

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sister Margaret Smith Centre Officially Opens

(Thunder Bay, ON, Friday, October 16, 2009) St. Joseph's Care Group (SJCG) is pleased to announce that the new Sister Margaret Smith Centre (SMSC) is now complete. The state-of-the-art building was officially opened on Friday, October 16, 2009. All outpatient and residential mental health, addiction, and problem gambling programs offered by the SMSC are now available at the new location.

The new building located on Lillie & Walnut Streets, will retain its name to acknowledge and recognize Sister Margaret Smith, the foundress of the original alcohol addiction treatment program which started in 1967 at St. Joseph's Hospital.

The new Sister Margaret Smith Centre is a welcoming and accessible structure for clients and their families, and is a healthy, efficient, and effective work environment for our employees. The building is environmentally friendly and has been built to operate efficiently, therefore will be sustainable for many years to come. In addition, the building meets the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold designation: a first for Northwestern Ontario.

Tracy Buckler, President & CEO, SJCG said "The Sister Margaret Smith Centre is a wonderful new healing environment created specifically for the people we serve. I know the compassionate care and treatment that has always been provided will continue at this new location. The new building is a tribute to Sister Margaret's Smith's visionary thinking 42 years ago. We are so pleased to welcome Sister Margaret Smith back to Thunder Bay for the Official Opening."

In her remarks, Sister Margaret Smith said "I'm grateful to be in attendance today. I am extremely proud of how far we've come in providing treatment for people with addictions. Clients and families who need these services will enjoy the additional benefits offered within this wonderful facility."

- 30 -

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ST. JOSEPH'S CARE GROUP
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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, physical 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 fifth largest employer in Thunder Bay. To learn more about SJCG, visit the web site at www.sjcg.net