

**Providence Care celebrates 150 years through photo exhibit,
to be launched at annual Founders' Dinner this weekend**

March 21, 2011 - Early photographs of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul caring for sick patients in the House of Providence, and others of the first graduates of a mental health nursing school in Ontario are among the dozens of pictures in a new photo exhibit being launched this weekend.

Providence Care, a Kingston-based health care provider which offers specialized mental health, complex continuing, geriatric, rehabilitation, palliative, long-term care and community support services to residents of southeastern Ontario, is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. As part of the celebrations, the organization has collected historic photographs that tell the story of Providence Care and range in date from 1880 to the present day.

The photo exhibit will be unveiled this Saturday (March 26th) at the University Hospitals Kingston Foundation's annual Founders' Dinner at Ban Righ Hall, held in support of Providence Care. BMO Financial Group is sponsoring the exhibit and is also a presenting sponsor of the Founders' Dinner.

"This photo exhibit represents the most comprehensive visual retrospective of Providence Care's history to date," says Megan Kerrigan, the organization's Archivist. "Our programs have a rich and largely untold history, and the exhibit illustrates the significant role that Providence Care has played in the community and in the lives of the thousands of people we have served over the past 150 years."

Providence Care traces its roots back to the arrival of four Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, who arrived in Kingston from Montreal in 1861 to begin a mission of caring for those in need. Around the same time, Rockwood Asylum was also completed. The exhibit includes photographs from Rockwood (and later Kingston Psychiatric Hospital, and Mental Health Services), St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital, Providence Manor (the House of Providence) and various community outreach services. Kerrigan notes that throughout all the pictures, there is a consistent theme of providing compassionate care and services, and a commitment to supporting people in need.

"Exploring history through photographs provides something far more tangible than just facts," says Danielle Hughes, Archivist for the Sisters of Providence. "Photographs spark interest in history by giving us all a visual link to the past. The images featured in this exposition are open to interpretation allowing us all to take something different and meaningful. "

Many of the over 100 photographs in the exhibit are from the collection at the Providence Care Archives, while others are from the Sisters of Providence Archives and the Archives of Ontario, and are used with their permission.

The photo exhibit will be on display at Providence Care sites throughout the year, following the Founders' Dinner. During the week of March 28th, the exhibit will be on display in the lobby at St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital. For future locations visit www.providencecare.ca (News & Events).

PHOTOGRAPHS

**** The photographs below are included in the Providence Care display (JPEG files attached). These three photographs may be reprinted or broadcast in coverage related to this news release, provided they are credited according to the following information:**



MHS.67 Nurses with patients using fresh air for tuberculosis treatment, Rockwood Asylum grounds, ca. 1890s. *Photograph provided courtesy of the Archives of Ontario*



PM.102 Unidentified Sisters enjoying a meal at the House of Providence, June, 1959. *Photograph provided courtesy of the Providence Care Archives*



SMOL.82 An Occupational Therapist works with patients, St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital, 1952. *Photograph provided courtesy of the Providence Care Archives*

Providence Care is southeastern Ontario's leading provider of specialized mental health care, physical medicine and rehabilitation, specialized geriatric services, complex continuing care, palliative care, long-term care and community support services. Affiliated with Queen's University in Kingston, and as a member of the Council of Academic Hospitals of Ontario, Providence Care is a major centre for health education and research. Providence Care is sponsored by the Catholic Health Corporation of Ontario. In 2011, Providence Care is celebrating its 150th anniversary – over 150 years of “enhancing the quality of life” of those we serve.

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