

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Team Werks Cooperative – Helping to Build a Sustainable Community

(Thunder Bay, ON, August 18, 2011) On August 18, 2011, Team Werks Cooperative announced the launch of Green Werks, a new social enterprise.

The Green Werks garden is located on 1/3 of an acre of land behind the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital. The garden produces organically grown vegetables and provides employment experience for consumers of mental health services.

Green Werks is a new division of Team Werks Cooperative which is a collection of client-owned and operated businesses designed to provide consumers of mental health services opportunities for meaningful work experience and training in a supported environment. St. Joseph's Care Group (SJCG) supports Team Werks Cooperative through the Employment Options Program, which provides staff support to participating clients.

Kevin Albisser, President, Team Werks Cooperative, who has been involved with the cooperative for over 10 years says "The Co-op and supports provided by St. Joseph's Care Group gives our members work and training opportunities that they can choose based on their needs. This new initiative will give us even more choices."

As a way of giving back to the community, Team Werks and SJCG have partnered with the Regional Food Distribution Association of Northwestern Ontario to receive the majority of the harvested produce.

Volker Kromm, Executive Director, Regional Food Distribution Association (RFDA), says, "This is a welcome partnership between Team Werks, St. Joseph's Care Group and the Regional Food Distribution Association. Green Werks is providing work and training opportunities for those with barriers to employment and supporting food banks and those in need of fresh local produce. It's a win-win for all concerned."

Team Werks Cooperative operates several social other enterprises including: Good Times Café, Paper Werks, Piece Werks, Rag Werks, Water Werks, Wood Werks, Scan Werks and Green Werks. Clients may be involved with the co-op in different ways and they can become a member/owner of the co-op or work in a time-limited capacity to gain skill and work experience.

Tracy Buckler, President & CEO, SJCG, says, "St. Joseph's Care Group is excited to have the opportunity to work with the RFDA and Team Werks. We are committed to providing quality client-centred vocational supports within the Mental Health and Addictions Programs. Green Werks will definitely help us achieve this goal."

To find out more information about Team Werks Cooperative and the products and services they provide, contact Doug Dowhos, Supervisor, Employment Options, St. Joseph's Care Group, at 343-4380.

- 30 -

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

St. Joseph's Care Group is accredited with Accreditation Canada and provides services in Complex Care & Physical Rehabilitation, Mental Health & Addictions, and, Long-Term Care.

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