

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SANTA CLAUS DELIVERS A SPECIAL GIFT TO THE UNITED WAY FROM ST. JOSEPH'S CARE GROUP

(THUNDER BAY, ON, December 18, 2008) This afternoon, Santa and Mrs. Claus made a special trip from the North Pole to deliver an early Christmas gift from the staff of St. Joseph's Care Group to the United Way of Thunder Bay. Through their generous donations, St. Joseph's Care Group's employee Campaign raised \$31,815.00 to assist the United Way in reaching their Campaign goal.

Over the last six years, SJCG employees have participated in an Employee Campaign to raise funds for the United Way of Thunder Bay and St. Joseph's Foundation. Over \$150,000 has been raised since this partnership began in 2003.

Tracy Buckler, President and CEO, St. Joseph's Care Group, stated "Our staff has once again shown their commitment to the people in our community. With the recent economic hardships and closures, our staff has demonstrated that they are committed to building a compassionate and caring community."

One in three families has been assisted each year through programs and services funded by donations to the United Way. The United Way of Thunder Bay helps local families by:

- \$5** - provides a safe play environment for underprivileged kids
- \$10** - an abused woman can join a support group
- \$20** - provides amplified telephones through the Canadian Hearing Society
- \$30** - provides a financial assessment from a credit counsellor
- \$50** - twenty people attend a Suicide or Bereavement support group
- \$100** - respite for a disabled person and their family
- \$500** - a child from a single-parent family receives support from a mentor

Receiving the cheque on behalf of the United Way was Matthew Oliphant, Chair, 2008 United Way Campaign. In his speech he said "Every day St. Joseph's employees work tirelessly to provide care for hundreds of people from Thunder Bay and the region. Their participation in the United Way campaign is yet another example of your commitment to ALL people who are in need."

St. Joseph's Care Group is proud to support the United Way in their efforts to help people in Thunder Bay.

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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 Accreditation Canada and provides services in complex care, rehabilitation, mental health and addictions, long-term care and supportive housing. Community programs are provided at Frank Murphy Community Centre.

St. Joseph's Care Group has approximately 1700 employees and over 400 volunteers. With an annual operating budget of \$125M, SJCG is the sixth largest employer in Thunder Bay. To learn more about SJCG, visit the web site at www.sjcg.net