



Registered Charity #87416 1482 RR0001

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023-2024

Supporting Frontline  
Healthcare Heroes  
with Breathing Equipment.


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Premature twins were helped by TB Vets-funded ventilators at Langley Hospital



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# Message from the President & CEO

This past year has been one of inspiration, progress, and meaningful impact as we continue advancing TB Vets' mission of Respiratory Wellness for all British Columbians.



Thanks to your generosity, we've made significant strides toward a healthier BC. From equipping future healthcare professionals through the Stethoscopes for Students initiative to fostering community engagement with the Get Up and Breathe program, your support has helped drive innovation and change. Our signature donor luncheon was another highlight, bringing together those who share our vision of clean air and healthy lungs for all.

Together, we are making a difference-engaging, educating, and supporting those affected by respiratory disease and the healthcare workers who care for them. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey.

Kandys Merola, President & CEO  
TB Vets Charitable Foundation

## Message from the Board Chair

"Thanks to our generous donors, TB Vets continues to change lives across British Columbia through the remarkable work we do every day. Your support enables us to provide critical resources, fund innovative programs, and make a lasting impact on individuals and families affected by respiratory illness."

## Executive Board

Peter Merola	Board Chair
Diane Thompson	Secretary/Treasurer
Bradley Bostock	Board Member
Gordon Coburn	Board Member
Don Hickling	Board Member
Jennifer Kastelein	Board Member
Rick Plumridge	Board Member
Darryl Skipworth	Board Member
Dr. Jim Sun	Board Member
Jeff Vowles	Board Member



# RESPIRATORY EQUIPMENT

## • Improve Care for Patients in the Comox Valley

TB Vets has funded life-saving respiratory equipment in the Comox Valley since 1996. This past year, your support purchased new state-of-the-art medical imaging equipment for the Comox Valley Hospital.

The “Technegas Generator and Delivery System with Easy Breathe Accessory Equipment” assess airflow and lung function with 3-dimensional high-resolution imaging. The accuracy of this model is far superior to the hospital’s previous diagnostics — with significantly better accuracy.

Improved accuracy in diagnosing a patient means they will receive the best, safest care in a timely matter — which will have a positive effect on the outcomes of the hundreds of patients who will be treated using the new equipment each year.

“This is a piece of equipment that the medical imaging department identified as one of their top priorities, and we were truly elated when TB Vets Charitable Foundation & Mike & Marlene Horvath informed us of their willingness to support,” said Rhonda Stevens, Co-Executive Director of the Comox Valley Healthcare Foundation. These partnerships are vital to local healthcare and we are truly grateful for their generosity and continued support.”



# RESPIRATORY EQUIPMENT

## • Squamish General Hospital

Squamish is rapidly growing — their population has doubled in the past 10 years — and so has the number of patients at the Squamish General Hospital. Yet their equipment has not caught up with recent demand.

The hospital previously only had an extremely old ventilator — not only was it very difficult for staff to use, but the tubing was discontinued, and they were down to their last box.

You and TB Vets have contributed to purchasing a Hamilton T1 ventilator for Squamish General Hospital! Not only is this ventilator easy for staff to use, but it's also portable and can be taken to any area of the hospital as it's needed — or on an ambulance when a patient needs to be trans-

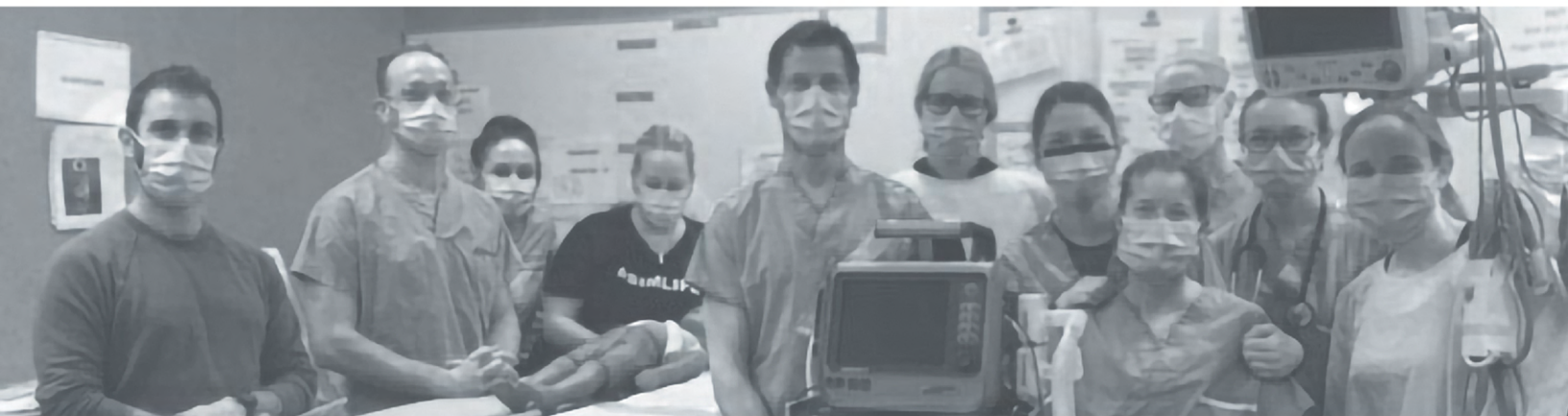
tions have already been hard at work saving lives, thank you!

“The ventilator has been a huge asset to our hospital”, says Amy Randall, “especial-

ly since the number of patients we've had to put on ventilation has increased over the years. It's easy for nurses and Respiratory Therapists to use, and it has non-invasive functionality with a medical grade C-Pap and Bi-Pap, meaning we can treat a wide variety of conditions.”

Randall states that “Typically rural hospitals receive second-hand equipment from large hospitals in the city. Having our own new equipment has greatly increased the standard of care we can give our patients.” Many rural communities have limited budgets and access to equipment, often having to rent essential equipment in critical times.

In having new life-saving equipment already on hand, communities like Squamish will not only be able to quickly diagnose patients, but also swiftly save lives in need of urgent care. Your contributions support communities like Squamish, and will continue to see positive life-saving results across British Columbia.





# RESPIRATORY EQUIPMENT

## • Help Patients Breathe at Home

Thanks to your generosity, Eagle Ridge Hospital's Respiratory Therapy Department now has access to a life-changing device: the Stellar 150.

COVID caused severe supply chain delays for Home BiPAP machines, leaving many patients waiting months or even years for the equipment they need to breathe safely at home. Here's what they have to say about the device:

**"One of our patients with Myotonic Dystrophy (a muscle disorder) got sicker and needed a special breathing machine to help them sleep at night. Without the Stellar 150, they would have had to stay in a critical care bed indefinitely, taking up resources needed for unstable patients."**

Your continued support helps us provide more essential devices like the Stellar 150 to bridge the gap for patients waiting for their own equipment. Together, we can make sure that every patient has access to the life-saving respiratory care they need.



## • Creating healthier outcomes for Patients in Abbotsford

**"Thanks to your generosity, Abbotsford Regional Hospital's respiratory care has taken a huge step forward with the addition of a new cough assist device, funded by TB Vets."**

— Elizabeth Harris

Executive Director of Fraser Valley Health Care Foundation

This important machine is already making a big difference for patients who have trouble coughing and clearing mucus from their lungs, especially those with diseases like neuromuscular conditions or spinal cord injuries.

Patients are experiencing healthier outcomes, with **fewer requiring serious treatments like reintubation or extended ICU stays.**

The device is now being used in multiple hospital areas, expanding its reach and helping more patients. Staff have found it easy to use, and it's already making a difference by helping patients recover faster and feel more comfortable.





# RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

## • Supporting the next Generation of Respiratory Therapists

Each year, TB Vets supports Respiratory Therapists (RTs) at Thomson Rivers University — which is the only RT program in BC. This past year we awarded scholarships to 20 students.

**“The bursary provided by TB Vets was incredibly helpful and I thank the donors from the bottom of my heart.”**

“I’m finishing up my clinical year and completing my bachelors simultaneously. I’ve been doing hands-on work in hospitals — once I even got to assist with an openheart surgery. The training we get is amazing,

and I feel ready and excited to apply what I’ve learned when I graduate in a few months.

My favorite part of clinical work so far has been patient advocacy and interacting with patients. I remember when I was in Vancouver General Hospital there was a woman who had to take oxygen home. She was panicked by the situation and not listening well but I was able to calm her down and reassure her that it was our job to take care of everything, and all she had to do was use the oxygen as directed.

The bursary provided by TB Vets was incredibly helpful and I thank the donors from the bottom of my heart. It alleviated some of the financial stress of being a student, and allowed me to focus on my clinical studies and volunteering. Now I’m excited to start working later this year!”

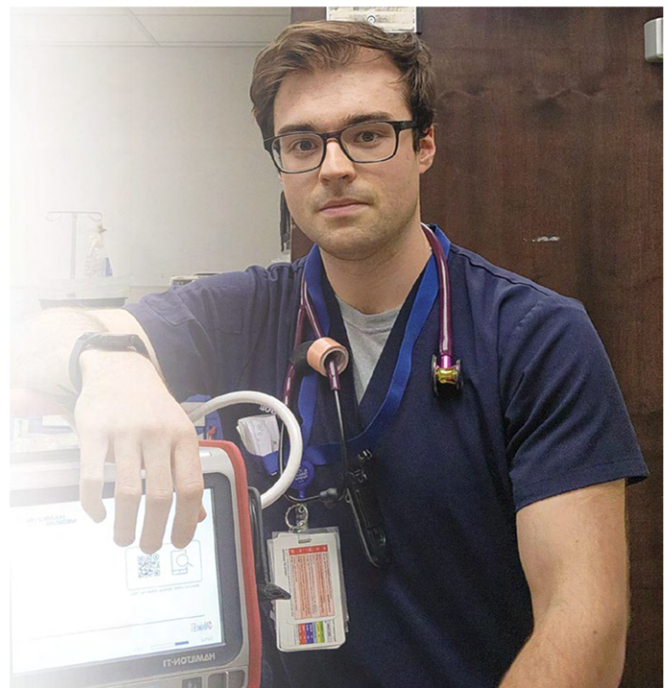
— Harrison Brooke, Scholarship Recipient and future Respiratory Therapist

## TB Vets 2024 50/50 Lottery Winner



The winner of the 50/50 raffle was John and Darla Gray of Salmon Arm, BC. They were delighted to win \$36,570 and plan to use the money for renovations on their home. John has been a long time supporter of TB Vets and donated to the Key Tag program since 1997.

The winning ticket #142824 was drawn on August 25th.  
(BC Gaming event license No. 151246)



## • Tour at Sechelt Hospital

Recently, my colleague Mark and I had the honor of attending a donor breakfast presentation and hospital tour at Sechelt Hospital. We were privileged to be seated with other distinguished guests, including Dr. Ron Mundy, a long-time Sechelt resident, physician, and avid supporter of the hospital.



We also met Jane McOuat, who was thrilled to share her experience as the first patient to use the new spirometer donated by TB Vets. Jane explained the significant impact of having the spirometer inhouse, as it spares patients the need to travel to Vancouver for this essential diagnostic respiratory test.

The hospital tour, led by Jane MacDonald, Executive Director of the Hospital Foundation, provided us Donor Breakfast and Hospital Tour at Sechelt Hospital with a comprehensive view of the facilities. At the Respiratory Therapy unit we met RT Kala Bennett, who demonstrated the spirometer and expressed gratitude for TB Vets' support in providing critical respiratory equipment.

**"It makes a world of difference to be able to have the spirometer test done here at home. It saves a full day trip to Vancouver, which is very beneficial to all."**  
- Jane McOuat

Small communities are often disconnected from life-saving operations as travel to the mainland is often unreliable or out of reach. Donating life-saving equipment allows you and TB Vets to serve isolated communities in need of critical care.

## • Professorship in Respiratory Care

We have some exciting news!

Thanks to donors like you, TB Vets Charitable Foundation is giving \$120,000 over the next three years to support the newly created TB Vets Charitable Foundation Professorship in Respiratory Care at Simon Fraser University (SFU). In partnership with Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation, this will fund the research of Dr. Elizabeth Rohrs, PhD.

Dr. Rohrs is passionate about finding a better way for patients to transition off ventilators. Unfortunately, 30% of patients struggle to come off ventilators. Over time, ventilated patients develop weakness in their respiratory muscles resulting in an extended dependence on a breathing machine. The longer a patient is on mechanical ventilation, the greater the risk of ventilator-induced lung injury (VILI). VILI can cause multisystem organ failure and death.

Dr. Rohrs wants to understand how brain-muscle coordination affects weaning and to find new signs of early weaning failure, so respiratory therapists do not over-exhaust patients and cause further damage. Her research will build a systematic body of evidence that will have the potential to completely transform how patients are transitioned off ventilators.

Thank you for supporting the future of respiratory care!





## • Fighting TB

TB Vets was founded to help soldiers returning from war recover from Tuberculosis (TB). While rates of TB have drastically dropped since then, it continues to remain a global health challenge, affecting one-third of the

250-300 people per year are diagnosed with TB.

Currently, TB drugs require long treatment periods, which makes it hard for patients to stick to their treatment plan and can lead to drug resistance.

UBC's Av-Gay Lab is working on developing a drug that reduces treatment time while also addressing the growing problem of resistance.



*Xray image of patient with TB.*

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**The progress being made is vital not just for Canada,  
but for the global fight against tuberculosis.**

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***With your support, the lab is making remarkable strides in finding new treatments to fight TB.***

Here's how your contribution is making a difference:

- **Advancing Research:** Your funding helps sustain critical research operations and maintain the lab's equipment.
- **Strengthening Capacity:** The funding supports the salaries of permanent research technicians, increasing the lab's ability to carry out essential research.
- **Promising Outcomes:** The goal is to develop more effective TB treatments that shorten the time required for patients to complete their treatment and prevent drug resistance.

The progress being made is vital not just for Canada, but for the global fight against tuberculosis.

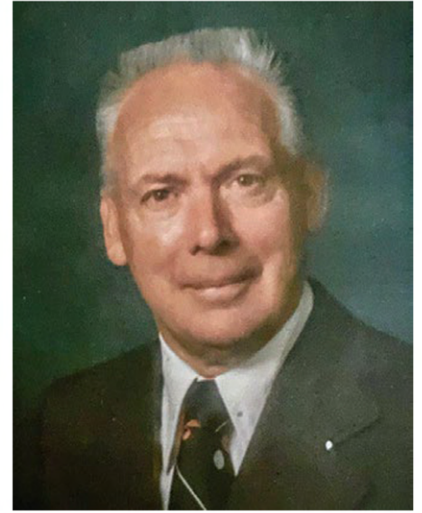
**By funding this research, you are helping to reduce TB worldwide, saving lives, and improving public health for generations to come.**

# SUPPORTER'S CONNER

TB Vets was founded by our veterans who were dedicated to ending TB and supporting patients. Today, we maintain a core value of honouring veterans who have served our country.

**Barbara Gazso**, a lifelong TB Vets supporter remembers her Father — Trooper Charles W. Fussey.

Barbara's Dad "Charlie" was recruited in Trail, B.C. by the Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles to fight in WW2. He was assigned to the tank division. Many described Charlie as an expert rifle man and sharp-shooter.



**Barbara hopes that her donation to TB Vets helps towards a world where no one contracts TB.**

When he was stationed in England he collapsed while on parade only to learn he had contracted TB. Unfortunately, he wasn't the only one who fell ill, as his brother Stan, in the same regiment, was later diagnosed with polio. The troops training at the time were not aware that sharing gas masks would cause disease to spread.

Charlie was sent home to Canada on a hospital ship and hospitalized at the Tranquille Sanatorium in Kamloops, B.C. and later transferred to and received care at the Shaughnessy Military Hospital in Vancouver, B.C. Charlie developed a reputation at the hospital for his positive outlook and sense of humour — many patients said they wouldn't have made it through their treatment if not for the hope and reprieve he gave them.

Though Charlie had to have a rib removed during his TB treatment, he carried himself with pride and lived an active life until the age of 89. He was employed as a steward at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 15, Abbotsford, B.C. until retirement. Charlie was an avid hunter and hewer of wood; few were aware of his disability.

Barbara's mother, Olive, started donating to TB Vets to support veterans like her husband recovering from TB. Barbara continues the tradition by giving throughout her adult life.

Barbara hopes that her donation to TB Vets helps towards a world where no one contracts TB, and is reassured to know that her support helps patients like her Dad recover and live full lives.



# YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

## 2024 Respiratory Grants



OVER  
**\$650K**

IN RESPIRATORY FUNDING  
2023 - 2024

### RESPIRATORY EQUIPMENT • BC HOSPITALS

\$20,000	BC Women's Health Foundation
\$8,964	Canuck Place Children's Hospice
\$20,000	Coquitlam Search & Rescue
\$20,000	Eagle Ridge Hospital Foundation (Port Moody)
\$40,000	East Kootenay Foundation for Health (Cranbrook)
\$9,900	Fraser Valley Healthcare Foundation (Abbotsford)
\$30,000	Kootenay Boundary Health Foundation Society (Trail)
\$40,000	Langley Memorial Hospital Foundation
\$25,000	Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation
\$40,000	Peace Arch Hospital & Community Foundation
\$10,000	Royal Inland Hospital Foundation (Kamloops)
\$25,000	Sechelt Hospital Foundation
\$7,890	South Cariboo Health Foundation (100 Mile House)
\$14,360	Stanton Territorial Hospital Foundation (Yellowknife)
\$20,000	St. Paul's Foundation of Vancouver
\$30,000	Squamish Hospital Foundation
\$66,667	Surrey Hospital Foundation
\$20,000	TEAAM Aeromedical Society
\$20,000	Victoria Hospital's Foundation

### RESPIRATORY RESEARCH

\$40,000	UBC Faculty of Medicine (TB Research)
\$40,000	Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation (Ventilator Research)

### TB UNIT • RECREATION THERAPY

\$40,600	VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation
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### RESPIRATORY EDUCATION

	Thompson Rivers University:
\$20,000	Bursaries for Respiratory Students
\$17,600	Stethoscopes for Students
\$2,000	Ed Eberlein Bursary
\$10,000	Pacific Public Health Foundation (Vancouver)

Because of your giving, hope abounds in BC communities large and small. Thank you for joining TB Vets in the frontline of respiratory care.

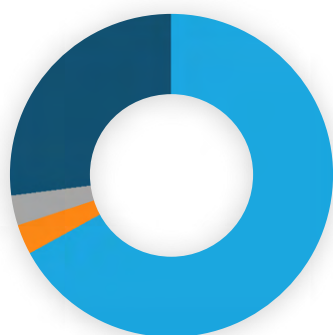
# FINANCIALS

## THE POWER OF GIVING

In 2023-2024, TB Vets Charitable Foundation's cost per dollar was 19 cents (excluding community awareness and public engagement), which is lower than the industry average of 26 cents.

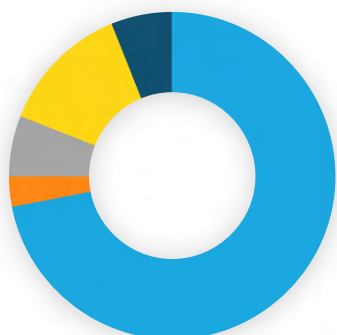
Thanks to our donors, our 2023-24 consolidated revenue, including investments, totalled \$2,478,977. Together with our donors and supporters, we have made a direct and significant impact on respiratory care in our province.

The following financial highlights are based on TB Vets' audited financial statements for our fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. The Foundation's statements are audited by Rolfe Benson LLP Chartered Professional Accounts and are available on our website at: [tbvets.org/audited-financials](https://tbvets.org/audited-financials)



### SOURCES OF REVENUE

<b>67%</b>	Philanthropy from Key Tags
<b>3%</b>	Bequests
<b>3%</b>	Raffle 50/50
<b>0%</b>	GUAB Program Donation
<b>27%</b>	Investment & Other Income



### DISTRIBUTION OF DONATED FUNDS

<b>72%</b>	Hospital Equipment
<b>3%</b>	First Responder
<b>6%</b>	Education
<b>13%</b>	Research
<b>6%</b>	Recreation Therapy

### REVENUE

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Philanthropy from Key Tags	1,659,547	1,592,424
Bequests	63,130	29,244
50/50 Raffle	73,140	75,940
GUAB Program Donation	5,000	-
Investment & Other Income	678,160	293,159

**2,478,977**      **1,990,767**

### EXPENSES

Foundation Operations	466,411	436,502
Community Awareness & Public Engagement	684,567	658,556

**1,150,978**      **1,095,058**

### EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES BEFORE GRANTS

**1,327,999**      **895,709**

Funds granted for:

- Hospital Equipment	460,011	645,992
- First Responders	20,000	-
- Education	38,800	31,200
- Research	80,000	90,000
- Recreation Therapy	40,600	40,600

**639,411**      **807,792**

### EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES AND GRANTS

**688,588**      **87,917**

Fund Balances, beginning of year	2,622,598	2,534,681
Fund Balances, end of year	3,311,186	2,622,598

*\*Full audited financial statements may also be requested by phone call to TB Vets at 1.888.814.5626 (toll free).*



# YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT RESPIRATORY HEALTH IN BC

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

➔ **ONE-TIME DONATION:** ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ MY CHOICE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **By mail with a cheque made payable to TB Vets**

☐ **By mail with a credit card:**

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **By interac e-transfer.**

Add TB VETS as a new interac recipient. Send your donation to [information@tbvets.org](mailto:information@tbvets.org). Please enter your Key Tag Number in the message box. Your donation will be automatically deposited to the TB VETS account. No need for a security question.

☐ You may also donate **online** at [tbvets.org/donate](https://tbvets.org/donate) **or by phone call** to 604.874.5626 or 1.888.874.5626 (toll-free).

➔ **MY MONTHLY DONATION:** ☐ \$15 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ MY CHOICE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*We value your commitment to respiratory care in BC. Year-round giving may be changed, paused or stopped at any time.*

☐ I'm enclosing a void cheque for monthly direct debit donation

☐ Charge my credit card (fill out details above)

\* Process my monthly donation on the ☐ 1st or ☐ 15th of each month starting the month of \_\_\_\_\_

➔ **I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE...**

☐ An e-receipt to my email address

☐ A printed receipt (for a \$30-donation or more — or upon request)

☐ I would like information about leaving a gift in my Will

☐ I have left a gift in my Will

**Donate Online**



[tbvets.org/](https://tbvets.org/)



## TB VETS

Arming Frontline Medical Heroes  
with Life-Saving Respiratory Equipment

Your gift is tax-deductible. Registered Charity #87416 1482 RR0001. TB Vets respects your privacy and will never share, trade, rent or sell your information. Your personal information is only used to process your donation and keep you informed of Foundation updates.



## OUR MISSION

Supporting life-saving respiratory  
Healthcare for all British Columbians

## OUR VISION

Hope for Every British Columbian to Breathe Freely

## OUR VALUES

Committed to community,  
while honouring the past as a path to the future

TB Vets Charitable Foundation  
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[tbvets.org](http://tbvets.org)