



From left, TbayTel's Kathleen Jones joins Employee Giving program committee members Athena Kreiner, Casey Etreni, Adam Shaen, Sue Buob-Corbett and **Mark Kuszniier** show off a vital-signs monitor that was purchased through this year's campaign.

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre is richer by a new vital-signs monitor, a new hospital bed and an intravenous pump thanks to the help of its employees. In fact, the hospital is very rich in caring employees who donate their time and money to help purchase needed equipment through the Employee Giving program.

Athena Kriener, the director of annual giving with the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation says this eight-member committee works hard to distribute the funds to where it's most needed.

"Our employee donors have a choice on where they want to designate their funds because we raise money for all areas of health care in the hospital," said Kriener. "We also have an employee giving fund which is a general health-care fund that employees can donate to."

At the end of the year, the committee sees how much money is in the fund and examines the capital list to see what the hospital has identified as a need. They then decide where the employee funding will go.

Kriener said that last year, hospital employees raised more \$84,835 which was boosted to \$94,835 by contributions from TbayTel, who pledged a four-year commitment to match all employee donations up to \$10,000.

Last year, funding helped to purchase eight vital-signs monitors that were distributed to different departments. The committee continues to work year-round to host staff barbecues, the annual “elfing” campaign and other fundraising initiatives.

Barry Streib, who sits on the board of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation, says there is a sense of philanthropy among the people who contribute to the program which is growing each year. The employee contributors become more involved and engaged because they have a sense that this is their hospital.

“We are welcoming 83 new employees this year to the program,” he said. “That’s really exciting stuff.”

And the best part is that the employees are seeing an impact from their contributions in improved patient care.

“It’s really all about improving the lives of patients and their families and we are all in this together,” said Streib.

You don’t have to be an employee of the hospital to donate funds. For information on how you can contribute, visit www.healthsciencesfoudation.ca or call 684-7111.