

# Fundraiser helps bring new treatment to cancer centre

BY JEREMY WARREN, THE STARPHOENIX    OCTOBER 11, 2011

Choc'laCure is a sweet fundraiser that has donated more than \$500,000 to the Saskatoon Cancer Centre and now it aims to raise money for specialized cancer treatment equipment not currently available in Saskatchewan.

This year the group has decided to raise money for a stereotactic radiosurgery unit, which allows medical staff to deliver a concentrated and precise dose of radiation to tumours, specifically brain tumours and ailments. Choc'laCure is helping the Saskatoon Cancer Centre bring the \$4-million unit to Saskatchewan for the first time.

Choc'laCure fundraising chair Shelley Gregg said having the equipment in Saskatchewan would mean less out-of-province travel for patients requiring radiosurgery.

"We know people that needed this treatment and they had to travel or they chose not take it because it would take them away from their support systems here," Gregg said. "We know the expense and hardship of travelling for medical treatment."

The new equipment will also benefit medical students at the University of Saskatchewan and help the province recruit and retain medical specialists, she said.

Gregg said the provincial government gave the centre the goahead to bring the equipment to Saskatchewan, leaving the funding as the only obstacle. "They have the staff and they have the space already," she said.

The group's annual gala event in November could raise more than \$180,000 for the centre, based on past fundraising efforts. The Nov. 4 gala takes place at Dutch Growers Garden Centre and features silent and live auctions, dinner by The Ivy and live entertainment.

The gala has raised about \$185,000 for the cancer centre in each of the past three years, Gregg said. More information about the gala can be found at [www.choclacure.com](http://www.choclacure.com).

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