

Providence Manor celebrates Senior Residents Art Exhibit during National Volunteer Week

April 20, 2009 – Kingston - Senior residents at Providence Manor kick off National Volunteer Week with a celebration and exhibit of their artwork in the McKinley Room at Providence Manor on Monday April 20th from 2 to 3:30 p.m. A special presentation will take place at 2:15 p.m.

Yingwei Liu, a talented artist, Queen's University student and a volunteer at Providence Manor, created and led a one-on-one art program for residents at the Home. Her program was supported through a Millennium Grant and was launched in February 2008. She tutored participants in various methods of painting and pastels, and she encouraged expression through art. The activity also helped to improve participant's motor skills.

The exhibit reflects Liu's work with the residents over the last year and she will also show her paintings. Five residents took part in the program and over 100 pieces of art will be displayed at the show.

"This program is important because residents are learning new skills and the creativity brings them and their loved ones real joy," says Dianne Dutcher, Manager of the Life Enrichment Program for Providence Care Providence Manor site. "Yingwei has done a wonderful job working with our residents and we appreciate her commitment as a volunteer and her expertise as an artist."

The art program will continue and expand due to Liu's efforts. She has recruited three Queen's University students to volunteer at Providence Manor to sustain the art one-on-one program.

"I am very grateful to have had the chance to share my passion for art with the residents," says Liu. "I'm overjoyed that this worthwhile program will carry on in the future, and I hope residents will continue to express themselves through their art."

"Providence Care has more than 900 volunteers who give of their time, skills and care. There are more than 250 volunteers here at the Manor that we are extremely thankful for," says Joanne Cosgrove, volunteer coordinator at Providence Manor. "This art program is a great example of volunteers sharing their passion, skills and talents and really creating something worthwhile."

The media and public are encouraged to attend the art exhibit and admission is free.

Providence Care leads the way in compassion and discovery, through the provision of rehabilitation, specialized geriatric care, complex continuing care, specialized mental health care, palliative care and long-term care. One of Kingston's university hospitals, Providence Care has three main sites in Kingston: Mental Health Services, St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital and Providence Manor, as well as 18 community locations. Affiliated with Queen's University, Providence Care is a major centre for teaching and research.