

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DR. RUTH KAJANDER CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN PSYCHIATRY

(Thunder Bay, ON, February 2, 2007) Congratulations to Dr. Ruth Kajander who marked fifty years as a psychiatrist in our community on January 15, 2007. St. Joseph's Care Group celebrated this milestone on February 2, 2007 when friends and colleagues gathered for an afternoon reception.

Tracy Buckler, President & CEO, St. Joseph's Care Group commented, "Dr. Kajander carried out pioneer work, which lead to an improved quality of life and a higher level of social functioning for people with schizophrenia. She is to be applauded for her efforts."

In 1957, Dr. Kajander, who is licensed to practice medicine in three countries, Canada, Germany and Finland, relocated to Port Arthur to become the founding director of the Mental Health Clinic located at the Ontario Hospital - Port Arthur (now St. Joseph's Care Group - Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital). Since that time, she has worked tirelessly, in both private practice and hospital settings in Thunder Bay, to care for people with psychiatric illnesses. She is currently active in providing outpatient mental health services at Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital.

Dr. Kajander says, "I merely was the first of a group of psychiatrists who, till the nineties, worked independently of the LPH in the mental health clinic or in private practice in hospitals, schools, agencies, court and public health. It was exciting and gratifying work."

We applaud Dr. Kajander for her passion to make a significant difference in the lives of people with a serious mental illness and her dedication to Northwestern Ontario.

- 30 -

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