance of supporting the hospital and its healthcare workers.

“Our mission and our goals are to support our healthcare workers, our doctors, our nurses, and all of the people who are in the hospital to provide the best patient care [they] can,” said Brousseau. “We do that by raising money for equipment [the hospital] identified as being very important for patient care and comfort.”

Brousseau noted the importance of having a well-equipped hospital in the community. “Without a hospital, you’re traveling off to somewhere... and everywhere,” she said. “You need to be able to go to the hospital five minutes away and be seen.”

Brousseau also commended the physicians in



File photo

Noreen Brousseau, chair of the St. Paul & District Hospital Foundation, is pictured among the crowd at a past gala. This year’s event will be held on March 11.

town, including those who have moved to the community in recent months. “They’re awesome, so we need to support them.”

“Our business community has also been contacted and donations are coming in as they always do – and we appreciate that so much,” said Brousseau.

In previous years, Brousseau said the gala has sold out, stating that “our community has always been very supportive of this.” The foundation is hoping for an equally successful event this year.

The fundraiser will be an evening of entertainment, delicious food, and silent and live auctions, according to Brousseau, and is also an opportunity to “get together and celebrate our community.”

“It’s always fun to support your community and we get to see everybody again,” she said.

The event will be held at the St. Paul Recreation Center. Tickets are available at the St. Paul Healthcare Centre Administration Office for \$65 per ticket or \$520 for a table of eight.

Community event offers parents insight into child development

MARIO CABRADILLA
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ST. PAUL – Many families gathered at the Ecole du Sommet gymnasium on Jan. 31, seeking consultation with health and educational professionals about their children’s development.

The annual “Off on the Right Foot” program is made possible through the collaboration of community organizations and with funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Pauline Szucs, coordinator at Franco-Accueil, said the program is designed to support families with children aged 0 to 5.

The program gives parents “an informed idea as to where their child is developmentally,” and if there are any concerns, “then they have the opportunity to talk to our specialist from AHS (Alberta Health Services) to get referral or guidance counsellors as to where to go get support in order to help their child.”

An “Ages and Stages Questionnaire” (ASQ) was also available, used to measure the “communication, problem-solving, fine motor, gross motor and personal social skills that children should be hitting in their development” for children ages 2 to 5, according to Szucs.

In addition to the AHS, several community organizations and specialists were also onsite to provide parents



Mario Cabradilla photo

The Peacock family were among the attendees during the “Off on the Right Foot” event hosted at Ecole du Sommet last week.

information on “supports that are within our community,” said Szucs.

When asked why the program and the event was created, Szucs said that, “as a parent myself, it’s always nice to be informed as to where our children are developmentally.”

“So, when offering a program like [Off on the Right Foot], we’re allowing our parents to get an insight into their

child’s development, and also to be okay where their child is,” said Szucs. She explained that if a child may not be “hitting the right markers,” there is always room for growth.

There is “always room and guidance in our community” to help children continue to grow and develop, and it is important for parents to hear that “they are doing a good job,” Szucs said.

“Parents are taking a really big role in developing their child and teaching them the skills they need,” she said. So, “they need to know that they are doing a good job and that they are good parents.”

When asked why it is important for parents to need to know they are doing a good job, she said that parents often forget, and are often “very hard on ourselves.” Thus, the need to be sometimes reminded they are doing the best that they can with the resources that they have, “and to not beat yourself up.”

“There’s no guidance when you become a parent. That’s why parents need to know that there isn’t a perfect way to be a parent,” she said. She reiterated by emphasizing that the important thing is, “you’re doing the best that you can.”

“The fact that they came here and they’re doing the steps... to support their child – they’re doing a good job,” said Szucs.

This year’s event had around 25 children attending, and Szucs expressed her excitement about the turnout, considering the event had not been held for two years due to COVID.

She believes that events like “Off on the Right Foot” are important for families to become more informed and to know that they are doing a good job, no matter what their expectations may be.