

# STARS®

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2010

*It's about* the Patient



*Celebrating 25 years of care in the air in 2010*

# It's about Barry



**INJURIES RESULTING FROM FALL REQUIRE STARS RAPID RESPONSE**  
TRANSPORTED FROM GRANDE PRAIRIE, ALBERTA  
TO UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA HOSPITAL, EDMONTON

*Always ready to lend a hand – that’s the way friends often described Barry. So when his buddy Leo needed some assistance to get a new retail store in Grande Prairie painted and ready for customers, Barry was there.*

On the evening of September 27, 2010, Barry was painting the ceiling of the new store, standing on moveable scaffolding seven feet off the ground. Leo left the area briefly to get more paint when suddenly there was a loud crash.

Leo returned to find Barry had fallen from the scaffolding onto the concrete below, was unconscious and had curled into a ball on the hard floor. Leo saw that Barry was not breathing and gently repositioned him from his curled position to allow his airway to open. Barry began breathing again and Leo quickly called 911.

As Barry slipped in and out of consciousness, paramedics arrived and prepared to transport him to hospital. Once at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Grande Prairie, physicians immediately sent him for a full-body CT scan to determine the extent of Barry’s injuries.

The scan revealed Barry had several skull fractures, a broken and dislocated shoulder, two vertical cracks in the vertebrae in his back, as well as two slightly compressed discs. Due to the critical nature of these injuries, the decision was made to transport Barry to Edmonton for more intensive care.

STARS airlifted Barry to the University of Alberta Hospital in Edmonton, where he arrived just over three hours after his initial fall and was met there by his sister,

brother-in-law and daughter. His wife, Sandra, arrived a few hours later after making the trip from Grande Prairie by car.

Physicians at the hospital gave Barry a dose of steroids to minimize inflammation and reduce the swelling of his brain. His shoulder was immobilized to allow healing. He remained unconscious for a week while his body began to recover from the initial trauma.

Barry spent a further four weeks in hospital recovering and then spent two weeks at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital before returning home.

Today, Barry is continuing physiotherapy to regain full use of his shoulder and fortunately did not suffer any permanent memory loss due to the head injury. He does find his stamina isn’t what it used to be, but says it too is improving with time. He continues to work in the family pet food store in Grande Prairie.

His successful recovery is reason enough to celebrate, but Barry has much more to look forward to. In July 2011, he and Sandra will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary and around the September anniversary of his near fatal fall, they will welcome their first grandchild.

Barry sums up his experience and future outlook best when he says, “I really have so very much to be grateful for.”

## Our Vision

Saving lives through partnership, innovation and leadership.

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## Our Mission

STARS is dedicated to providing a safe, rapid, highly specialized emergency medical transport system for the critically ill and injured.

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The STARS vision and mission are supported by **four pillars of activity.**



*emergency medical communications:*  
**finding the patient**

*patient care & transport:*  
**caring for the patient**

*education & research:*  
**educating the providers**

*fundraising & community partnerships:*  
**raising funds and working  
with the community**

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## Our Core Values

Safety | Teamwork | Accountability | Respect | Spirit

# *It's about* the Commitment



**LEFT:** DR. GREGORY POWELL  
**CENTRE:** DAVID MOWAT, DR. GREGORY POWELL AND ALLAN BUCHIGNANI  
**RIGHT:** ALLAN BUCHIGNANI AND DAVID MOWAT

*A STARS helicopter in the sky has come to symbolize security in times of crisis for residents of Alberta and eastern British Columbia, providing a feeling of reassurance that help is on the way. The sight of the familiar red helicopter caused a young boy to turn to his father and say: "Someone's life has changed forever."*

With over 20,000 missions flown since 1985, STARS has impacted many lives including Barry, Chelsea and Rick who you will read about in this 2010 Report to the Community.

The stories shared by our Very Important Patients (VIPs) are an inspiration to all of us at STARS, as we feel tremendous pride in knowing that together with our partners in the chain of survival, we helped make a difference in these lives.

We could not do this without your support. In a society which at times wants more than governments can provide, STARS is an example of how partnerships help build a stronger community. With the support of business, government and volunteers, the power of partnership is truly evident. Just as helicopters can't see borders, neither do the communities and volunteers who have embraced STARS with their time, effort and financial support.

The community has long embraced this model, and as STARS flies into its next era, we are expanding operations into our neighbouring province to the east. We are responding to a request from Saskatchewan to provide that same service and sense of security to their residents. In addition to our bases in Calgary, Edmonton and Grande Prairie, we will be adding bases in Regina and Saskatoon that will be operational by the end of 2012.

Philanthropic support will be as important as ever as we enter this new era. STARS would not be here today without the strong and ongoing support of corporations and communities. New and existing partnerships will continue to chart the course for STARS into the future.

The STARS mission has always been about making a difference. Going forward, our pledge remains the same: *It's about the patient.*

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Allan Buchignani  
*Board Chair, STARS*

David Mowat  
*Board Chair, STARS Foundation*

D. Gregory Powell, O.C., MD FRCPC  
*President & Chief Executive Officer*

# Operational & Financial Highlights

<b>Mission Summary</b>	2010	2009	2008
Number of missions	1,453	1,368	1,465
Hours flown	2,169	2,023	2,126
Communities served	241	224	229
STARS Emergency Link Centre (Daily average industry site registrations)	3,500	3,100	3,500

## STARS Statistics

<b>Net Funds Raised</b>	2010		2009		2008	
	\$000	%	\$000	%	\$000	%
Lottery	10,393	33%	10,021	35%	8,895	33%
Donations and fundraising	9,659	31%	7,738	27%	7,975	30%
Calendar	1,133	4%	1,272	5%	1,292	6%
Government contributions*	6,079	19%	4,639	16%	4,878	18%
Other	4,415	13%	4,489	16%	4,362	16%
Investment	(44)	0%	385	1%	(740)	(3%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,635</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>28,544</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>26,662</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Expenditures</b>	2010		2009		2008	
	\$000	%	\$000	%	\$000	%
Aviation	10,611	35%	9,546	33%	8,897	30%
Medical service	4,122	13%	4,091	14%	4,752	16%
STARS Emergency Link Centre	3,609	12%	3,586	12%	3,917	13%
THE STARS CENTRE	2,265	7%	2,166	7%	1,905	6%
Administration	5,104	17%	4,785	17%	4,944	17%
Amortization	2,727	9%	2,984	10%	2,863	10%
Fundraising administration	2,262	7%	1,837	6%	1,963	7%
Chain of Survival Fund	-	0%	2	1%	257	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,700</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>28,997</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>29,498</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Property and Equipment</b>	2010		2009		2008	
	\$000	%	\$000	%	\$000	%
Advanced technology helicopter	15,358	95%	0	0%	13,233	90%
Helicopter upgrades & support equipment	235	1%	258	38%	230	2%
Air medical equipment	95	1%	18	3%	333	2%
Communication equipment	29	0%	15	2%	73	0%
Human patient simulators & support equipment	299	2%	270	40%	213	1%
Administration equipment	8	0%	102	15%	339	2%
Buildings & leaseholds	140	1%	12	2%	352	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,164</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>14,773</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Alberta Health Services and the Province of British Columbia

To download the complete financial statements, visit [www.stars.ca](http://www.stars.ca)



## Emergency Medical Communications Finding the Patient

The STARS Emergency Link Centre (STARS ELC) is a sophisticated 24-hour emergency medical communications centre offering vital and timely information sharing to emergency service providers. In the event of a medical emergency, one call to the STARS ELC activates the chain of survival by linking local emergency services, physicians and appropriate transportation providers into one conversation.

To help meet the emergency response needs of industry, the STARS ELC also offers a number of fee-for-service programs including the Site Registration Program and Industry Emergency Contact Centre. The industries that use these services are varied, and include energy, mining, forestry and recreation, to name a few.

### 2010 Highlights:

- The STARS ELC *assumed responsibility for coordination of care and transport for all rural critical patients in Alberta*. This increased the Red (critical) patient call volume by 100 per cent.
- Average of *3,500 remote site registrations per day*. The Site Registration Program facilitates rapid emergency medical response in the event of a medical emergency at a remote location.
- The Industry Emergency Contact Centre *added two new industry partners* and provides services such as answering emergency calls, automated call-outs and work alone monitoring.

# Patient Care and Transport

## Caring for the Patient

Since 1985, critically ill and injured patients in Alberta and eastern British Columbia have relied on STARS to provide a safe, rapid and highly specialized emergency medical care and transport system.

The STARS Air Medical Crew (AMC) consists of paramedics, nurses and physicians who are committed to providing the very best in emergency medical care. Our Aviation Crew of pilots and engineers works to ensure safe flights and maintain our helicopters.

### 2010 Highlights:

- Responded to *1,453 missions* and flew *2,169.3 hours*.
- Through a 10-year affiliation agreement with Alberta Health Services and collaboration with provincial health partners, *a system was created to better identify, manage and transport all critically ill patients in rural communities*.
- Implemented the use of *airborne ultrasound* with the first two trained AMC paramedics in Canada.
- Selected a vendor for the installation of a *state-of-the-art medical interior* in the new AW139 helicopter.
- Organized *cross-provincial exploratory discussions* for programs in adjacent provinces.
- Through a contract with the Canadian Armed Forces, *provided medevac support* to Canadian Forces Base Wainwright for two training exercises.





## Education and Research

### Educating the Providers

STARS is committed to providing education and training opportunities for both our own crews and our partners in the chain of survival. Through *THE STARS CENTRE*, we offer a number of educational opportunities including the Mobile Simulation Program, the Outreach Program, the STARS Critical Care and Transport Medicine Academy, and the Clinical Skills Development Program for STARS Air Medical Crew.

#### 2010 Highlights:

- *THE STARS CENTRE* assumed responsibility for establishing a *province-wide curriculum for critical care and training for all air medical transport providers in Alberta.*
- The STARS Critical Care and Transport Medicine Academy *received a substantial grant from the Rural Alberta Development Fund* to ensure sustainability of this educational program which is designed for working professionals in transport medicine.
- A *total of 21 learners graduated* from the STARS Critical Care and Transport Medicine Academy.
- A *total of 113 communities were visited* through outreach programs.
- A *total of 157 training events* were held for our partners in the chain of survival.

# Fundraising and Community Partnerships

## Building Relationships with the Community and Raising Funds

STARS is a charitable, non-profit organization, and the STARS Foundation is the fundraising arm for STARS. The incredible ongoing support of the community helps us to continually enhance our innovative and leading-edge air medical programs and service. STARS strives to provide the best patient care and transport program possible and is only able to do this through the support and generosity of donors.

### 2010 Highlights:

- A total of *963 monthly donors* joined our monthly giving program.
- The *Red Ring for Life program was launched*. The ring is a symbol of the many hands involved in a life-saving mission and worn by supporters, donors, former patients and members of the chain of survival.
- *The STARS Lottery sold out* for the 17th consecutive year, with net revenue of over *\$10 million*.
- Our founding supporter, the *Lions Club*, achieved the *\$2 million milestone in giving*.
- A 25th anniversary *community thank you logo was unveiled* on the fleet of STARS helicopters.
- Over *450 volunteers contributed 8,065 volunteer hours* in a variety of areas such as special events, board governance, or acting as STARS ambassadors at public presentations.



# *It's about* Chelsea

*In 2010, Chelsea graduated from the University of Alberta with a commerce degree, majoring in accounting and with distinction for high marks. Considering the setbacks she suffered five years prior, the accomplishment was significant.*

The first-year University of Alberta business student treated herself to a break from studying for final exams to go to a movie with friends on March 25, 2005. She was on her way home from St. Albert to Sherwood Park that evening when she hit a patch of black ice and careened into a power pole.

The car was crushed when it hit the high voltage, heavy-duty pole, and 18-year-old Chelsea was slammed from the driver's side to the passenger side of the vehicle.

A passer-by called 911 and emergency crews arrived on scene. It took more than 30 minutes to free Chelsea from the wreckage. STARS was called to carry the critically injured young woman to the University of Alberta Hospital.

Physicians determined Chelsea had suffered a severe traumatic brain injury that included a number of brain hemorrhages. She also had multiple internal injuries including lacerated and bruised spleen, liver, lungs, kidneys and bladder. In addition, her pelvis was broken in multiple locations. Physicians treated her to reduce brain swelling and surgeons operated to repair her pelvis.

Chelsea spent the next month in a coma, with friends and family holding vigil by her bedside. When she regained consciousness, she stayed in hospital for another two months recovering from the critical

injuries. Chelsea spent almost a month at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Centre before being allowed to go home with her family. She spent the summer attending frequent appointments with doctors and physical and occupational therapists.

The summer of 2005 was a time of re-learning for Chelsea as friends and family helped her regain her ability to carry out everyday tasks including walking, reading and writing. They also helped her regain lost memories of her life before the accident.

Chelsea eased her way back into school in the fall, taking just one class to help get back on track with her studies. After another two years, Chelsea was back up to a near full course load at the University of Alberta and graduated in April 2010.

To this day, Chelsea still does not remember the accident itself and is missing memories for months of time around the crash. But she is moving ahead with her life and is now a Chartered Accountant articling student.

She lived on her own for three years before moving in with her boyfriend a year ago. "He has experience in health care, and it's great that he can help me continue my recovery and understands my injuries. He knows what I have gone through and gives me the support I need," says Chelsea.



**UNIVERSITY STUDENT CRUSHED IN VEHICLE  
TRANSPORTED FROM ST. ALBERT  
TO UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA HOSPITAL, EDMONTON**

# It's about the Community



STARS VERY IMPORTANT PATIENTS AT THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN CALGARY AND EDMONTON.

*In October 2010, STARS marked 25 years of service with celebrations at bases in Calgary, Edmonton and Grande Prairie to say ‘thank you’ to the many volunteers and donors whose efforts have been invaluable to the organization’s success.*

Volunteers like Jacqui and Ernie Goddard were recognized at these events. The Goddards are organizers of the Rumsey Ride, raising funds and awareness of STARS. People of all ages come from across southern Alberta for the trail ride through the Red Deer River Valley, allowing the tiny community of Rumsey (population 85) to raise \$483,472.88 since 1989.

“You know where those pennies come from? The little people who are too little to ride. They bring their piggy banks,” says Jacqui, who attended the Calgary celebration.

The Rumsey Ride holds the distinction of being the longest running STARS fundraiser, encompassing a full day of activities that includes breakfast, dinner and a silent auction. Its 22nd event in August 2011 is expected to push total donations to the cause beyond \$500,000.

Like many rural residents, Jacqui says the strong commitment comes from knowing help is on the way in a time of emergency or medical crisis, almost like an insurance that each hopes they will never have to use.

There is a definite sense of ownership and personal pride in STARS accomplishments that is evident in the community connections that are spread across rural, urban and corporate interests.

“We are fortunate to have significant community and corporate support which is evident by the number of logos that are unveiled every year on our fleet of helicopters when these organizations reach milestone giving levels,” says Rae Fehr, Director of Major Gifts within the STARS Foundation. “These donors take great pride in their accomplishments and we’re humbled by the sense of ownership they take.”

That spectrum of support creates a feeling of an extended family and makes the organization stronger, says Linda Powell, STARS Vice-President of Governance and External Affairs. These connections pay off through stronger links in the chain of survival.

“The sense of teamwork is a critical component of everything we do, whether it’s in the ditch responding to an accident, attending a fundraiser, in the boardroom, educating critical care providers or in rural emergency rooms,” says Powell.

Fehr agrees. “Our army is definitely volunteers like Jacqui, Ernie and others in the community. They are the heart and soul of fundraising initiatives.”

Powell marvels at the dedication of volunteers who ensure hundreds of people turn out to support STARS, often building stronger communities at the same time. Those efforts translate into a wide range of fundraisers: bake sales, baseball tournaments or barbecue beef dinners, trail rides and corporate galas, selling STARS calendars or buying a ticket for the popular STARS Lottery.

“It helps the communities be involved in their own health care,” says Powell. “They take the time and commitment to raise money for what they feel is important.”



## It takes a team to make a difference, and the following partners make it all possible:

### *Chain of Survival*

STARS is an integral link in the lifesaving chain of survival, which includes first responders, dispatch centres, ground and fixed-wing air ambulances, fire and police, search and rescue organizations, and hospital medical teams.

### *Alberta Health Services*

STARS collaborates with Alberta Health Services in the provision of “Red” or critical patient care through a multi-year affiliation agreement. Through this agreement, STARS provides province-wide rural inter-hospital referral, care, advice and coordination of transport for the critically ill and injured.

### *Business*

Strategic alliances between STARS and the business community are invaluable. STARS’ innovative and entrepreneurial provision of emergency medical response coordination offers unique benefits for business, such as the Industry Site Registration Program.

In turn, these relationships often support STARS with funding and access to technologies and advancements not otherwise possible.

### *Donors and Community Support*

The ongoing commitment of donors and the community not only supports the care and transport of the critically ill and injured patients we carry, but also contributes to the education and research projects we undertake as we strive for excellence in all areas.

### *Volunteers*

STARS’ partnership with the community is the essence of our organization. The commitment, passion and energy of our volunteers continues to be a cornerstone of STARS’ interaction with the community.

### *Crew and Team*

We are proud of the passion, skill and commitment of the dedicated men and women who are part of STARS, both in the air and on the ground.

# *It's about* **expanding horizons**

*After celebrating a quarter century of service to patients in Alberta and eastern British Columbia, STARS moves into a new era with an exciting vision to provide critical health care without borders.*

The STARS service is extending its reach into Saskatchewan, answering a call from the province that initially includes approximately \$40 million in corporate pledges to establish a helicopter air ambulance program in Saskatchewan, with bases in Regina and Saskatoon.

The Government of Saskatchewan is investing \$5 million in the program in 2011-12, and an estimated \$10 million annually in future years. Both bases are expected to be operational by the end of 2012.

“In the end, it’s about critically ill or injured people,” says Dr. Greg Powell, STARS president and CEO.

“We don’t see borders, we see patients,” adds Dr. Powell, who founded STARS and has seen his original vision develop into a highly advanced mobile intensive care unit that has been serving residents of Alberta and eastern British Columbia for the past 25 years.

Crescent Point Energy, an oil and gas producer headquartered in Calgary and with operations in southern Saskatchewan, envisioned a similar service in Saskatchewan, where many of the corporation’s employees reside. As a result, they engaged in discussions with the Saskatchewan Government and STARS to help make helicopter air ambulance a reality in the province.

In its first quarter century of service, STARS has flown over 20,000 missions and formed a solid connection with supporters who have grown proud and accustomed to the familiar red helicopter in the sky, which is saving and changing lives one at a time.

Support for STARS has grown every year, even during the economic downturn. For individuals, the sense of needing a health safety net remains an important piece of their lives. Meanwhile, many corporations and businesses see health and safety as a key part of investment in their community.

Corporations are already embracing STARS in Saskatchewan.

With a focus on taking care of their Saskatchewan employees and their families, Crescent Point Energy became the lead donor, with a \$5 million contribution, providing STARS with the necessary initial capital to begin building the program in the province.

Beyond the financial contribution, Crescent Point Energy is also supporting STARS in developing relationships with other like-minded organizations committed to investing in the health of Saskatchewan residents.

On April 6, 2011, an official signing ceremony took place



**FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** STARS BOARD CHAIR ALLAN BUCHIGNANI, STARS PRESIDENT AND CEO DR. GREG POWELL, CRESCENT POINT ENERGY CEO SCOTT SAXBERG AND STARS FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR DAVID MOWAT AT AN APPRECIATION EVENT IN HONOUR OF CRESCENT POINT ENERGY AS THE FOUNDING DONOR OF STARS IN SASKATCHEWAN WITH A \$5 MILLION CONTRIBUTION.

**RIGHT:** SASKATCHEWAN PREMIER BRAD WALL ANNOUNCES AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND STARS FOR HELICOPTER AIR MEDICAL SERVICE IN SASKATCHEWAN BEGINNING IN 2012 DURING AN EVENT IN REGINA ON APRIL 6.

between the Government of Saskatchewan and STARS in Regina. Coinciding with this announcement, other corporations came on board, recognizing the benefits a helicopter air ambulance service could provide to critically ill and injured patients.

During the event, Mosaic Potash announced a \$5.5 million pledge towards a hangar, engineering and crew quarters, and a BK117 medically-equipped helicopter in Regina. With this generous commitment, the Regina base is anticipated to open in April 2012.

PotashCorp is supporting the development of the STARS program in Saskatchewan by making available a helicopter and hangar at the Saskatoon base. The estimated value of these assets is \$27 million. The Saskatoon base is slated to open in the fall of 2012.

In addition, Enbridge, Husky Energy and Rawlco Radio have also pledged financial support.

Together with government funding, these significant contributions will allow STARS to provide service to more than 90 per cent of the Saskatchewan population, including First Nations communities and remote industrial work sites.

“We commend the leadership and support of the Saskatchewan Government, as well as our corporate partners who have demonstrated their commitment to the people of Saskatchewan,” says Jeff Quick, STARS Vice-President Finance and Chief Financial Officer. “The early financial support STARS is receiving from these organizations is building the foundation for a sustainable helicopter air medical service in Saskatchewan.”



**LEFT:** NORM BEUG, SENIOR VP POTASH OPERATIONS, MOSAIC ANNOUNCES A \$5.5 MILLION DONATION TO STARS IN SASKATCHEWAN. **RIGHT:** MIKE LAMACCHIA, STARS VICE PRESIDENT CLINICAL OPERATIONS & EDUCATION, AND BILL DOYLE, PRESIDENT & CEO OF POTASHCORP, DURING AN EVENT TO ANNOUNCE THE CORPORATION'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS A HANGAR AND AW139 HELICOPTER IN SASKATOON.

## STARS commitment to health and safety

As STARS moves forward with these exciting new initiatives, safety for the STARS crew, patients and community remains a top priority. The STARS team has a very visible health and safety culture threaded throughout all aspects of the organization.

The STARS commitment to a safe and secure work environment has the objective of a healthy, accident-free workplace. This includes ensuring the team has the proper resources, training, and support of an open and just culture. The teams responsible for patient care and

aviation, as well as all other aspects of operations, embrace and incorporate safety into day-to-day operations. At STARS, safety is an attitude and a key element of the culture.

The entire STARS team is accountable for safety performance, starting with the STARS and STARS Foundation Boards of Directors and the Chief Executive Officer. The STARS Safety and Risk Management lead fosters and evaluates safety culture and processes and facilitates internal education and training.

## It's about Rick



**CRITICAL MEDICAL CONDITION LEAVES MAN FIGHTING FOR LIFE**  
TRANSPORTED FROM RED DEER, ALBERTA  
TO PETER LOUGHEED CENTRE, CALGARY

*For Rick, a single father in Hanna, Alberta, life was great – he enjoyed his job with the provincial government and was thrilled to have recently become engaged. But suddenly, in May 2008, he began having severe attacks of gastrointestinal distress and pain.*

Physicians at the hospital in Hanna were having difficulty diagnosing his condition. Rick visited the emergency department several times over a period of months. Two of the attacks were so severe that they caused upper gastrointestinal hemorrhages and severe bleeding. During the second attack in November 2008, physicians sent Rick to Red Deer Regional Hospital where surgeons placed a band around a blood vessel in Rick's upper gastrointestinal tract to repair a hole. After a few days of recovery in hospital, Rick returned home to Hanna.

About a week later, Rick suddenly collapsed and was rushed back to hospital in Hanna. Physicians determined that the blood vessel hole repaired with the band had ulcerated. Severe gastrointestinal bleeding had caused a huge blood loss and Rick's condition rapidly became a serious medical emergency. He was rushed by ground ambulance to the hospital in Red Deer for emergency endoscopic surgery.

Surgeons tried to repair the band without success over a period of several hours and as Rick's condition deteriorated further, he was warned to call his family as his survival was becoming threatened by the blood loss. "I knew it wasn't time yet," says Rick. "I told the doctors to keep on trying."

After five attempts to control the bleed, physicians in Red Deer were finally successful. However, by this time Rick was just semi-conscious and in need of more critical care. He was given a massive transfusion and STARS was called to transport him to Peter Lougheed Centre in Calgary.

Rick was hospitalized for seven days at the Peter Lougheed Centre in the Intensive Care Unit. His outpatient care was transferred to the Foothills Medical Centre where his condition was diagnosed as liver disease, believed to be a genetic condition. Rick had several more corrective surgeries over the next 11 months to reduce the risk of reoccurrence of the attacks.

Three years later, Rick takes regular medication to help control his condition and has not had any further serious attacks. Although he has some permanent liver damage and has lost some of his strength, he is happy to be back at work, now living in Calgary.

After his recovery, he and his fiancée, Diane, married on February 7, 2009 and now share the joy of raising his daughter and her son and daughter together.

"I am so thankful to STARS – without them, I probably wouldn't be here today telling this story."

# STARS®

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For complete financial statements and a detailed 2010 donor list, please visit [www.stars.ca](http://www.stars.ca)



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