

HeartBeat

www.pacificopenheart.org

A message to persons dealing with Open Heart Surgery

Dear Friends,

As members of the Pacific Open Heart Association we would like to explain the association's mission and goal. We have all undergone open heart surgery and we can offer positive moral support and encouragement during the sometimes bewildering period before and after your surgery.

Experience shows that both the patient and family benefit from seeing and chatting with an "open hearter."

One of our members will be pleased to assist you in any way possible, both now and when you return home. We are available to answer your questions and direct you to services to help you.

Please remember that our team members are volunteers. They are not qualified to give medical advice. If you have any specific medical concerns, you should direct them to hospital staff.

History

The original group, the First Open Heart Society of B.C., was founded in Victoria in 1973 in the interest of heart patients on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.

A Greater Vancouver branch was formed in 1986. The membership has persons from all walks of life who share a common bond—a "renewed life" after open heart surgery. The Pacific Open Heart Association, a registered charity, was formerly incorporated in 1988 under the B.C. Society Act. Our members come from British Columbia and the Yukon.

We offer a hospital visitation program comprised of team members who visit patients during their hospitalization. It began at the open heart surgery hospitals—St. Paul's, Vancouver General and Royal Columbian. Visiting activities were expanded to "feeder" hospitals in the lower mainland for patients awaiting transfers for open heart surgery.

Our visitation teams meet with about fifty patients per week. The cardiac surgeons, cardiologists and nursing staff at the hospitals we visit, endorse our visitation program and report beneficial results for patients and their families.

Aims of the Pacific Open Heart Association

The main purposes of the association are:

- To assist in the encouragement and preparation of patients about to have open heart surgery and to encourage and support patients and their families after surgery.
- To bring together people who have had open heart surgery through our biannual *Pacific HeartBeat* newsletter, website, AGM and annual golf tournament.
- To assist other organizations devoted to the betterment of persons about to have, or having had, open heart surgery.
- To seek funds from various sources, including donations, to promote patient education by way of take-home information.

The Pacific Open Heart Association encourages you to become a member for only ten dollars by returning the form with your payment.

Please consider making a tax deductible donation to support Pacific Open Heart Association in assisting cardiac departments in British Columbia hospitals. Tax receipts will be mailed to donors.

POHA VISITOR NAME:

NAME _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

YES! I WISH TO JOIN THE PACIFIC OPEN HEART ASSOCIATION

AND I ENCLOSE:

\$10 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$ _____

DONATION AMOUNT \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

PLEASE MAIL TO:

PACIFIC OPEN HEART ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 45001

OCEAN PARK PO

SURREY, BC V4A 9L1

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ POSTAL CODE _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

SURGERY HOSPITAL _____

I AM INTERESTED IN:

THE GOLF TOURNAMENT BEING A VISITOR

BEING A SUPPORTING MEMBER WITH NO ACTIVE PARTICIPATION



**PACIFIC
OPEN HEART
ASSOCIATION**

The Association comprises persons who have undergone open heart surgery. Members are dedicated to assisting others facing an operation.