

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ST. JOSEPH'S HEALTH CENTRE OFFICIALLY OPENS

(Thunder Bay, ON, November 30, 2007) Today, St. Joseph's Care Group is pleased to announce the opening of St. Joseph's Health Centre and celebrate the relocation of outpatient mental health services from institution to community. The newly renovated building was officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by staff, clients, mental health partners and members of the Victoria Avenue businesses.

Bob Chambers, Chair, Board of Directors, St. Joseph's Care Group, stated, "On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am extremely pleased to announce the official opening of St. Joseph's Health Centre. This new location is ideal to meet the needs of our clients and we look forward to building partnerships with businesses in the neighbourhood."

St. Joseph's Health Centre is located at 710 Victoria Avenue East, across from Centennial Square. The new centre is adjacent to Victoriaville Centre and close to a grocery store, banking, pharmacy, and public transportation, allowing clients to integrate into an independent and healthy pattern of living.

The following outpatient programs have relocated from Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital, and serve over 850 outpatient clients living in the community:

- Community Mental Health Services
- Community Support Program
- Consumer Support Services
- Lakeview Clinic
- Northwestern Ontario Concurrent Disorders Program
- Outreach to Recovery

Tracy Buckler, President and CEO, St. Joseph's Care Group, says, "The provision of services in this newly renovated facility demonstrates St. Joseph's Care Group's commitment to best practices in mental health and a recovery-oriented approach to meet the needs of our clients."

As directed by the Health Services Restructuring Commission, St. Joseph's Care Group continues to work toward the eventual closure of Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital in 2011.

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Background information attached.

For more information contact:

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**St. Joseph's Hospital • St. Joseph's Heritage • Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital • Hogarth Riverview Manor • Balmoral Centre
St. Joseph's Health Centre • Behavioural Sciences Centre • Diabetes Health Thunder Bay • Sister Margaret Smith Centre**

St. Joseph's Care Group is accredited with the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation and provides services in complex care, rehabilitation, mental health and addictions, long-term care and supportive housing. As well, community programs are provided at Frank Murphy Community Centre. SJCG has approximately 1700 employees, over 400 volunteers and an annual operating budget of \$115M and is the fifth largest employer in Thunder Bay. To learn more about SJCG, visit the web site at www.sjcg.net.