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## Parksville REALTOR® Assists Sick Children

No one likes to be sick, or to spend extended time in the hospital. That sentiment goes double if you're a child. Recently Margo Hoffman VIREB Director for Zone 5 and a REALTOR® with Coast Realty Group, presented a \$500 cheque on behalf of VIREB to the Jeneece Place family-support facility in Victoria.

Jeneece Place, which had its grand opening January 20<sup>th</sup>, will become a home-away-from-home for children and their families who have to travel to Victoria for care at Victoria General Hospital, the Queen Alexandra Centre or for other specialist medical appointments and lab tests. The facility, which is operated by the Queen Alexandra Foundation for Children, is named after Jeneece Edroff, who was diagnosed with Neurofibromatosis at the age of three.

The disease causes tumors to grow on nerve pathways anywhere in the body, and in Jeneece's case, they are growing off almost every nerve root coming out from her spine. As a result, her vertebrae are extremely thin and unsupportive and she has had to wear a body brace to help support her spine and to alleviate some of her pain.

Now 15 years old, Jeneece continues to undergo treatments and surgeries, which help her to attend school, spend time with her family and friends and set ambitious personal goals. On December 29<sup>th</sup>, Hoffman, with her four year old granddaughter Ashlyn Smith, personally presented Jeneece with the donation, and were given a private tour of the new facility.

Located on the grounds of the Victoria General Hospital, Jeneece Place is only a two-minute walk from the hospital's front entrance. It will serve a number of distinct needs including helping families from across Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands whose children and youth need medical care in Victoria.

Jeneece Place has the room to accommodate up to 10 families at a time. The VIREB donation will go toward the production of a video tour that will assist families in acquainting themselves with the facility before they travel to Victoria. If interested in learning more about Jeneece Place the facility's website can be found at: [www.jeneeceplace.org](http://www.jeneeceplace.org).