

# MEDIA *Advisory*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Transitional Supportive Housing Opens**

(Thunder Bay, ON, November 15, 2010) St. Joseph's Care Group (SJCG) hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the Centre of Excellence for Integrated Seniors' Services (CEISS) Transitional Supportive Housing Services at McKellar Place, 325 Archibald Street, Thunder Bay, ON.

The North West Community Care Access Centre (CCAC), North West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and St. Joseph's Care Group have worked in partnership to make these temporary supportive housing units available at McKellar Place. The supportive housing units are being managed by St. Joseph's Care Group and support services have been contracted by Habib Enterprises to Retirement Life Communities.

Laura Kokocinski, CEO, North West LHIN says "The North West LHIN is pleased to be able to support this exciting project. Seventy-five additional supportive housing living places will be available in Thunder Bay at McKellar Place to help seniors age safely in the community with 24 hour support in the comfort of their own home. Findings from a recent study indicate that up to one third of those waiting for residential long-term care could continue to live in the community if supportive housing were available. This additional capacity is key to ensuring people are able to receive the right care in the right setting."

The funding for the Transitional Supportive Housing at McKellar Place will transfer to the CEISS when it is ready for occupancy. Tenants of McKellar Place will be guaranteed a supportive housing apartment at the CEISS, should they wish to move.

Tracy Buckler, President & CEO, SJCG, says "St. Joseph's Care Group is committed to responding to the unmet needs of our region as we move forward with the CEISS project. By providing seventy-five of the total one-hundred thirty-two CEISS Seniors' Supportive Housing Apartments temporarily at McKellar Place, we are effectively bridging the gap in urgently needed housing until the CEISS apartments are complete."

These apartments are designed for seniors who are able to live independently with some support from staff within the building. Supportive Housing staff are onsite 24 hours, 7 days a week, to assist tenants with tasks such as personal care needs, bathing assistance, medication reminders, housekeeping, laundry, social activities, outings and appointments.



**ST. JOSEPH'S CARE GROUP**

**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 and Physical Rehabilitation, Mental Health and Addictions, and Long-Term Care.*

*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](http://www.sjcg.net)*

# MEDIA

# Advisory

Doreen Taylor, tenant says “McKellar Place is wonderful. The staff is #1, they all make you feel welcomed and are all friendly. The food is GREAT. My apartment is spacious and the floor that I live on is always clean. I just love the location of McKellar Place as there are views from all around”

William Sinfield, tenant says “EXCELLENT, EXCELLENT, EXCELLENT, EXCELLENT, that’s what I can say about McKellar Place. I am very happy here”

Construction of the one-hundred thirty-two Supportive Housing Apartments at the Centre of Excellence for Integrated Seniors' Services located on Lillie Street North, is scheduled to be completed in Spring 2012. For more information and updates about the CEISS project please visit [www.ceisstbay.ca](http://www.ceisstbay.ca).

- 30 -

For more information contact:

Sharron Owen, Manager  
Communications  
St. Joseph’s Care Group  
(807) 768-4440



ST. JOSEPH'S CARE GROUP

**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 and Physical Rehabilitation, Mental Health and Addictions, and Long-Term Care.*

*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](http://www.sjcg.net)*