

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY FOR NEW SISTER MARGARET SMITH CENTRE

(THUNDER BAY, ON. May 22, 2008) St. Joseph's Care Group is proud to announce that construction is underway for the new Sister Margaret Smith Centre (SMSC) on Lillie Street.

Bob Chambers, Chair, Board of Directors, St. Joseph's Care Group said, "On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am extremely pleased that this project is underway. This new facility is greatly needed to meet the increasing demand for mental health and addiction services in a more accessible building."

For over 40 years, the Sister Margaret Smith Centre has been providing mental health and addiction services to Thunder Bay and region at its current location at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Tracy Buckler, President and CEO stated "The new facility's modern design was influenced by the current and future needs of clients, family members and the communities served. High quality, client-centred care in mental health and addiction services will continue to be provided by staff in residential, community based and outpatient settings."

Sister Bonnie MacLellan, General Superior, Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie, Sister Margaret Smith, Founder, Sister Margaret Smith Centre, Bob Chambers and Tracy Buckler officially turned the sod for the new facility.

The program staff of the Adult and Youth Addiction Services, Personal Development Centre, Eating Disorder Program and Problem Gambling Program looks forward to continuing their legacy of care at the new location in the summer of 2009.

Architects for the project are Kuch Stephenson Gibson Malo and the General Contractor is Finnway General Contractor Inc.

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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 with 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.