

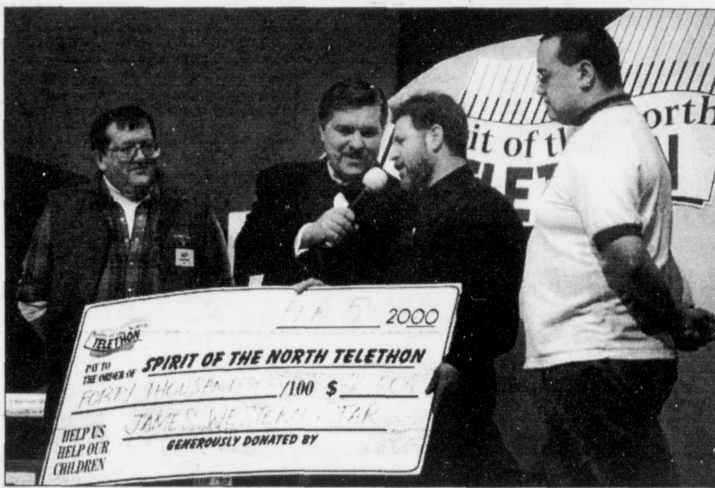
Telethon a big hit for PGRH

At home, in the comfort of living-rooms across the city, the Spirit of the North Telethon looked smooth and efficient, even calm. The television images from Vanier Hall hardly missed a beat as they marathoned through 12 straight hours of entertainment and community fund-raising, all to improve the Paediatrics Ward at the hospital.

Down at Vanier, though, it was a different picture — always just out of the camera's frame. Controlled chaos is what it occasionally looked like to the uninitiated, but after watching the technical teams click along hour after hour, one starts to see the methods behind the madness.

"Audio! Audio! Good, we got it! Stand by camera two...roll VTR...go VTR...Good! Stand by camera one...let's dissolve through to one..." barks producer Mike Clotildes from his console. He sits like Han Solo at the helm of the Millennium Falcon. On his right is Dave Branco, controlling the camera feeds.

Back stage it is a similar situation, only it is people being arranged and accounted for, not equip-



Representatives of James Western Star made a \$40,000 donation.

ment. One band is on stage, make-up artist Janice Wanning is scrambling to get finishing touches on the next act, hosts are jockeying for their next time out, check presentations are being lined up behind the curtain, etc. It's bustling but the atmosphere is charged with fun.

Everybody knows that the whole event is for a good cause, and that gets punctuated when you overhear conversations going on off-mic. There's business man Ted Coole with a cheque for about \$5,000 and his young son Eric has a \$5 bill in his hand.

"My son (Nathan) came

down with a bad case of asthma and we had to admit him to hospital. He was about five at the time," Ted says. "I stayed overnight with him. I didn't sleep much, but I did get to observe the activities the nurses performed in that ward all night long. I think we don't realize just what they do for those kids, and you never really realize how hard it is on a parent until you're the parent involved."

Nathan made Ted promise to help out those kids and the medical professionals on the Paediatrics Ward, and he made Ted stick to it. He has made

a presentation from his PG Hotel staff every year since about '86.

The total money raised this year at the telethon came out about \$317,000 which more than covers the Shriners/PGTV commitment of half a million dollars to the PGRH Paediatrics Ward.

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